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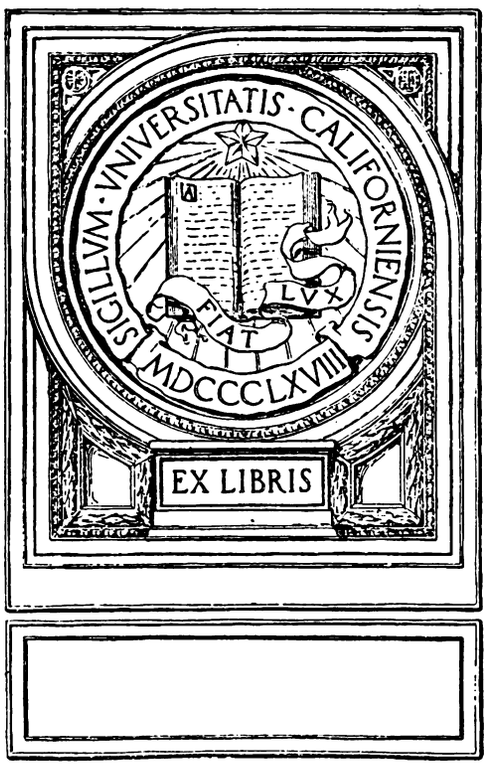

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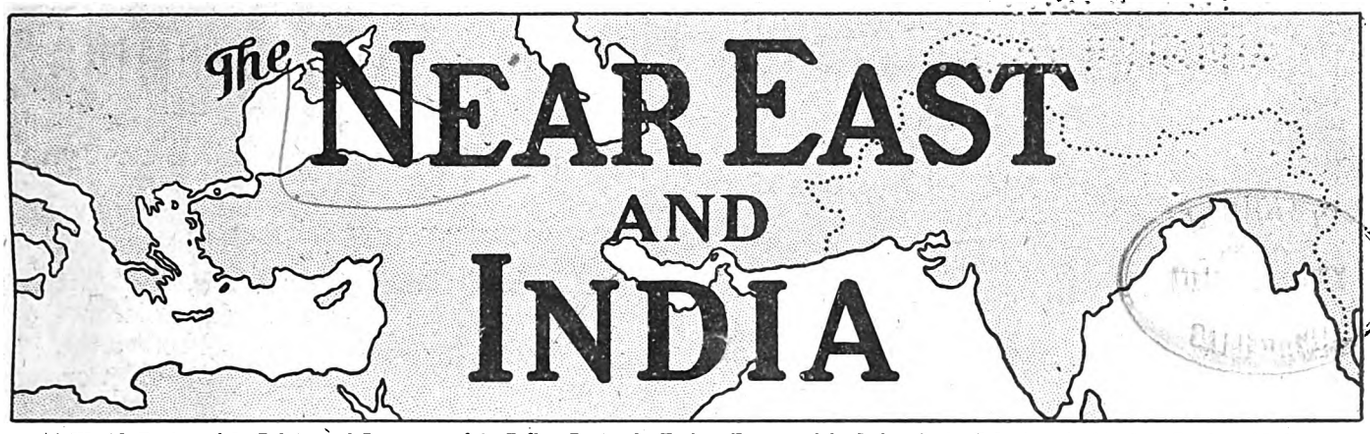

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INDEX TO VOLUME XXVIII.
July 2——December 24, 1925.

REGULAR WEEKLY FEATURES.

Notes of the Week: The Week at Home: Personal and General: Book Reviews.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

News in Brief ... 83, 126, 160, 197, 242, 250, 277, 327, 342, 404, 497, 543, 591, 647, 685

SPECIAL LETTERS

Athens ... 36, 64, 128, 129, 163, 219, 551, 645, 708

Baghdad 37, 164, 189, 246, 679

Bucharest ... 4, 65, 335, 399, 430, 489, 552, 644, 709, 767

Cairo ... 4, 34, 94, 128, 162, 188, 218, 244, 274, 304, 334, 398, 428, 458, 488, 518, 548, 582, 612, 642, 676, 706, 736, 766

Constantinople ... 36, 96, 190, 275, 336, 491, 612, 738

Cyprus ... 5, 38, 66, 97, 130, 191, 276, 306, 365, 366, 400, 458, 491, 549, 584, 646, 681, 737

Jerusalem 38, 304, 364, 459

Khartoum 643, 736

Liubliana 94, 490, 550, 678, 767

Muscat 5, 39

Sofia ... 35, 96, 163, 246, 305, 364, 430, 583, 644, 738

Teheran ... 130, 247, 275, 336, 366, 431, 488, 613, 680, 681

Tirana ... 34, 188, 218, 276, 334, 365, 398, 428, 549, 677, 707

Zagreb 245

LEADING ARTICLES.

Balkans, Armistice Day in the 581

Balkans, Minorities in the 93

Balkans, Politics in the 187

Britain and Eastern Christendom ... 63

Britain and France in Western Asia ... 641

Bulgaria's Refugee Problem 303

Danube, The Role of the 333

Egypt and Good Will 127

Egypt, The Situation in 675

Frontier Incident, A 517

Geneva, Business or Bluff at 363

Greece, Political Stability in 273

Greece, The Political Tangle in 611

Greece, The Tug-of-War in 487

Greek Pronunciamento, The 3

Iraq, The Problem of 33

Jebel Druse, The Revolt of the 217

Macedonia Frontier Award, The ... 705

Mosul and the League of Nations ... 243

Mosul Award and After, The 765

Mosul: In Perspective 457

Mosul Report, The 161

Syria, France and 547

Turkey and the League 735

Turkey, Russia and Persia 427

Wahhabis and Islam, The 397

SPECIAL ARTICLES.

Asia, Some Footnotes to the History of the War in (Leonard Stein)... 14, 46, 72

Britain and Egypt 131

Bulgaria, The Refugee Problem in ... 280

Casting, the Place of ("Fulanain") ... 134

Central Asian Society, Annual Dinner of the 48

Chiflik, The (Malcolm Burr) 368

Egypt, Britain and... 131

Egypt, Land Registration in 249, 279, 307

Greece, Minorities in 98

Hussein and Great Britain, Ex-K g ... 308

Iraq, The Stability of 166

Jaghabub, Oasis, The 66

Jebel Druse, The 278

Julian Alps: An Anniversary, The ... 337

Kerbela, A Festival at (Mrs. Margaret Hasluck) 104

Macedonia, The Refugee Situation in ... 400

Macedonian Memories, Some (W. F. S.) 588

Masri Memory, A (W. F. S.) 460

Mosul, The Evaculation of 585

Oriental Types (F. W. Chardin): "The Water Carrier," 220; "The Petition Writer," 494; "The Qadi" 614

Persia, Notes on 713

Trans-Caspia, '18-1919, Military Operations in 774

Thrace, in Western ("Repat") 408

Yugoslavia, The Summer Season in Alpine 194

Yugoslavia, Winter Sports in 710

BOOKS REVIEWED.

Abbott, J.: "Sind: A Re-Interpretation of the Unhappy Valley" 248

Acworth, B. A., A. W.: "Financial Reconstruction in England, 1815-1822" 756

Allen, W. E. D.: "Beled-es-Siba" ... 556

Baldwin, Oliver: "Six Prisons and two Revolutions: Adventures in Transcaucasia and Anatolia, 1920-21" ... 616

Banerjea, Sir Surendranath: "A Nation in Making" 371

Buxton, Leland: "Count Blitski's Daughter" 20

Bywater, Hector C.: "The Great Pacific War" 282

Cash, W. Wilson: "The Moslem World in Revolution"... 341

Christie, Ella R.: "Through Khiva to Golden Samarkand" 772

Clark, Raymond M.: "The Treasure of Ali Mubarak" 742

Coke, Richard: "The Heart of the Middle East" 282

Camyn-Platt, Sir T.: "By Mail and Messenger" 170

Darling, I.C.S., M. L.: "The Punjab Peasant in Prosperity and Debt ... 19

Dey, Sri Mukul Chandra: "My Pilgrimage to Ajanta and Bagh" 170

Dodwell, M.A., Henry: "A Sketch of the History of India from 1858 to 1918" 371

Durham, M. Edith: "The Serayevo Crime" 686

Driver, G. R.: "A Grammar of the Colloquial Arabic of Syria and Palestine" 498

Forbes, Rosita: "If the Gods Laugh" ... 714

Foster, Sir William: "The English Factories in India, 1665-1667" 590

Gadgill, D. R.: "The Industrial Evolution of India in Recent Times" ... 714

"Ganpat": "Snow Rubies" 742

Harrison, Paul W.: "The Arab at Home" 521

Heathcote, Dudley: "Wanderings in the Balkans" 438

Hoare, Bart., C.M.G., M.P., The Rt. Hon. Sir Samuel: "A Flying Visit to the Middle East" 462

Hogarth, David G.: "The Wandering Scholar" 74

Leak, Dr. W. Norman: "Islam and Its Need" 648

Luke, Harry Charles: "Mosul and its Minorities" 403

Malmignati, Countess: "Through Inner Deserts to Medina" 222

Masani, R. P.: "The Conference of the Birds" 616

Mukerji, Dhan Gopal: "My Brother's Face" 438

Nevinson, H. W.: "More Changes More Chances" 497

O'Dwyer, Sir Michael: "India as I Knew It, 1885-1925" 372

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Payne, C. H.: "Indian History, Scenes and Characters from" 522
Rhys Davids, T. W., Translated from the Pali by: "The Question of King Milinda" 648
Richmond, E. T.: "The Dome of the Rock" 101
Shepard, Arthur MacCartney: "Sea Power in Ancient History" 742
Stoker, R.N., D.S.O., Commander G.: "Straws in the Wind" 74
Tritonj, Romolo: "Come va Risolta la Questione dei Luoghi Santi" ... 403
Weigall, Arthur: "A History of the Pharoahs" Vol. I. 196
Woodward, Translated by F. L.: "Some Sayings of the Buddha, According to the Poli Canon" 742
Zwemer, D.D., F.R.G.S., Samuel M.: "The Law of Apostasy in Islam" ... 590
Miscellaneous: A Pocket Atlas, 647; Report of H.B.M. Govt. on the Administration of Iraq for the period April 1923-December 1924, 102; "The International Mercantile Diary and Year Book, 1926" (Syren and Shipping, Ltd.) 660

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

"Arshin-Mal-Alan" (Sir Wolseley Haig) 103
Bulgaria, Conditions in (Sir Edward Boyle and H. W. Nevinson) 71
Hejaz, The Future of the ("Champion") 433
Hussein, Ex-King (H. St. J. B. Philby) 20
Mosul: A Suggestion (A. St. John Cooke) 402
Mosul Report, The ("A Mosul Resident") 31:
Mosul, The Future of (Near and Middle East Association) 338
Mosul Vilayet, Self-Determination in the (F. W. Chardin) 186
Persia, The Soviets and ("Nazir") ... 43:
Sarayevo (Alex. Devine), 740; (C. F. Melville) 740
Yugoslav Arts and Crafts (Miss A. J. Dickinson) 71

MISCELLANEOUS.

Absent Guest Dinner Movement, The ... 769
Abyssinia, A Film of Northern 105
Arab Horse Society, The 584
Arabia, Ibn Saoud and Central 650
Arabia, Mission to 402
"Arshin-Mal-Alan" 62
Art and History 739
Athens, An English School in 404
Balfour Declaration Anniversary... ... 591
Blue Peter," "The... 590
Brangwyn's Turkish Sketches 97
Cairo-Kano Flight, Proposed 402
Central Asian Society, The 521
Connaught, The Duke of 521
Cyprus, A Servant of 382
Cyprus, Message, A 682
Damascus Victoria Hospital 557
Desert Mail Service, The 558, 772
Dervishes, The Problem of the 744
Dorset Year-Book, The 404
East, Pictures of the 518
East, Russia and the 71
Egypt and the Sudan, The High Commissioner for 461
Egypt, Sir George Lloyd on 434
Egyptian Premier, The 105
Europe, Small Nations in... 714
Faisal, King 222, 408, 465
Fuad's Accession Day, King 461
Gallipoli and Salonika, Pilgrimage to ... 614
Hejaz, The Hostilities in the 647
Holy Land in Water-Colour, The ... 553
Holy Places, Governance of the 556
India Society, The 614
Iraq Military College 404
Iraq "Pledge," The 310
Jerusalem, Pictures of 433
Jerusalem, The Patriarch of 32
Jewish National Home, The 646
Koraes Chair, The 682
Liubliana, The Study of English in ... 338
London, Pavlova in 492
Makwar Dam, The Opening of the ... 426
Malaria, The War against 717
Mecca, An Appeal from 310
Medina, The Fate of 312
Mediterranean Fleet Cruise 408
Middle East Reception, A... 105
Missionaries, Lectures for... 772
Moslem World," "The 462
Mount Elbruz, Ascent of 372
Music, The Orient in 709
Near and Middle East Association 6, 32, 492, 709
Near East, Hungary and the 553
Orient, The New 277
Orientalist, An American 372
Ottoman Law 132
Palestine Campaign, Etchings of the ... 461
Palestine, Old and New 402
Palestine Oriental Society, The 402
Persepolis 647
Persia, Aviation in... 342
Persia in Recent Years 615
Photios, The late Patriarch 584
Plumer, Lord 222
Reading's Departure, Lord 132
Roumania, Patriarchate of 401
Royal Asiatic Society, The ... 433, 521
Salonika Forces' Service 433
Saracenic Architecture 682
Seiffedine, Prince 373
September Reviews... 277
Sudan Political Service 105
Sudan, The High Commissioner for Egypt and the 461
Syria's Eastern Frontier 116
Temples of the Jews, Models of the ... 283
Tunisia, Pictures of 20
Turkey, Pictures of 462
Turkish Republic, Anniversary of the ... 557
Turkish Woman, The 769
Varna, British Cruisers in 367
Wembley, The Empire at 160
World's Art Service," "The 646
Yugoslav Royal Tour 404
Yugoslavia, Embroideries of 13
Yugoslavia, The King of... 772

YUGOSLAV SUPPLEMENTS

Agricultural Over-Production 786
Budgetary "Twelfths," The 150
Customs Duty, Payment of 152
Dinar, The Rise of the 147
Economic News and Notes ... 664, 788
Export Tariffs 265
Foreign Trade 386, 789
Medicinal Plants (M. Pilja) 531
Nine Months' Exports 665
Pig-Rearing Industry, The (Dr. Ljudevit Prohaska) 661
Serbia, Iron in (Drag. R. Stephanovitch) 663
S.H.S. Kingdom, National Bank of the 152, 265, 387, 535, 666, 790
State Monopolies, The 151, 384, 387, 665
Yugoslav Customs Revenue 532
Yugoslav Exports (Dr. Milorad Nedeljkovitch) 151, 263, 535, 663
Yugoslav Maritime Policy ... 149, 263
Yugoslav Shipping Development ... 535
Yugoslavia, Abundance of Money in (Dr. Milorad Nedeljkovitch) 383
Yugoslavia, Credit Conditions in ... 788
Yugoslavia, Crop Conditions in ... 151, 633
Yugoslavia, Naphtha in 261
Yugoslavia's Financial Policy 785

INDIAN SECTION.

REGULAR WEEKLY FEATURES.

Regular Weekly Features: Indian Mail, Exchange, Current Topics.

INDIAN COMMERCIAL NOTES.

Indian Commercial Notes 11, 79, 142, 443, 504, 564, 626, 692, 750

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

India, The Problem of ("A Passenger") 45
India, Provincial Autonomy in (D. Graham Pole) 379
English Surnames (Ghazi)... 781

SPECIAL LETTERS.

Bombay ... 140, 173, 198, 229, 257, 289, 348, 412, 441, 469, 501, 562, 623, 721, 779
Calcutta... 9, 41, 76, 106, 139, 172, 198, 228, 256, 289, 318, 347, 376, 411, 440, 468, 501, 526, 561, 594, 622, 654, 689, 720, 747, 777
Simla ... 9, 44, 106, 140, 199, 257, 290, 377, 442, 502, 527, 595

SPECIAL ARTICLES.

Banerjea, Surendranath 201
Bengal-Nagpur Railway Extensions ... 596
Birkenhead's Statement, Lord 75
Bombay Mill Strike, Progress of the ... 501
Burma, The Destiny of 7
Calcutta, Lord Reading at 775
Civil Services Bill, The 745
Conflict or Synthesis? (Janus) 748
"Congress Provinces" 344
Cotton Excise, The... 718
Cotton Industry, Recent Developments in 441
Dehra Dun Military College, The ... 595
Hatred, Malice and All Uncharitableness 592
Hindu Moslem Antagonism (Major-General Sir George MacMunn, K.C.B., K.C.S.I., D.S.O.) 687
India Bill, The Commonwealth of ... 137
India, Bolshevism in 171
India, Communal Representation in (G. B. Scott, C.I.E.) 110
India in 1924-25 779
India, Lord Milner and (Janus) 254
India, Party Journalism in... 285
India, Political Parties in 374
India, Propaganda in 499

Digitized by Google

India, Provincial Autonomy in (Janus) ... 378
India, The Precious Metals in 257
India's Military Defence, The Cost of ... 199
Indian Congress, Mr. Gandhi and the ... 409
Indian Cotton Excise, The Suspension of 722
Indian Cotton Situation, The 140
Indian Feast of Lights, An (Rosemar) ... 780
Indian Labourers' Wages 229
Indian Medical Service 315
Indian Military Schools 9
Indian Muslims and the Hedjaz 525
Indian Railway Policy 620
Indian Reform Act, The (Coles Pasha, C.M.G.) 226
Indian Reforms 345
"Indian Sandhurst" Committee, The ... 140
"Indian Sandhurst" Committee's Questionnaire, The 527
Indian Territorial Force, The ... 377, 442
Indianisation of the Army ... 44, 106
Japanese Competition 173
Jungle, A Clearing in the (Janus) ... 595
Nationalist Coalition, The 523
Nationalist Demand, The 466
Near East and India, The 7
Punjab Sports (C. K.) 202
Liberator, The (Musafir) 108
Reading's Address, Lord 253
Secretariat, Trouble in the (Musafir) ... 12
Shahjahan, Back to (Janus) 655
Step, The Next 653
Viceroy Designate, The 559
Viceroy, Peasant and (Janus) 469

COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL SECTION.

REGULAR WEEKLY FEATURES.

Notes and News: Engineering Topics: Cotton and Cotton Goods: Near East Markets: London Produce Reports: Shipping Intelligence: Special Market Reports: Tenders Invited: Company Notes and Reports: Stock and Share Markets: Chess: Foreign Exchanges.

SMYRNA FRUIT REPORT.

Smyrna Fruit Report ... 204, 297, 326, 357, 391, 421, 452, 478, 507, 577, 601, 630, 699, 730, 792

DRIED FRUIT REPORT.

Dried Fruit Report... 181, 326, 452, 577, 690

NEW COMPANIES.

New Companies ... 54, 359, 449, 530, 607, 671

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF.

Company News in Brief ... 359, 482, 602

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

News from all Sources 239, 298, 329, 447, 628

AGRICULTURE IN IRAQ.

Agriculture in Iraq ... 119, 235, 354, 478

MOTORS AND MOTORING.

Motors and Motoring 449, 477, 509, 539, 571, 603, 631, 669, 697, 729, 755, 793

BRITISH CONSULAR REPORTS.

Egypt, 355, 389; Greece, 479, 512; Persia, 419; Syria, 267, 295; Turkey, 177; Yugoslavia 209

SPECIAL LETTERS.

Bucharest ... 25, 353, 421, 569, 726, 791
Cyprus 784
Khartoum 791
Liubliana 233, 353
Sofia 668, 761

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Azerbaijan," "The Commercial Possibilities of (The Author) 24
Egyptian Cotton (R. R.) 232
Salonika, The Port of (T. Mahoney Shea-Lawler), 24, 85; (Sir Harry H. Lamb) 52, 116

SPECIAL ARTICLES.

Cyprus in 1924 293
Czecho-Slovakia in 1924, Banking in ... 180
Dalmatian Railway, A 233
Danube Navigation, The Improvement of 475
Dead Sea, Production of Minerals from the 23
Gezira, Cotton Growing in the 206
Liubliana Samples Fair 353
Motor Show, The 474
Palestine, Progress in 53
Persian Gulf, The Grain Trade of the (C. Wills) 536, 567
Roumania as a Market for British Cars 629
Roumanian Budget for 1926, The ... 727
Smyrna, Trade and Conditions in ... 323
Sudan at the Exhibition, The 208
Sudan, Changes in the 205
Sudan in 1924, The... 753
Tanker Chartering Review 121
Turkey, Cotton Cultivation in 211
Turkey, Port Construction in 237
Yugoslavia, The Foreign Trade of ... 54

MISCELLANEOUS.

Adriatic Ports, Railway Tariffs to ... 602
Albania's National Bank 325
Anglo-Persian Oil 695
Bibby Line Motor Ship, New 22
Bourgas, Congestion at 570
Bratislava's Trade, Expansion of ... 22
British Industries Fair 695, 792
British Overseas Shippers... 23
Bulgaria and Danube Navigation ... 538
Bulgaria, Production of Attar of Roses in 119
Bulgaria's Trade Position... 115
Bulgarian Debt Arrangement 22
Bulgarian Trade with Great Britain ... 123
Cairo, Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition at 210
Civil Aviation 423
Convoy, An Imposing 695
Corinth Canal Condition 538
Cunard Line Anniversary... 59
Cycle and Motor Cycle Show, 1925 ... 326
Dacia Romano Petroleum... 393
Danube, European Commission of the ... 117
Danube Shipping, France and 728
Druse Revolt, The... 423
East, British Motor Cars in the 356
Egypt, British Shipping and 448
Egypt, Demand for Motors in 630
Egypt Promotion Association 52
Egypt, The Motorbus in 795
Egyptian Honours 600
Egyptian Tourist Conference 118
Egyptian Tribute Loan 180
Empire Cotton Growing Corporation ... 179
European Sugar 325
Export Trade, Bad Debts in 116
Fuad, Port 325
General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corp., Ltd. 179
Gezira, Development Work in the ... 453
Gezira Irrigation Scheme, The 391
Gordon Memorial College, The 208
Greece, Motor Buses in 260
Greece's Mercantile Marine 508
Greece's Mineral Output 88
Greece's Mineral Resources 604
Greek Compensation to Allied Nationals 325
Greek External Debt 122
Greek Market for Electrical Household Appliances 666
Greek Refugee Loan ... 84, 152, 668
Greek Steamer, New 538
Greek Tobacco Production 530
Ground Nut or Monkey-Nut, The ... 507
India, Agricultural Situation in ... 297, 354
Indus, New Light-Vessel off the... ... 121
Indian Agriculture 480
Iraq, Cotton and Rice in 698
Mesopotamia Travelling Studentship to 84
Montenegro, Railway Construction in ... 795
Muscat, 1924-25, The Trade of 602
Near East, Exhibitions in the ... 52, 327
Ottoman Public Debt 791
Overseas Commercial Matters, Inquiries on 25
Palestine Crop Prospects 118, 790
Palestine Increasing, Trade of 792
P. and O. and Ocean Cruising, The ... 239
Persia, Opium Production in 604
Persia, The Telephone System of... ... 84
Persian Gulf, Lighting and Buoyage in 570
Petrie, Sir Flinders... 84
Roumania, British Trade with 153
Roumanian Exchange 325
Roumanian Harvest, The... 530
Roumanian Loan of 1922... 325
Roumanian Postal Development... ... 418
Roumanian Tobacco Production... ... 421
Royal Society of Arts 543
Salonika Skin Market, The 297
Sofia Municipal Loan, Projected... ... 392
Steaua Romana 329
Sudan Chamber of Commerce 791
Sudan Contract 506
Sudan Exports Increasing... 391
Sudan Light and Power 58
Sudan, Progress in the 324
Sudan Railways in 1924 790
Sudan Trade Progress 510
Testing Machine, A Remarkable... ... 701
Turkey, Market for Prepared Medicines in 181
Turkey's Nut Crop... ... ... 357, 601
Turkey, The British Chamber of Commerce in 477
Turkey's Tobacco Crop 478
Turkey's Trade in 1924 701
Turkey's Trade in January 795
Turkish Market for Motors 666
Turkish Waters, Distress Signals in ... 508
Vickers Boiler Company 506
Vogslav, Safety of the 538

Digitized by Google

Winter Sports 511
Yugoslav Market, Importance of the ... 85
Yugoslav Shipping Development... ... 602

COMPANY MEETINGS.

African and Eastern Trade Corporation 298
Anglo-Austrian Bank 238
Anglo-Belgian Company of Egypt ... 731
Anglo-Persian Oil Company 632
Assam Railway and Trading 625
Bank of British West Africa 86
Bank of Roumania... 154
Bengal Dooars Railway 634
Bengal Nagpur Railway 635
Diala Cotton Plantations 359
Dooloogram Tea Company 27
Egyptian Delta Light Railways 155
Egyptian Hotels 56
Furness Withy and Co. 154
Imperial Bank of Persia 56
Imperial Ottoman Bank 182
Kassala Cotton Company 26
Lake Copais Company 120
P. and O. Banking Corporation 86
Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation 757
Steaua Romana (British) 759
South Indian Railway Company 482
Sudan Plantations Syndicate 573

Printed by the Burlington Publishing Co., Ltd., 74-76, Temple Chambers, E.C.4,
and Published by the Proprietors at the Offices,
170 Strand, London, W.C.2.

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THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

No. 738.—Vol. XXVIII. THURSDAY, JULY 2, 1925.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	Page
NOTES OF THE WEEK	1
SPECIAL LETTERS—	
Egypt	4
Roumania	4
Cyprus	5
Oman	5
SPECIAL ARTICLE—	
Some Footnotes to the History of the War in Asia.—I. ...	14
LEADING ARTICLE—	
The Greek Pronunciamento ...	3
THE WEEK AT HOME	16
BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES	19
PERSONAL AND GENERAL ...	18
INDIAN AFFAIRS—	
The Near East and India ...	7
The Destiny of Burma	8
Special Letters: Calcutta ...	9
Simla ...	10
The Indian Mail	11
Indian Exchange	11
Commercial Notes	11
Trouble in in the Secretariat ...	12
COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
Notes and News	21
Production of Minerals from the Dead Sea	23
Engineering Topics	24
Commercial Correspondence ...	24
Roumanian Letter	25
Company Meetings—	
(1) Kassala Cotton Company	26
(2) Dooloogram Tea Company	27

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

The Coup d' Etat in Greece.

General Pangalos has lost no time in making good his threat that there would be trouble for the Michalokopoulos Government, if it attempted to take action against the Army for a tendency to interfere in politics. At that precise moment his revolutionary movement must have been in process of organisation; for, when he struck, it was with such overwhelming force—with the support of the Army in all parts of Greece—that opposition was out of the question. M. Michalokopoulos resigned and General Pangalos is now Prime Minister in his stead. The latter prefers that his action should be regarded as in the nature of an ordinary political crisis; but, as he relied on an ultimatum and threats of bombardment, he cannot cavil at the designation given to it in countries where political differences are adjusted on more constitutional lines. The fact that there has been no bloodshed is a strong point in his favour in foreign eyes, and if he has a panacea for Greece's ills that was not known to or employed by his predecessors in office, his advent to power may ultimately be welcomed by his countrymen. At the moment of writing the position is indeterminate. General Pangalos disclaims any intention of becoming a Dictator. He has strong views as to the policy necessary for Greece, and talks of retiring from politics when this policy, which includes the reconciliation of the different parties, is carried through. In the meantime however, he has to meet the Chamber, in which his party is in a minority. If the parties reflect public opinion, they will acquiesce in the *fait accampli* and stand by to see in what way the Government of General Pangalos is better than that of M. Michalokopoulos. They will avoid any provocation that might lead the new Prime Minister to take to himself still more arbitrary powers, and will concentrate upon a continuance, as far as possible, of the comparatively quiet time which Greece has been enjoying and has put to good purpose under the Michalokopoulos régime.

A Greek Revival.

Considerable familiarity with revolutions has probably robbed them, as far as Greece is concerned, not only of the horror with which they are viewed in other countries, but also of their capacity for disorganising the affairs of the country. The Greek Government was just entering upon a number of schemes of great importance for the rehabilitation of Greece, and it is to be hoped that none of these will be prejudiced by General Pangalos's seizure of power. Reports from all parts of the country have been satisfactory, in particular those from Macedonia. Here the worst part of the refugee problem has been successfully weathered. Housing conditions show a material improvement, and the refugees are now anxious to work. Arrangements, it is announced, were concluded by the Michalokopoulos Government, a few days before its fall, with an Anglo-American group for the reclamation of the low-lying parts of the Salonika plain and for the regulation of the Vardar River. The scheme is expected to make available for cultivation nearly three hundred square miles of rich agricultural land—a no mean item in Greece's agricultural economy. It would be a grave misfortune, if this or any other similar plan for the betterment of Greece were allowed to fall through as a result of the change of Government, or if funds earmarked for reproductive works were to be transferred to military expenditure in connexion with General Pangalos's anxiety to make Greece's army equal to a task which it is difficult to see how it can ever hope to fulfil.

Smyrna To-day.

In connection with the recovery of Greece it is of interest to find that for neither country has the exchange of Greeks and Turks had all the dire results anticipated. The tragedy for the people themselves remains; but Greece is evidently destined to benefit from the accession of an industrious population. The immediate evils for Turkey are more apparent. Asia Minor as a whole, there can be little doubt, does feel the lack of its Greek population. It is noticeable, however, that Smyrna refuses to admit that it must necessarily be a declining port as a result of the Greek and Armenian exodus. The Chamber of Commerce has produced statistics to show that, as far as trade is concerned, the town is already on the way to recover from the blow administered to it. The anxiety which arose form the shortage of skilled labour for the upkeep of the vineyards abandoned by the refugees has, it is stated, proved baseless. The replanning of the town may hang fire, but Western Anatolia is beginning gradually to reap the benefit of a more enlightened Turkish Government. Education is being taken seriously; there is now security

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in the land, and a conscientious effort is being made to adjust taxation so as not to prejudice production—two important considerations for an agricultural country.

Iraq's Financial Problem.

Although it was known that dissension or at least difficulties had arisen in the Iraqi Cabinet, it was hardly expected that the Government of General Yasin Pasha, which came into power only last August, would prove so short-lived. General Yasin had shown promise of being Iraq's strong man, but he has now made way for his own Minister for the Interior, Abdul Mushin Beg, who has succeeded in forming a new Cabinet. The Ministerial crisis coincides with the publication of the Report of the Mission appointed last March to inquire into the financial position and prospects of the country. This document, for which Mr. Hilton Young, M.P., and Mr. R. V. Vernon are responsible, calls attention to the fact, well known for some time in Baghdad, that, although Iraq had been able to show a balanced budget for two years, its financial position was bound to be precarious as soon as the financial clauses of the Treaty with Great Britain became operative, in other words when the country assumed responsibility for its share of the Debt of the Ottoman Empire and for certain charges, notably Army expenditure, previously defrayed, at least in part, by Great Britain. The findings of the Mission are, in brief, that Iraq must be helped from outside, if it is to emerge successfully from its difficulties. The statement that "it is not to be expected that the foreign investor will trust his money into the new country freely and on reasonable terms until, with the passage of time, there is more positive evidence, in the eyes of the world at large, of its stability," has been unmistakably endorsed during the last week by the experience of a British company operating in Iraq and appealing for public funds. Among the suggestions made is that the British Government should guarantee the Iraq Government a loan for railway works and replacements; it is urged that there should be some fresh arrangement which would postpone for Iraq the obligation to meet the Ottoman Debt charge, that the debt charge in respect of certain transferred assets should be cancelled by the British Government, and that Iraq should be enabled to reduce its military expenediture, which is largely regulated by the extent to which Great Britain wishes to divest herself of a burden that she has hitherto borne. Everyone fully acquainted with conditions in Iraq will realise that these or similar recommendations were inevitable. Much of the delay in the ratification of the Anglo-Iraq Treaty was due to the recognition by the Iraq Government that a financial burden was being placed upon it that it could not bear, and it was to facilitate ratification that the promise was given to investigate afresh the financial aspect of the Treaty. Not until the present Government had been in office for some months was it found possible to give effect to this promise by the appointment of Mr. Hilton Young and Mr. Vernon on a mission of investigation.

Yugoslavia and Bulgaria.

It is unfortunate that Bulgaria should have given occasion to the Yugoslav Government to adopt such a drastic measure as the closing of its frontier to Bulgarians. The trouble has arisen over the arrest of a few Yugoslav subjects in connection with the bomb outrage in the Sveta Nedelia Cathedral in Sofia last April. The Bulgarian authorities are charged with having failed to give a satisfactory reply to the first inquiry as to the fate of the Yugoslav prisoners, and a further Note announces that instructions have been sent to the Yugoslav Legation at Sofia to refuse visas to all Bulgarians. As it was found possible by the Bulgarian Government immediately after the receipt of the second Note to obtain the necessary information, it would seem to have been a grave error in tactics to have adopted an unconciliatory attitude in the first instance. If, as is reported, five of the seven Yugoslavs arrested have been liberated, there was all the more reason to state the facts at once unequivocally. Of the other two one is said to be still in a Bulgarian prison, and there is a possibility that the second has been executed. If this should be the case, Bulgaria will have missed an opportunity of laying Yugoslavia under an obligation by consulting the Belgrade Government before sentence was carried out on a Yugoslav prisoner. That Government would probably have raised no objection to having a Yugoslav Communist permanently put out of the way, but it is bound to take exception to a more or less clandestine execution. A clear statement of the facts, it is to be hoped, will enable the incident to be adjusted amicably between the two Governments. Yugoslavia may well complain that lack of candour on the part of the Bulgarian Government in such a case goes far to stultify the satisfactory impression created by the Bulgarian Foreign Minister's recent visit to Belgrade.

Persia and Great Britain.

Further consideration, it may be hoped, will satisfy the Persian Government that it has no need to find fault with the decision of the Geneva Conference on the traffic in arms to make the Persian Gulf a "prohibited area." Persia herself secures exemption from the ruling of the 1919 Convention which made her own territory a prohibited zone, but she cannot seriously maintain that she is yet in a position to police the whole of the Gulf. Unfortunately the common sense of the Conference is made the excuse for a fresh outburst in Persia against Great Britain. Yet Persia has almost as great an interest as the British Government has in checking contraband in arms in the Gulf, for some at least of the weapons find their way among the tribes as well as farther afield to the Indian frontier. At a time when Soviet action is causing considerable uneasiness in Persian official circles it would be thought that the Teheran Government would endeavour to adjust any differences it may have with Great Britain. As things are, it is merely playing into the hands of the Bolshevists and encouraging them to meddle still further in Persian affairs. Deceived by Soviet protestations of friendship, Persia considered it to be to her interest to break with Great Britain and to accept the blandishments of Moscow. The gradual infiltration of Soviet agents and Red troops into Persian territory, no less than the active support given to the Turkoman rebels in the Bujnurd region, has revealed another side to the picture, and sooner or later Teheran may begin to appreciate the necessity of reconsidering a foreign policy which spells merely isolation for Persia.

Mitko Ganeff, a notorious Bulgarian, has been killed in an encounter with soldiery near Haskovo (about 50 miles S.E. of Philippopolis).

The Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society has issued for publication a copy of a letter upon slavery in the Sudan, addressed to the Society by Major P. G. W. Diggle, until recently in the service of the Sudan Government. This letter has been forwarded to the League of Nations, and will be considered by the Slavery Commission, which is meeting in a few days. Major Diggle offers to appear before the League of Nations Slavery Commission in order to give his personal evidence to the Commission.

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THURSDAY, JULY 2, 1925.

THE GREEK PRONUNCIAMENTO.

Greece has once more passed through one of those revolutionary changes which have become far too frequent of recent years. All that the present one has in its favour would seem to be the fact that it was effected without bloodshed. As far as can be gathered from the reports that have reached England, the Greek people manifested no desire for any political change, still less for a *coup d'état* which is necessarily prejudicial to a country's reputation. All shades of Greek public opinion endorsed the firm stand taken by the Michalokopoulos Government against the Yugoslav demands in connexion with the Ghevgheli-Salonika railway. There was a tendency in some quarters to blame the Ministry for having placed itself in a position to receive such demands; but this was little more than a debating point made by the Opposition from a natural desire to embarrass the Government. Dissatisfaction in military circles on the subject carried with it its own condemnation, for the people as a whole had grown weary of the Army's intervention in politics. M. Michalokopoulos, indeed, considered that he had sufficient public support to take action against this military inclination to kick over the constitutional traces; but General Pangalos was too quick for him. Having secured the support of the Navy under Admiral Hajikyriakos, and having the Army apparently entirely with him, he threw down the gauntlet to the Government. In the early morning of June 25 he placed himself at the head of troops between the Piræus and Athens, and sent an ultimatum to the President of the Republic demanding the resignation of the Michalokopoulos Government. In the meantime strategic points in Athens had been occupied by his soldiers. In the face of this overwhelming show of force the Prime Minister handed in his resignation. The President was also prepared to vacate his office, but was prevailed upon by General Pangalos to remain. He endeavoured to throw a constitutional cloak over the proceedings by asking M. Papanastasiou, who is on friendly terms with General Pangalos, to form a Ministry, but the proposal does not appear to have met with the General's approval. He preferred to take office himself, and is now installed as Prime Minister, with the portfolio of the Ministry for War.

All that has happened in Greece is the concern of the Greeks themselves, and no responsible person in Britain will wish to interfere in their domestic politics. It is permissible, however, to point out how the *coup d'état* is likely to be viewed abroad. There is no need to impugn General Pangalos's patriotism. He appears to have convinced himself that the Government of M. Michalokopoulos was prejudicial to the country, although in his proclamation he is unable to be more specific in his indictment than to call it "erring." His own contribution to the welfare of Greece is to promise "good administration, equality, security, and justice"; the arm of justice is to fall without mercy on peculators who steal the sweat of the people; he will endeavour to organise rapidly a national force by which alone the country's interests can be safeguarded, and he will recoil before no sacrifice to relieve the misery of the refugees in Greece. Although a complete programme is not to be expected in an initial proclamation, a very important subject that would seem to have been overlooked by General Pangalos is that of finance. Now, whatever may have been the shortcomings of the Michalokopoulos Government in regard to matters which seem to weigh with the new Prime Minister, there can be no doubt that it had been very successful in improving Greece's credit abroad. On this point General Pangalos must accept the evidence of foreigners. It is equally certain that a *coup d'état*, such as has now been carried out, is in itself damaging to Greek credit, although not necessarily in a way that is reflected at once in the rate of exchange. Still more prejudicial to Greece will be the resolve foreshadowed in the new Government's proclamation to increase expenditure on the Army and generally to beat the big military drum. An attempt to intimidate Yugoslavia by organising a national force for the purpose of safeguarding the country's interests must be regarded as a very dangerous move, as it may well recoil on Greece's head. Two things stand out in connexion with General Pangalos's *coup d'état*—one is the complete absence of any enthusiasm on the part of the Greek people, the other is the rather ominous effect created in Yugoslavia. It may be that the Belgrade Government will know how to take advantage of the political changes in Greece in order to withdraw from the position previously taken up in connexion with the Salonika railway, and that as a result of General Pangalos's seizure of power an improvement may follow in the relations between the two countries. If there should be a tendency in this direction, we can but hope that it will not be wrecked by General Pangalos's insistence on an ambitious military programme.

If General Pangalos is anxious to reassure Greece's well-wishers abroad, he will be at pains to show conclusively by the acts of his Government that the country was being deprived under the administration of M. Michalokopoulos of something indispensable to its welfare. Otherwise there will be a tendency to see in the *coup d'état* a further proof of the disability under which Greece labours by having substituted a republic for a monarchy. The opinions of M. Venizelos on Greece's internal affairs may not carry much weight nowadays, but it is of interest to recall that, before he went over to the republican camp, he used as an argument for the retention of the monarchy his conviction that Greece as a republic would be the prey of frequent political changes owing to the personal jealousies and petty ambitions of Greek politicians and soldiers. Unless General Pangalos can convince his countrymen that the Michalokopoulos Government was so unutterably bad that only a *coup d'état* could remedy the situation, and that he himself in his action was prompted solely by patriotic motives and neither by pique nor selfish aims, Greece may have reason to view with grave misgiving the complete ascendancy gained by one man over the Army. Under a monarch this would hardly be possible where, as in the present instance, the civilian element remains entirely aloof from the political *coup*. What General Pangalos has accomplished other soldiers may emulate, and Greece is confronted with the prospect of being for the future at the mercy of military pronunciamentos. If General Pangalos is wise, he will try to arrange that Greece relies for her security on a Balkan Federation and the League of Nations rather than on her own strong arm, and he will set about carrying out the scheme that was engaging the attention of his predecessor in the Premiership, the elimination of the Greek Army as an organisation from active interference in Greek politics.

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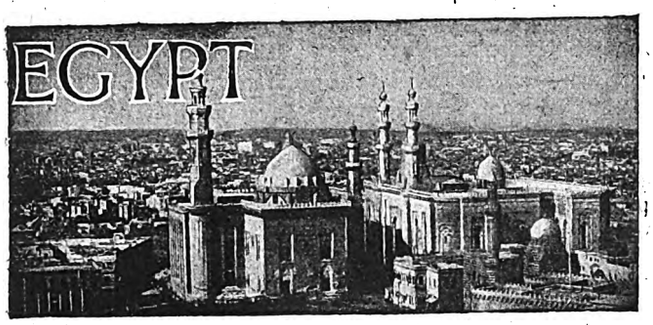
The Near and Middle East*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, June 22.

M. Canter Cremers.

The death last night of M. Canter Cremers, Chairman of the Nile Water Rights Commission, although not unexpected after his failure during the last few days to make any recovery from the typhoid fever which first attacked him over five weeks ago, has caused a profound impression here. Apart from the personal popularity which M. Canter Cremers had inspired amongst those with whom he had come into contact, the fact that he should have contracted his fatal illness whilst carrying out his mission as neutral chairman of a body dealing with a subject of such intense interest to Egypt as control of Nile waters has given Egyptians such an interest in the personality of the distinguished Dutch engineer as they feel for few foreigners. The funeral takes place this afternoon (June 22) at the British Protestant Cemetery, and despite the fact that Cairo is now suffering from a heat wave which makes the donning of frock-coats and silk hats a trying ordeal, it is certain that there will be a large number of sympathisers at the graveside. Neither of the other members of the Commission will be present, Abdel Hamid Pasha Suliman, the Egyptian delegate, being now in London, while Mr. R. M. MacGregor, the British representative, returned to Khartoum last Friday.

The Nile Commission.

The question now arises of how to complete the work which the Commission began. It is known that the British and Egyptian delegates had nearly finished their part of drawing up the report, but how near M. Canter Cremers was to being ready to sign final conclusions is not known. It remains to be seen whether the two Governments will be able to agree upon some method of continuing the inquiry from the point at which it was left off five weeks ago, or whether the appointment of a new chairman will involve going back and starting again at the beginning. The answer to this question is not likely to be known before the Autumn.

The Basis of Promotion.

Few of the many changes which have taken place in the Government service since February 1922, have done so much to temper the patriotic heat of formerly anti-British Egyptians as the growing disregard for seniority as the basis of promotion. During the Ministry of Zaghloul Pasha favouritism was practised to a scandalous degree. Most unmerited promotions were made, places being found for faithful followers by the expulsion of officials of known anti-Zaghloulist views. If the present Government has been less blameworthy in the latter respect, it has erred almost as much as its predecessor in making promotions with no regard to seniority and, in some cases, little care for ability. Endless examples could be cited. One, which is attracting attention at the present moment is that of a young official who, after only eight years' service, has been jumped over the heads of scores of his seniors into the position of Secretary-General of a Ministry, and now it is said, strenuous endeavours are being made to give him a further upward leap to the Assistant Under Secretaryship of State. From there it would be but a step to the Under-Secretaryship, one of the highest permanent appointments in the Government. However, promotion is for the moment held up. But with his galaxy of influential relatives, it will not be surprising if the young official soon attains the goal at which he is aiming.

The reaction of this sort of irregularity upon officials in general is obvious and inevitable. As an old official, who has seen many years' service under many Ministries, remarked to me the other day: "There are now only two classes of Government officials, those who have powerful relatives or friends, and therefore have no need to work to earn promotion, and those who have no friends and will therefore be passed over, however hard they work."

The Move to Alexandria.

The Court and the Ministry moved to Alexandria last week, and the Residency this morning (June 22). Cairo is, therefore, now fairly launched on its summer dullness which, this year, seems unlikely to be broken by political crises. So benumbing is the torpor that some energetic rumour-mongers find it necessary to invent the most fantastic stories, just to mitigate the monotony. Thus Cairo, last Friday, thrilled to a report of Ziwar Pasha's having been killed in a bomb outrage in Alexandria. Only when urgent inquiries received the telephoned reply that Ziwar Pasha was at that moment eating a very good lunch at the Mohammed Aly Club did the excitement subside. As the heat becomes more and more trying and news ever scarcer, rumours will doubtless multiply; but we have had such a full year or two, and look forward to having such an interesting winter, that few of us who are doomed to spend the summer here will mind very much if, in fact, the only exciting incidents of the next few months prove to be the things that do not happen.

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Enquiry Office: CAIRO STATION. Tel. No. 6777.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, June 18.

Parliament.

The session is at an end, and the Chambers are on vacation until October. The legislative task set itself by

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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the Government has been almost completely finished, with the exception of the electoral reform, the discussion of which will take place next autumn, the Bill having already been handed in.

The two most important events of this legislature may be said to be the Administrative Law and the ratification of the conventions between the State and the National Bank. The Administrative Law unifies the internal organisation of the New Roumania in a fairly pronounced spirit of centralisation. This reform was urgent, as the country was living under three different régimes: the Roumanian régime of the Old Kingdom, the Austro-Hungarian régime in Transylvania and the Bukovina, and the Russian régime in Bessarabia. The reproach is brought against the new law, however, of having been over-hastily prepared and of not taking sufficiently into account the local customs in the new provinces. But what reform of this kind is not subjected to similar criticism? The law for the ratification of the conventions between the State and the National Bank was passed without difficulty, the opposition having been reduced to silence by a new regulation of the Chamber introduced for this purpose which allows the majority to suppress any unwelcome discussions. During the debates in the Chamber the various Opposition leaders—with the exception of General Averescu, who still considers himself the chosen successor of the Liberals—manifested their disapproval of the policy of "revalorisation" of the leu and of the advantages accorded to the National Bank at the expense of the producing classes.

The Minister of Finance defended himself against the charge of wishing to apply direct methods of deflation, and explained that the convention marked a new stage in his policy of consolidation of the floating debts, and that its aim was the regulation of the debt of the State to the Bank. He added that the payment of the annual instalments and the economic policy would be arranged according to a rigid programme fixed beforehand.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, June 9.

The "Tribute."

Cyprus (excepting the Turkish element) continues to grumble over the "Tribute" (of over £92,000 a year), or "share of the Ottoman Debt." It has always done so; and outside critics have often agreed that since the anomalous nature of our tenure forbade the introduction of foreign capital into the poverty-stricken, but once rich, island, it was exceedingly hard that the whole of its surplus revenue should be swallowed up by this annual charge. Moreover, it has generally been held that the Tribute itself was unfairly fixed on the basis of an over-assessment of the average amount which was taken yearly from the island under Ottoman rule. It has been reckoned that under the Turks the cost of administration was about £21,000 a year—or practically less than is often spent by the Public Works Department alone under British rule. The Turks, it is said, never spent anything—certainly not more than £1,000 p.a.—on island needs; so that, assuming that the Tribute paid by Cyprus was really £92,000 on an average, about £80,000 a year went into the pockets of the Sultan and his satellites. Be this as it may, the drain on the island resources is one respecting which no one could fail to sympathise with the Cypriots. There is still a prevalent idea that Britain has made a profit out of the island—an idea which Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, when Colonial Minister, explained in the House of Commons was "an entire and absolute mistake." It must, too, be remembered that Britain has always come to the aid of Cyprus when unable to meet the annual demand, sometimes contributing as much as £60,000 towards a deficiency in a "bad year"; and that since Cyprus became able to pay its way, Britain has given an annual grant-in-aid of £50,000 towards the burden.

Cyprus in Summer.

Summer hours are now observed by the official ranks, and by many others. Every year the transformation or Westernising of Cyprus becomes more striking. Until long after the British occupation, it was a rare event for one or two native families to seek a change, and refuge from midsummer heat, at some village or monastery, at not half the altitude of Mt. Troödos. Now there are crowded hotels and fashionable amusements in the highest villages, and in what were forest solitudes, where Cypriots can meet numerous Greek families from Egypt and other places. Large fairs, with cattle and horse shows, take place, and even on the plains there are new recreations. Regattas on a small scale are carried out at several of the seaside towns and resorts; some of the principal gatherings being held at the annual "Festival of Venus," commonly called the *Cataclysmos*, or anniversary of the Deluge—a festival dating from very early times. At Larnaca and Limassol it is a great occasion. Thousands of villagers flock to the coast, and there is much jollification. It is the correct thing to go for a sail, however short, in boats, many of them carrying musicians. It is an excellent sign that Cypriots have taken so kindly to various forms of physical exercise and recreation. A keen interest is taken in athletic sports. Meetings are held in all districts, and committees exist. Pan-Cypriot, and recently Pan-Hellenic gatherings have taken place. Football is played in the winter, and matches are arranged.

General News.

The departure of Sir Malcolm Stevenson on three months' leave has given rise to various rumours. Reports are persistent as to possible changes among the highest officials, e.g., that the Governor will not return, but will be appointed to Ceylon. Surveys appear in the Press of his administration during nearly five years as High Commissioner.

A Hospital for Consumptives, which has been for some time in contemplation, is to be built at a hilly site not far from Nicosia, at a cost of £5,000. The choice of the spot does not escape criticism by alarmists, who object that it is too near and a danger to the capital.

Mr. Zeno Pierides, of Larnaca, has been appointed German Vice-Consul for Germany.

OMAN.

Muscat, May 16.

The Sultan's Holiday.

The Sultan left for Dhofar on April 18, and will be absent, probably, for seven months. Provisions sufficient for the whole of his retinue were forwarded to Dhofar prior to his departure.

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The Chancellor of the Treasury.

Mr. Thomas, the Chancellor of the Sultan's Exchequer, has been promoted to the rank of Captain. Before putting him in charge of his new post, the Sultan summoned a darbar to declare publicly that Captain Thomas was now the Chancellor, and, in addition, that he was to act as Superintendent to the Government. The Sultan has implicit confidence in the ability and trustworthiness of Captain Thomas. This darbar was held early in April.

It appears that there exists a certain dissatisfaction with Captain Thomas, principally, it seems, because he has established M. Iskander, the former Customs official, in the Government service and has promoted him to a higher post. On such a basis is public opinion in the East formed!

The Council and Sayyid Said.

The appointment of Sayyid Said to be Prince Regent of the Sultanate of Oman was made with the consent of the Government of India; it was, however, greatly disapproved of by the President of the State Council and his staff. Sayyid Said was expected to arrive on May 4 at Muscat back from Ajmir College, India, and the State Council were so moved that they wished to prevent any official reception to the Prince Regent. They were, however, prevailed upon to forgo any such foolish step.

The Sultan appointed Sayyid Said to be Superviser of the State Council and regularly to attend the meetings of the Council on Mondays and on Thursdays. The Prince Regent was instructed to resist strenuously any illegal proceedings on the part of the Council, and he appears to be carrying out this duty to the complete satisfaction of the public.

Bombardment of El-Fajirah.

R.I.M. Lawrence, Trade, and Seychelman, led by Colonel Prideaux, British Resident in the Persian Gulf, having anchored near El-Fajirah coast line (El-Fajirah is a town belonging to the Government of Oman, some fifty miles north of Sohar), bombarded the fort and house of Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah el Sharki, the chief Sheikh of that district. This was because the Sheikh had purchased a Baluchi girl, keeping her in his house as a slave. Applications for her recovery were made by her mother, through the British Consulate, to the Sultan's Government, but for six months the Government were unable to make any remedying move. The mother, being helpless, and rather hopeless of recovering her girl through the offices of the Sultan's Government, appealed to the Resident. The Resident thereupon took the only step open to him. It is surprising, however, to learn that in spite of this bombardment, Sheikh Ahmed has refused to return his slave girl; but he paid the fine of 1,500 rupees.

Kidnapping a Bruhman.

An Arab of the Hikman tribe, Jaalan district, Southern Oman, sued a Bruhman of Sur in the Court in an attempt to recover a debt of a thousand Maria Theresa dollars (£100). Owing, however, to lack of evidence, the plaintiff's case was dismissed. On his return home, this Arab kidnapped a Bruhman, Kusandass by name, and aged fifty-five years. The Sultan's Government have failed to recover the kidnapped person, and the kidnapper insists upon receiving a certain amount of money before releasing his victim. It would appear that the only way left for the ransom of this unfortunate man is to pay the money demanded. The Bruhman community has raised a sum of 800 M.T. Dollars towards the redemption of Kusandass. This fund has been handed over to Sheikh Ali bin Abdullah, brother of the Imam of Jaalan, and to Sheikh Rashid bin Uzaiz, Member of the State Council, and both of these Sheikhs have been delegated to Jaalan to see what they can do in the matter.

General News.

Sayyid Said has come through his examinations successfully for this collegiate year. He will return to college at the end of next July.

Ali bin Faisal, brother of the Sultan, has been discharged from the post of Secretary to the State Council.

Colonel Crosthwaite, British Consul at Muscat, has been appointed First Assistant of the Resident in the Persian Gulf. Captain Alban will replace Colonel Crosthwaite as British Consul at Muscat.

Colonel Prideaux, Resident of the Persian Gulf, is proceeding to Great Britain on six months' furlough.

THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST ASSOCIATION.

"Palestine" was the subject of the addresses delivered before the Near and Middle East Association on June 17, at 41 Wilton Crescent, which had kindly been placed at the disposal of the Association by Mrs. Romilly. The chief speakers were Captain E. N. Bennett and Mr. E. T. Richmond, who were followed by Mr. Israel Cohen, Mr. St. John Philby, Lord Raglan, Mr. Yusuf Ali and Mr. Basil Worsfold. Lord Edward Gleichen was in the chair, and among those present were Baron Palmistierna, Viscountess Dupplin, Hon. Lady Shelley Rolls, Sir Kynaston and Lady Studd, Sir Arthur Chapman, Sir John and Lady Miller, Sir Henry and Lady Benson, Hon. Margaret Kinnaird, Sir Graham and Lady Bower, Sir Thomas Arnold, Mr. Mitchell Banks, M.P., and many others.

The next meeting of the Association takes place at the Hyde Park Hotel on July 3, at 8.30 p.m., when Major-General Lord Edward Gleichen will speak on the present situation in Egypt, and a paper on the Question of the Jaghbub (Jarabub) Oasis by Captain Dixon-Johnson, will be read. Sir E. Denison Ross will preside.

Arrangements have been made to patrol the Palmyra-Ramadi section of the Damascus-Baghdad motor route across the desert with motor-cars equipped with machine-guns.

Colonel Riazi Khan, head of the Persian Military Mission which has been sent to France, who arrived there on June 23, declared that the excitement that prevailed in Persia after the departure of the Shah for France had now subsided, and that his Majesty would return to Persia in two months time, by way of Syria and Baghdad.

The Duke of Atholl again appeals for support for the Save the Children Fund (26, Gordon Street, Gordon Square, London, W.C.1). The fund arranged recently for Mr. Percy Alden (chairman of council) and Mr. Golden (secretary) to go out to the Near East to examine the situation for themselves, and to report to the committee on their return.

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Indian Affairs.

THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

The *Englishman* (Calcutta) of June 1 prints a leading article on the change of name of THE NEAR EAST. Our contemporary says that, though the superstitious look upon a change of name as of ill omen—particularly in the case of ships and racehorses—it feels sure that THE NEAR EAST will prove an exception, and that the moment chosen for its change of title is appropriate. People at Home, says the *Englishman*, are apt to forget that the future of India is not only a political problem affecting a relatively small number of British officials, but also a commercial and economic problem that vitally affects British trade and industry as a whole. "Any effort that will stimulate British opinion at Home to a realisation of this vitally important fact, as important economically as the continued retention by India of her membership of the Empire is important imperially, is to be heartily welcomed and supported." These are encouraging words, and we hope that the future will justify them; though we fear that we are unlikely to find similar sentiments in the Extremist papers, whose attitude towards British journalism about India is generally of an entirely different sort. The *Bombay Chronicle* of May 30, for instance, prints a leading article in which the necessity is emphasised of taking steps to counter "mendacious propaganda" in London. "There is great need," says the paper, "for a steady refutation of the lies spread by certain ex-officials who kill pensionary leisure with the vilification of the country whose salt they are avidly eating. . . . In their zest for service recruitment, they malign Indians with ruthless bitterness and hold up for European lads prospects which have no relevancy to the progressive realisation of responsible government. Recruitment to the services is made to be an end in itself and, to suit the abetment of arrogant prejudice imparted to the universities of Britain, the authorities seem inclined to set back the hands of the clock. . . . There is in London a septic cesspool of unscrupulous propaganda against Indians. We cannot reduce it to sanitary conditions, but surely we can provide some source of honest reference to fair-minded people. We should do something to counter the propaganda of interested parties who, by constant reiteration of falsehoods, convert even fair-minded critics into arrant mountebanks."

The above quotations give some idea of the difficulties that confront a newspaper that tries to carry out a programme such as that which THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA has set before itself. To advocate a sound, sane forward policy, based on co-operation with all that is best in Indian thought: to do what one can to advance the legitimate aspirations of educated Indians, while preserving impartiality between their views and those of Europeans in India where they seem to conflict: to support the Government of India in their efforts to the same end: and, in particular, to give expression to the views of the moderate section of British commercial thought, not for any selfish advantage of English trade interests, but with an honest desire to work for the good of India: this is no easy path to follow at the best of times. No one can fail to see how difficult it becomes when one has to take into acount an attitude such as that manifested by the *Bombay Chronicle*. For, unfortunately, it is only too true that this is not an isolated example, but a fair specimen of what passes at present, in India, for political controversy. There is no need to multiply quotations, but a few extracts from an article in the same paper, regarding the attempts made in England to stimulate recruitment for the Indian services, may with advantage be added. "The Secretary of State goes about recruiting young Britishers for service in India. On equal terms, Indians could beat them like nine-pins. . . . The University undergraduate is, unfortunately, not told that he should be actuated by the spirit of service and that he cannot long cling to the pretensions of autocracy whereby the last generation of I.C.S. men damned their reputation and made the path of their successors difficult. The recruits are offered all sorts of bribes and inducements, the Lee loot is dangled before them, and the Secretary of State tearfully implores young Britishers to join up. We notice the manner of vampire infection all round. . . . The 'leaven of Europeans' is not a leaven but a sediment. The stampede for job and cash was never so shamelessly pursued. They seem hardened to the disgrace involved, and discussion of Indian questions is now no better than the clamour for illicit preferments." It is with this kind of voice that the campaign of Swaraj is being preached, through the length and breadth of India. It is, of course, perfectly true that the better class of Indian politician does not subscribe to such sentiments; but he is largely voiceless, and his organs in the Press are few and do not command anything approaching the popularity of those that echo the sentiments of the *Bombay Chronicle*.

It has frequently been said that, in order to make the Reforms a success, it is necessary to educate the Indian electorate. An important preliminary, in such a campaign of education, is to convince the Indian politician that not only the British Government, but the individual Briton, at Home as well as in India, is honestly endeavouring to give effect to the legitimate aspirations of India. In view of the publication of opinions such as those just quoted, this might well seem an almost hopeless attempt; yet it is one that must be undertaken and that must be persisted in until controversial methods of the *Bombay Chronicle* brand become the exception instead of the rule—as, unfortunately, they now are—in the vernacular and Anglo-vernacular Press of India. It is too much to expect that they will ever disappear altogether, for journalistic experience in all countries forbids any such expectation. To effect even a partial disappearance will be a long and arduous task, the chief part of which will have to be carried out in India; here, in England, our part in it will rather be to try to convince the reading public that the particular brand of newspaper controversy that obtains expression in the extremist papers in India does not really reflect sober Indian opinion, and that the latter is ready to respond to efforts to assist it to become more vocal than it now is. If THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA can aid, be it ever so little, in the fulfilment of this task, it will fully justify the hopes, and fulfil the intentions, with which it starts to-day on its career under the new title.

THE DESTINY OF BURMA.

The future of Burma, in particular whether it should remain linked with India or develop separately, is an interesting speculation. At present its link with India is the accidental one of contiguity—which by no means implies accessibility. By land, it is divided from India by wide tracts of wild country, and by sea by the width of the Bay of Bengal. Whether air transport will ever seriously affect the latter is a matter that only the future can decide; as regards the former, there are three railway projects under consideration, though no serious advance has yet been made to a decision between them, much less to any commencement of work on any of them. The three railway projects are, first the Northern or "Hukong Valley" route, from Sadiya in Assam to Myitkyina ("Michiná"): the Central route from Chittagong in Bengal to Mandalay: and the Southern or Coast route from Chittagong to Bassein, with a cross line from Akyab to Prome. The first and second of these routes would have to cross stretches of wild country, part of which is a tangle of hills that form a succession of steep ridges at

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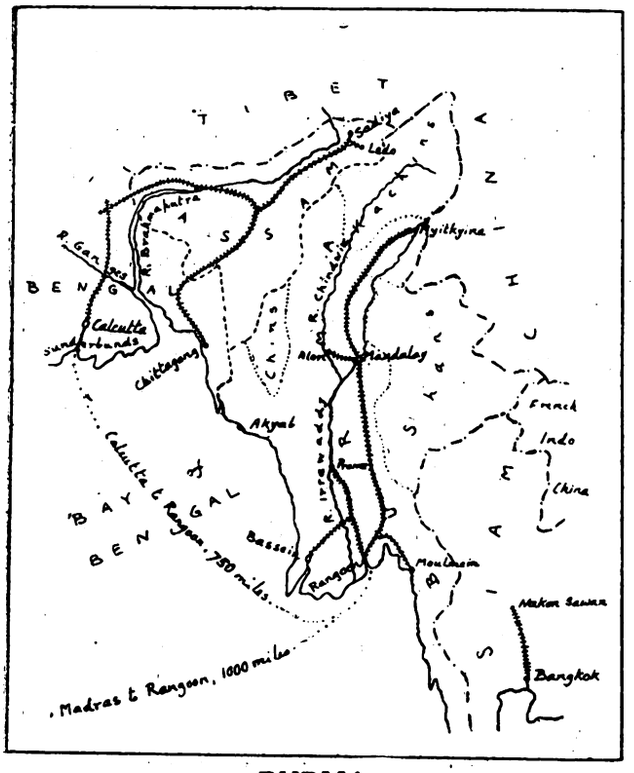
right angles to the direction of the railway: and the third would have to be carried over an almost endless series of tidal creeks, the bridging of which would not only be difficult, but also very expensive. The choice really lies between the first and third routes. The second, the mountain difficulties of which are even greater than those of the first, would pass through country of no economic value: and the port of Chittagong is slowly silting up, so that, in a future that is still distant but yet needs consideration, it is likely to have to yield pride of place to some other port on the eastern shore of the Bay of Bengal —very probably Akyab, where there is a good roadstead that is capable of improvement into quite a fine harbour, though the town bears an unenviable reputation for unhealthiness. The northern route would have to cross very difficult hilly country from Ledo up to a point somewhat beyond the Assam boundary; but, after that, the route would be easy and would pass through a fertile tract, at present largely uninhabited but likely to repay development by a railway. The estimated cost of this line is, we believe, about six crores of rupees (about four and a half million pounds), three-fourths of which amount would have to be expended on the hill portion of the line. The southern or coast route would follow the existing land trade route, but, apart from the difficulty of the tidal creeks, would be much longer than either of the others. It will be noticed, from the map, that the railway from



BURMA.

Scale: 250 miles to one inch.

Calcutta to Chittagong has to make a very wide detour in order to avoid the deltas of the Ganges and Brahmaputra, which make a more direct connection impossible; though the actual distance from Calcutta to Rangoon viâ Chittagong, Akyab and Prome would be substantially less than that viâ Sadiya and Myitkyina. Railway connection between India and Burma, therefore, if it ever comes into existence, must necessarily be difficult, expensive, and lengthy.

Burma is, of course, racially totally distinct from India. The Burmese are Buddhists; they have no caste divisions, their womenfolk are not secluded, no religious antagonism exists, such as that between Hindus and Moslems in India. At the same time, the Burman cannot, at any rate at present, get on without the Indian. He cannot—or, at any rate, does not—even reap his own rice crop, but hires Indian labourers to do it for him. Up till quite recently, Rangoon is believed to have been the second immigration port in the world, New York being the first; since the new restrictions on the entry of immigrants into the United States came into force, it seems likely that Rangoon now ranks first. It is true that the majority of immigrants from India undertake a definite temporary job and return to India on its completion; but a fair percentage remain in the country and the Indian population in Burma continues to grow. The Burman does not take kindly to trade, either wholesale or retail, and the trade of Burma is almost exclusively in the hands of non-Burmese —Europeans, Chinese, and Indians. Another thing to which the Burman does not take kindly is military service: the Burma Military Police are recruited almost entirely from India, and the experiments with regular battalions raised from among the various peoples of Burma have almost all ended in failure. At present, therefore, the Burmese are incapable of providing for their own defence or of efficiently carrying on their own agriculture, trade, and commerce. No doubt, among the far-flung components of the British Empire, Burma is not singular in this respect: and, if she should continue to need outside assistance in these matters, it is not necessary to insist that she must for ever look for it from India. The Burmese are a cheerful and careless folk, with their full share of the average Oriental's belief in his ability to "run his own show" without foreign assistance. As a general proposition, it may be said that, in the mass, they admire the Chinese, regard the European as a rather disturbing alien, and despise the Indian; if for no other reason, at any rate to save themselves trouble, they are quite content to leave their commerce in the hands of the Chinese, their governance in the hands of the European, and their manual labour in the hands of the Indian, at any rate until that nebulous moment when they may feel disposed to take on any or all of those duties themselves. On the whole, the Burman's political connection with India sits lightly upon him: the Central Legislatures are far away, and Burma's representation in them is negligible: the Legislative Assembly, with 145 members, includes three Burmese, and the Council of State, with 60 members, none: the representative of Burma, in the latter, being an Indian. In these circumstances, it is perhaps not surprising that the Burmese elector is apathetic: at the last General Election, only an infinitesimal minority—about six per cent.—registered their votes. Also, the Burman is not a politician, and there is not in Burma, as there is in India, a wealthy and leisured middle class from among which men may be found to undertake political duties; the result being that, while Burma's representation at Delhi is minute, the individuals who compose it are not, in any reasonable meaning of the term, representative of Burma. The earnest Indian politicians of the Assembly accept without interest the presence of three amiable gentlemen whose only distinguishing feature, in their eyes, is an eccentric taste in dress.

As was the case in India before the appearance of the "Swarajists," there is, in Burma, a strong "non-co-operating" party, which is not represented in the Burma Legislative Council: and this party is opposed to separation from India. The "co-operating" party, whose representatives sit in the Council, are in favour of separation; though, at present, their view appears to be that the best policy is to acquiesce in the connection with India until India gains "Home Rule," which Burma will necessarily gain at the same time. When India has thus achieved self-government for Burma, it will then be time to take up the question of separation. A movement in that direction will start with the obvious advantages of the complete racial and social, and the practical geographical, division between India and Burma: and the equally great —though not, perhaps, so immediately obvious—disadvantages of Burma's inability to provide for her own defence and for her own commercial individuality. It is, perhaps, a fair inference that, when that time does come, what may be called the theoretical advantages of separation—racial, religious, and geographical—will be found to be gaining weight and the practical disadvantages—military and economic—to be losing it: and that the ultimate probabilities do tend towards the constitution of a Dominion of Burma separate and distinct from the Dominion of India.

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CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, June 11.

Lie Factories in Great Britain.

The average European resident in India would probably welcome nothing more than a general realisation at Home of the facts as they are in India to-day. The Indian newspapers, which are to-day for the greater part in the hands of the extremists, would be a revelation to the average English reader, and their self-revelation is often startling.

A Madras Nationalist newspaper, which is one of the most influential organs of its party, now demands that the Congress should carry on propaganda in England. It states that "lie factories are at work in Great Britain," that a libellous and pernicious anti-Indian agitation is being carried on there, and that poison is supplied copiously by the correspondents of British newspapers. If the Congress had an efficient bureau in London, it argues, all these machinations could be thwarted. No evidence is offered in support of these statements, but they occasion no surprise when the abuse that is poured out daily by the extremist press in India is considered. The case for a predominantly British administration in India has everything to gain from the truth, and nothing but good can result if the Congress party will accept the Madras suggestion and establish a London bureau.

The Corporation Loan.

The Calcutta Corporation have been warned by Government that they are overstraining their credit; capital is sought to be made of the fact by extremists on both sides, but in fact the question is largely a matter of executive routine and no "party" is responsible one way or the other; the cost of bringing the water supply even into a condition approaching modern town standards is very heavy and the Swarajists have no more relish than their predecessors, who were very largely representative of the landowning classes, for the prospect of having to raise the "Municipal taxes," which is the Indian name for local rates. One may sympathise with the new men in the position in which they find themselves, and a pleasing feature of the meeting which was called to consider the matter was the unanimity displayed by all parties in standing up for the good name of the Corporation. The Mayor, Mr. C. R. Das, was still absent, but his presence could hardly have produced a more pleasing atmosphere; he has a very real personality and his friends are not confined to the Indian community.

Honours.

The knighthood conferred upon Sir Hubert Carr, the president of the European Association, is universally welcomed. He has never concealed his disbelief in the reforms, but he has led the community in a loyal attempt to work them. His commonsense equals his sincerity and singleness of purpose, and Government have done themselves honour in recognising the work of an Englishman, typical of the best qualities of his race, who has never sought publicity for his welldoings.

INDIAN MILITARY SCHOOLS.

(By Our Simla Correspondent).

It is by no means uncommon in certain circles at Home to hear the influence of leading Indian politicians discussed as though that influence extended to all classes and creeds throughout India, and as though these men could speak with authority in the name of the country as a whole. There is of course no doubt that their names are incessantly on the lips of the politically-minded few, and can be found on page after page of any vernacular newspaper, but none of them can claim to have a really loyal following of any size outside the limits of their own particular provinces, and none of them has yet been able to produce a really constructive programme for India's future. They presume certainly to speak in the name of all their countrymen, but in actual fact there are millions of Indians who have never even heard their names, millions again to whom they are names and nothing more, and still further millions, notably among the agricultural classes, who look upon them as representative exclusively of urban interests, that is to say, of the shopkeeper, the lawyer, and other classes for which they have little affection, and therefore as being unsympathetic, if not hostile, to the welfare of the land-owning classes and their dependents. To this last category belong the martial classes, from which alone are drawn the recruits of the fighting units of the Indian Army. Agriculturists almost to a man, and possessing often a larger stake in the country than many of their momentarily wealthier fellows in the towns, they are nevertheless at present with difficulty able to make their point of view known. It is true that the interests of these classes are represented in the legislative assembly and provincial councils by a few nominated members drawn usually from among the best educated ex-Indian officers; but it is difficult for these few men, trained primarily to arms and not words, to hold their own in debate with the trained lawyer politician. Still harder is it often for the less well educated men of these classes to maintain their position in the country districts. They have the Government behind them, a fact which they know full well and for which they are thankful; but were it not for this support they would undoubtedly go to the wall simply and solely through their inability adequately to put forward their own point of view, and to fight with the weapons of peace to maintain it. This state of affairs is due to one cause alone, the lack of education among the martial classes as a whole. Living away from the towns where opportunities for efficient schooling are comparatively few, and hampered frequently by lack of means from sending their sons to the more advanced and consequently more expensive educational establishments, they are seriously handicapped in the matter of education by comparison with the townsmen, from among whom the politicians are at present mainly drawn and whose point of view alone they voice. It is, therefore, a welcome step which is shortly being taken by the military authorities in this country to give special facilities for the education of soldiers' sons by the foundation of special schools for them. Two such schools, which will be called King George's Indian Military Schools, are to be opened in September next in the Punjab, one at Jullundur, and the other near Jhelum, at which the sons of Indian officers and men who have served or are serving in the Indian Army will receive an education on lines approximating rather more to an English than to an Indian school. The boys will be caught young, before they reach the age of twelve, and while they will receive teaching of a nature similar to that given in an ordinary school, it will be given them in an atmosphere of military traditions, which can hardly fail to strengthen the esprit de corps of the whole body and the character of the individual up to a standard which unfortunately is not at present usually attainable in Indian schools. These institutions have been founded as a memorial to those Indian officers and soldiers who fell in the War, and it is difficult to think of a more suitable manner in which to perpetuate the memory of the gallant dead. The cost to the individual of this form of schooling will be very moderate, and there will be few who on the score of expense will be debarred from giving their sons its benefits. The schools are, however, admittedly an experiment. The two which will open in September will cater only for soldiers of the Central and Western Punjab and of the North-West Frontier Province, the one for Moslems and the other for Sikhs and Hindus, and on their success will depend the ultimate decision as to whether or not it will be desirable later on to extend this system of education to cover the martial classes in other parts of India. It is intended that the products of these schools shall, when they pass out, make the army their career in after life, and from the military point of view the great object of the scheme is to provide India with a better educated army, capable of absorbing to the full the more highly technical training required of soldiers in these days. It does not, however, require a very wide

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stretch of imagination to forecast that, if these schools are run on sound lines and prove a success, the education given in them will in course of time be of inestimable benefit not only to the military, but also to the civil life of India. For through them the general standard of education of the martial classes must inevitably tend to improve, and in due course this section of the population of this country, at present almost inarticulate despite its national importance will, it is to be hoped, be able to stand alone and to champion its own cause without the assistance of the Government. As a consequence of such an improvement the present one-sidedness of Indian politics may well give way to a healthy give and take between the rival interests. Such an event cannot fail to make for the good of India as a whole, for, as was most forcibly pointed out last year by Captain Hira Singh, one of the Indian Army nominees, in the Legislative Assembly, no scheme of Swaraj for India has any hope of success, which does not take into full consideration the point of view of the martial races.

THE INDIAN MAIL.

The Haj.

As soon as the Government of India became aware that, in spite of the official warnings, pilgrim ships had actually started, they did what they could to smoothe the pilgrims' path. They notified King Ali and Ibn Saud of the departure of the ships and impressed on both their responsibilities in the matter: they urged the shipping companies to have the ships well stocked with provisions: and arranged to dispatch a special pilgrim officer to Rabegh, with an Indian doctor and staff, so that, in case of an epidemic, it would at least be possible to make some impromptu arrangements to cope with it. The last pilgrim ship due to sail this year left on June 5. By the last but one, over 500 pilgrims left for Rabegh: among whom one young man was noticed going on board with a large box on his head. The box was examined, and was found to contain an old man: who explained that the young man, having no money to pay his own passage, had prevailed on him to adopt this device to allow the young man to proceed on the pilgrimage. The old man had entrusted his ticket and his money to the young man and had allowed the latter to treat him as baggage. The old man received his ticket and his money and was allowed to proceed; but the young man was put back on shore.

North-Western Railway Strike.

A telegram from Lahore dated June 18 says that the N.W.R. strike collapsed there on that day, after lasting for more than 2½ months. The collapse seems to have been brought about by the exhaustion of the strikers' credit with the local shopkeepers, for their receipt of strike pay appears to have been confined to promises by their "leaders": and the decision of the "baza" to cease giving credit was probably brought about by the issue of a Government communiqué, supporting the view of the railway administration, declining to agree to the creation of a special conciliation board, and refusing to enter into negotiations with the strikers or their leaders. It was evident, when the last mail left India, that the strike was nearing its end: for the "leaders" had then played their last card, by cabling to Messrs. Lansbury and Thomas, and to the Secretary of State, soliciting their intervention in the strike.

The Postal Department.

Sir Geoffrey Clarke, Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, will leave India in August to attend the Postal Conference at Geneva: after the conclusion of which it is expected that he will take leave pending retirement. With the large amount of extension and improvement still to be done in both the Postal and Telegraph Departments, there is much speculation as to his successor, who will need to be a man of initiative and experience.

The Calcutta Corporation.

The controversy about the burial of the Mohammedan "Saint" in the Calcutta market building has advanced a step further: the Corporation having obtained an authoritative legal opinion that no legal obstacle exists to the exhumation of the body and its removal elsewhere. The Corporation had passed a resolution disapproving of the burial and declaring that it ought not to have taken place: but had deferred taking any action in the matter pending the receipt of the legal opinion that has now been given. The next move in the controversy now lies with the Corporation, and will be awaited with interest. Meanwhile, the Corporation has hit upon a new method of improving its finances. An Indian newspaper of Calcutta says that, in consideration of a payment of fifteen hundred rupees (about £110) it has agreed to rename one of the minor streets: and suggests that this may lead to a sort of auction of street names, in which the highest bidder may get a street named after himself—presumably until another bidder makes a better offer for a further alteration.

Mr. Gandhi as Financier.

Referring to the appeal for funds for "the starving inhabitants of Mecca," the *Times of India* (Bombay) says that many Mohammedan newspapers have expressed doubts whether, in view of the previous financial record of the Central Khilafat Committee, contributions made for this purpose are likely to reach their destination: and that similar doubts have been expressed regarding the accounts of the Swarajist Party. When Mr. Gandhi was in Calcutta recently, four of the Bengali leaders came to him and asked if there were any questions he would like to put to them: he asked them a few questions and expressed himself as so pleased with the truthfulness of their answers that, when they suggested that he might like to throw an eye over the Party accounts, he declined to do so. "In our opinion," says the *Times of India*, "this refusal has raised political finance to a higher level. Book-keeping is all very well for satanic foreign institutions, but the only suitable method of auditing patriotic funds is the insistence on truth which Mr. Gandhi has taught to the world."

Alliance Bank Liquidation.

Considerable interest has been aroused at Cawnpore in a case brought by Boulton Brothers (India), Ltd., against the New Victoria Mills, claiming sixteen lakhs of rupees (about £120,000) damages for wrongful dismissal from their position as managing agents of the Mills. Judgment was declared in favour of the Mills, and the suit was dismissed with costs. It is understood that, if the case had been successful, the damages would have been credited to the Alliance Bank of India (in liquidation) as an offset against claims by the latter against the plaintiff company: and that the costs in the action will fall on the assets of the Bank. The liquidators' last announcement (issued prior to the result of this case) was that the creditors would probably receive about fifteen shillings in the pound when the liquidation was complete: and foreshadowed the early payment of an interim dividend of one anna in the rupee, in addition to the fifty per cent. already paid to depositors shortly after the failure of the Bank.

Trade and the Monsoon.

The improvement in India's internal trade is very slow: and it is generally believed that, if a normal monsoon prevails, there will be a more marked desire to buy and sell. There has been a serious crisis on the Bombay Stock Exchange, due to extensive gambling in non-existent shares, in which the Bull operators have come to grief, and the result of which, while it has brought a lot of money to the Bears, has been the complete disorganisation of the market. One of the biggest Indian flotations of modern days has gone under in the liquidation of the Wadia Woollen Mills, Bombay, the whole of the capital having been lost. The concern had an exclusively Indian directorate and was under Indian management. The Marconi Wireless flotation in India was mostly subscribed by the company, and the scheme does not seem to have found much favour with the local investor. Local prophets forecast an early but light monsoon, with no rain in August, but heavy falls later. The latest report (for the

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week ending June 24, received by telegram) says that the Arabian Sea monsoon is strong, and that rainfall has been in excess or normal except in Lower Burma, Assam, Bengal, Orissa, Bihar, Sind, Gujarat, and Mysore, where it has been fair, and in Kashmir, where it has been scanty.

Lord Reading.

Letters received by the current mail refer to a belief obtaining in India that Lord Reading's term of office will be extended to enable him to preside over the transfer of the seat of Government from Old to New Delhi. It is suggested that a member of the Royal Family should come to India for the formal inauguration of New Delhi—even perhaps the King himself. It is widely believed that Lord Reading would welcome an extension, and the general opinion is that he will receive one. The *Statesman* has published a forecast (officially challenged at this end) of the result of Lord Reading's conversations with Lord Birkenhead, that there will be no revision of the Reforms scheme before 1929, and that nothing that may happen in India will hasten the date of revision. The Government, it says, will undertake to consider, before the future of the Reforms is finally decided upon, any concrete scheme of Swaraj that may be put forward by responsible bodies in India; but it has been decided that Indianisation has, for the present, gone far enough and that the British element in the Indian services will not be further weakened. The publication of this forecast is said to have caused a sensation in political circles in India, and the Nationalist leaders have been expressing themselves bitterly on it.

INDIAN EXCHANGE.

The firmness which characterised the Rupee market last week received a further fillip from India, where heavy buying of cotton was advised in Bombay by Japan. In order to provide the necessary finance some of the banks strove to effect sales, but buyers were not much in evidence. Fortunately the Government stood up to the demand and are reported to have bought from banks and others to the extent of about £1,500,000 at rates rising to 1/6⅛.

The rise has affected the London market and business was done here up to 1/6 9-64ths for spot rupees, but owing chiefly, it has been reported, to a cessation of activity in the cotton market, rates have softened, and at the end of the week and on Monday nothing better was offered here than 1/ 3-32nds, and quiet at that. Movements in the last Imperial Bank of India return show that the trade demand has again diminished by two crores of rupees, and a rise of 1½ crores is shown in the notes issued, against a corresponding increase in the Banks' holdings of silver rupees. It is not usual to see a spurt of exchange at this time of the year, but the movement appears to have spent itself, and further ease is not improbable.

INDIAN COMMERCIAL NOTES.

India's export trade depends very largely on favourable monsoon conditions; and this is the period of the year when speculation is rife in the Indian bazaars as to the probable strength and duration of the monsoon. During the past four years, 1921 to 1924, the rains have been good on the whole, and this year the question is being raised whether the series is likely to be broken. Certainly, the indications so far are not wholly satisfactory. Little or no rain fell in January, when it is expected and wanted. The hot weather has been, on the whole, mild, and it is more than theory that fierce heat during the summer months, April and May, gives rise to conditions which favour the development and advance of the monsoon. Again, rain fell in May, when it is not usually expected. And, finally, when the monsoon did break it broke about the first of June at Bombay, a week earlier than its usual date. The official forecast announces that "rainfall is likely to be normal or in defect in the Peninsula; normal or in excess in North-East India; and in defect in North-West India." A report of June 17 announced that the monsoon was generally weak; but on the 24th developments were normal, and the Arabian Sea monsoon was reported to be strong. It is too early yet to tell how conditions will develop and whether the rains will have sufficient strength to carry on to the end of September or even early October, when their value is greatest. Sometimes a break in August will give even a weak monsoon time to recover and to finish satisfactorily.

The absence of rain in January has had its effect on the wheat crop, which is below par. The production last year amounted to 9,747,000 tons, but has declined this year to 8,802,000 tons, which does not allow much for export. On the other hand, there has been a heavy yield of rice amounting to as much as 31 million tons, as compared with 28,198,000 tons last year; and the cotton crop has similarly increased from 5,162,000 to 6,058,000 bales.

Of the oil-seeds, the linseed crop has increased from 463,000 to 541,000 tons; sesamum from 441,000 to 501,000 tons; rape and mustard from 1,149,000 to 1,173,000 tons; and ground-nuts from 1,086,000 to 1,407,000 tons. It is too early yet to forecast the jute crop, but it is understood that the sowings are more extensive this year than last; and, if weather conditions continue satisfactory, the crop will probably exceed by a considerable margin last year's output of 8,045,000 bales.

Some interesting statistics have just come in in regard to India's sugar crop. This year's output of sugar-cane is estimated at 2,537,000 tons, a reduction on last year's figure of 3,317,000 tons. Refined sugar is manufactured in India either by factories purchasing and crushing their own cane, or else by refineries operating with gur—unrefined juice extracted by the cultivators and sold to the refineries. The total production by both systems amounted in 1923-24 to 94,796 tons of refined sugar, as compared with 74,052 tons in 1922-23.

Considerable interest attaches just now to India's cotton crop, the cultivation of which has been stimulated by high prices. Before the War the crop amounted to 4 million bales, of which more than half was exported. The Indian cotton mills and the hand-loom industry between them accounted for the balance. Unfortunately, no statistics are available showing the output of Indian hand-looms, but Indian mills produced before the War, on the average 1,100 million yards. During the year 1924-25 the output of cotton exceeded 6 million bales; and exports have now attained some 3½ million bales, of which Japan takes nearly 2 million. The Indian mills have just published their production figures for the year 1924-25, showing an output of 1,970 million yards. They have thus improved considerably on their pre-War position, and their success is not a little due to the fact that the coarser and heavier goods woven from Indian short staple cotton are cheaper, and therefore in greater demand just now, than the finer goods woven from American and Egyptian cotton. Hence, the imports into India, which averaged 2,500 million yards before the War, now amount only to 1,800 million yards. If allowance is made for the cloth woven in Indian mills and exported, the consumption of cotton piece-goods in India may be placed at 3,600 million yards, of which just one-half is produced by the local mills and one-half is imported.

In spite of these tendencies, the Bombay mill industry is reported to be in a most unsatisfactory condition. This is to some extent due to the competition of Japan and the Continent, whose purchases of short staple Indian cotton have forced up the price to a high figure. Indeed, Indian cotton is now only 1½d. short of the price of Middling American. It is surprising that at this price Japanese piece-goods are able to compete successfully with Bombay goods, in India. But it should be remembered that during each of the past four years Japan has taken very high quantities of Indian cotton, the figures for these years being 1,760,000, 1,600,000, 1,719,000, and 1,923,000 bales respectively. It is not unlikely that wise purchases of Indian cotton during these years have strengthened the position of the Japanese mill industry and made it possible now to quote low prices for the manufactured article.

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TROUBLE IN THE SECRETARIAT.

BY MUSAFIR.

There was trouble—big trouble—in the Revenue Department of the Delhi Secretariat, and, as almost anyone might have guessed, the Comptroller was at the bottom of it. The incident is not exactly recent, for the trouble occurred in the latter half of the fourteenth century, but Indian offices have changed very little since then, and in essentials the story belongs to the present, or almost any other, day. The King of Delhi was Firoz, a good old man, under whom all the authorities agree that the North of India enjoyed a golden age. Probably the authorities are right, as golden ages go in India, for the King, though he was a saint, was very far from being a fool, and he understood his Hindu subjects tolerably well. There was, for instance, the episode of the Delhi Brahmans' hunger strike. They had for years managed to escape their fair share of taxation, and when the King said that must be stopped, they sat down in front of the palace and began to starve in chorus. Firoz was not impressed by the demonstration. He made it clear that they were free to die if they wanted to, but it was die or pay, and so the banias of the bazaar intervened, and paid the Brahmans' taxes. Everyone was pleased: the King got his money, the Brahmans got their food, and the banias got, we may hope, something to their credit on the spiritual side. Certainly, it was a golden age.

However, the matter in hand is the trouble in the Revenue Department. It began when Firoz appointed as Comptroller a man who name was Malik Shamsuddin Aburaja, but whom he, very sensibly, called Shams for short. It was a thoroughly bad appointment, for Shams had already had a chance of displaying his idiosyncrasies—in fact, he had acted as Governor of two provinces, and had earned dismissal from both, to the very great contentment of the lieges. Possibly the old King thought he would be more useful at headquarters, which needed fresh blood just then; but, whatever the motive, the appointment was made, and Shams duly took his seat at the right hand of the Prime Minister, for the business of the land revenue, which nowadays nobody in Delhi knows anything about, was then considered of sufficient importance to be handled by the Minister himself, though in practice most of the routine was disposed of by one of his deputies. The duties of the Comptroller were mainly to conduct a gentlemanly, bureaucratic sort of war with the spending side of the department, represented by the Musharrif, who sat on the Minister's left; their differences would be argued out at length, then the spoil would be divided equitably, and the Minister would only have to ratify the division—there was no need whatever for haste, or strong language, or anything which could be called inconvenient, or could disturb the prevailing departmental harmony.

Shams, however, took a different view of the position. He was actively on the make, he wanted all the spoil for himself, and to that end he wanted to boss the whole office. So he pushed his nose into everything, interfered in other people's work, and made himself such a nuisance that he got his way, as nuisances commonly do in secretariats. In the course of a very few months his will became law. The Musharrif, who was a gentleman and disinclined to quarrel, stayed away from office, and let Shams do his work, the Minister, also a gentleman, naturally did what his principal subordinate wanted, when there was nobody to put forward conflicting views, the clerks were harried, the Governors were looted, the nobles were squeezed, and Shams was in his element—for him at least it was a golden age.

Unfortunately for him, he wanted more. His heart was set on being Prime Minister, and he began to play tricks intended to discredit his superior with the King. Whether he could have succeeded in doing so is an open question, for his design became prematurely known, and the worm turned; that is to say, the whole Secretariat became united in opposition, and decided that the nuisance must be smashed before it got too big. Then, as now, there were various expedients for eliminating an unpopular officer from the sacred circle, but the most effective of all—it has unfortunately fallen into disuse—was to bring him on to the Exchequer list of the King's debtors, because, once on the list, all presumptions were against the debtor, and the processes of execution were decidedly drastic. So the Secretariat set to work to search the old files, which were kept at least as carefully as now, and at last they found what they wanted, a genuine scandal, which had been hushed up, but never really liquidated, and would now serve their purpose: when acting as Governor of Gujarat, Shams had systematically embezzled elephants, and, with the aid of compound interest, the bill totalled up to a very pretty figure.

The operation had been quite simple. Elephants were always wanted in Delhi, and, when Bengal was recalcitrant as it usually was, and sometimes still is, they had to be brought by sea to the Gujarat harbours. Now an elephant is rather a tight fit in an ordinary coasting boat, and the mortality on the voyage from Ceylon was so heavy that the trade languished, until it was restored by a policy of State insurance, the King paying the value of all the elephants that died on the voyage. Shams had seen money in this business, and had arranged with the local merchants, who have not greatly changed in character, to bring fictitious claims for deceased elephants, which he, as Governor, could sanction, and the proceeds of which could return to his private pocket. Once in possession of the facts, the Secretariat acted. Then, as now, cases could originate at the bottom of the office, and reach nobody in authority till they were ripe for a decision, and the case against Shams followed the ordinary course, until the day came for the usual action designed to safeguard the assets, by securing possession of the debtor's person and property. One day accordingly Shams found himself, quite unexpectedly, in the Nazir's lock-up, while simultaneously his house was raided by the Nazir's peons, all the valuables embezzled, and the rest of the property sold by auction at entirely inadequate prices. Thus the action was launched in the Exchequer.

Once launched, it followed the normal course, and when the Minister next came to office, he found the Comptroller's place vacant, while the Comptroller himself, in the exiguous dress appropriate to a defaulter, was led forward by the Nazir's peons, followed by the usual executioners, the sweepers with the rods. A secretary read the report of the case, a purely formal document: the debt was so much, the interest was so much, the debtor's property was so much less; and all that remained was to take out execution for the balance on his person. A short pause followed, during which it was open to the debtor's friends to come forward and offer security on his behalf. A week before, Shams could have obtained the signatures of all the capitalists in Delhi merely by raising his finger, but to-day he had no friends, or at least none who would face a united Secretariat, so the Minister gave the nod that indicated his approval of the report, and at his nod the sweepers set to work.

According to the usual departmental practice, the bastinado continued until either the debtor fainted or the rods broke, when the sweepers dragged the victim by the feet back to his cell to await the next hearing, ordinarily three days later. Shams must have started with a fairly good constitution, for we are told that in his case the rods were often broken. The case dragged on for six months, with two or three hearings a week, and to the debtor at least the proceedings must have become rather monotonous: the demand for interest was raised from time to time, but in other respects the story of one day was the story of all. At last, after six months, the Minister decided that the debt must be regarded as irrecoverable, and then the case went before the King for final orders. To default to the State was in those days regarded as a serious matter, and not very long before the Governor of the Lower Doab had been flayed for something of the sort; but Firoz took a lenient view, and merely banished the ex-Comptroller to "a waterless desert," a description which, in that golden age, exactly fitted the greater part of the Punjab. The journey therefore was not long, and Shams made it safely in a litter—we are told he was never

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again able to sit on a horse—while in his absence the Secretariat quickly settled down. The new Comptroller was a gentleman, and transacted business in a gentlemanly way, the Musharrif returned to office, the spoils were equitably divided, the clerks were happy, and, if there were any grumbles, the fact was not thought worthy of the historian's attention. Beyond any question, it was a golden age.

CURRENT TOPICS.

The Round Table.

The Indian item in the June issue of *The Round Table* deals with the Indian rural problem. The writer enumerates a number of disabilities under which rural India labours: the joint family system, under which the workers of a family have to support its idle members and agricultural holdings have to be subdivided and fragmented: early marriage, with its check on mental and physical development and its high rate of infant mortality: the seclusion of women, leading to economic waste of power and faulty upbringing of children: caste prejudices, restricting the free movement of labour: veneration for animal life which entails the retention of useless animals and refusal to destroy harmful ones: the subordination of economic development to religious prejudices; the shortage of good roads and medical service, which lead to uneconomic forms of transport and failure to avoid preventible disease: illegal exactions by landlords and others: indebtedness and the tyranny of the moneylender: illiteracy, which leaves the peasant an easy prey to exaction: the long periods of enforced idleness that are inseparable from the farming of holdings of inadequate size: the lack of effective agricultural tools: the want of properly constructed fences: the persistent use of flimsy materials: and the perennial strife, not only between Hindus and Mahomedans, but between the various castes of Hinduism and the different sects of Mahomedanism. The writer finds the remedy in education: in the establishment of a rural school within reach of every village in India, where the children can be taught on the modern system whose "essence is that the child teaches himself, the teacher's function being to guide," and where practical demonstrations in agriculture and elementary medical knowledge, especially of preventive medicine, can be given.

The article includes an interesting discussion of the cattle problem in India: and gives statistics to prove that approximately 19 per cent. of the 146 million bovine cattle in India are "useless mouths," the feeding of which is estimated to cost something like 130 million pounds a year. This conclusion is particularly interesting when one remembers that one of the most persistent cries of the Indian agitator, of late years, has been raised against the depletion of cattle by the British Government which allows their slaughter for food and for the export trade in hides and skins. The writer does not attempt to estimate the loss incurred by failure on the part of the peasant to defend his crops against destructive animals; but he draws attention to the fact that the annual economic loss estimated to be due to surplus cattle is four times the land revenue of British India. What other country on earth, he asks, pays such a staggering price for the veneration of an animal?

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EMBROIDERIES OF YUGOSLAVIA.

At 13, Old Burlington Street, W., a very enterprising Czech, M. Ian Plichta, has made an admirably full collection of the products of loom and needle by peasants of Yugoslavia. He has, in order to make his show complete, been all over the kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, from Croatia and Slovenia to Dalmatia and Bosnia and all the rest of the Serbian kingdom. His work has, unfortunately, been similar to that of collectors of folk-songs: he is preserving for posterity the remnants of an art doomed to decay. Already in parts of Yugoslavia the peasants no longer practice the arts of their fathers, one difficulty being the procuring of adequate looms. And, of course, as civilisation advances, so the art of weaving ubiquitously declines.

This exhibition of such things as cloaks, aprons, socks, and other garments (in addition to which there are embroideries for purely decorative purposes) is an extremely fascinating one, and certainly should be visited by all lovers of peasant work in general, and of Yugoslavia peasants in particular. One may see the difference between the more sober work of the Croats, and, say, the highly coloured work of the inhabitants of the Banat; or between the free work of the Dalmatians and the "Byzantinised" products of the peasants of Southern Serbia, who, of course, were until recently under Turkish domination. It is interesting to notice, for example, in some embroideries from the region of Bitolj, the efforts, in spite of Turkish vigilance, to insert a representation of the Christian Cross. Some of the most stimulating examples have been brought from between Skoplje and Lake Ochrida.

One can, too, trace the influence of religion upon this art of weaving. The passion for coloured designs of the Orthodox Slovenes, for instance, is easily distinguishable from the milder, if finely ordered, work of the Catholic Croats; and the products of Serbian Macedonia are obviously instinct with the influence of Byzantium.

All the peasants of Yugoslavia, however stubborn and persistent their prejudices, were quick, from the artistic point of view, to take on the forms of their environment, an instance of this fact being the almost riotous joy in colour of the Banat peasants—due, in all probability, to their proximity to the creative Hungarians and the uncreative tsiganes.

It is sad, indeed, to think that so beautiful an industry is fast dying, and that little can be done to arrest the process. An indication of its decline is in the fact that not in the whole of the Triune Kingdom was M. Plichta able to find a complete costume. For those who wish to procure examples of a unique and very lovely craft—or, rather, art, for the peasants who create and modify these designs are artists—this opportunity is a rare one. The exhibition closes on July 7.

It is reported from Moscow that David Oniashvili, a member of the Central Committee of Georgian Menshevists, who was one of the leaders of the Georgian insurrection last August, and who escaped in May from hospital in Tiflis, whither he had been transferred from prison, has been arrested by peasants near the Turkish frontier.

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SOME FOOTNOTES TO THE HISTORY OF THE WAR IN ASIA.

By LEONARD STEIN.

I.

Under the title "The Partition of Asiatic Turkey," the Soviet Government has published a further selection of diplomatic correspondence from the archives of the Russian Foreign Office. Most of the three hundred and thirty-five documents are now made public for the first time. They contain no sensational disclosures, but on the assumption that they are authentic, and there is no serious reason to doubt it, they supply some interesting footnotes to the history of the War in Asia. They range in date from November 1914 to August 1917, and they cover a great variety of topics. All that can here be attempted in reasonable limits of space is to extract a few of the more important under the following main headings:

(1) The Jemal Pasha Episode.
(2) Palestine.
(3) Italian claims in Asia.

The Jemal Pasha Episode.—At the end of 1915, the Russian Government conceived the idea of opening secret negotiations, through Armenian intermediaries, with Jemal Pasha, who was believed to be playing for his own hand. Great Britain and France concurred, though their assent was conditional and rather half-hearted. The project came to nothing, but the correspondence throws some interesting side-lights on the divergent interests and policies of the three Entente Powers.

The first document calling for quotation is the following telegram, dated 12/25 December 1915, from M. Sazonov to the Russian Ambassadors in London, Paris, and Rome.

N.6391.

It is reported from Armenian circles in Constantinople that there might be a prospect of inducing Jemal openly to revolt against the Constantinople Government and the Germans, if the Powers were to offer him the following terms:

1. The Powers to guarantee the independence and inviolability of Asiatic Turkey, to consist of the following autonomous provinces under the supreme rule of the Sultan: Syria, Palestine, Mesopotamia, Arabia, Armenia with Cilicia and Kurdistan.
2. Jemal Pasha to be proclaimed Sultan with a hereditary title from father to eldest son.
3. Jemal to declare the Constantinople Government and the Sultan deposed, as being in German captivity, and to embark upon a march against them.
4. During his march on Constantinople the Powers to supply him with arms, provisions and artillery.
5. Jemal to acquiesce in the loss of the Straits and Constantinople.
7. Jemal to pledge himself immediately to take steps for the salvation of the Armenians and their provision with food till the end of the War.

Any internal complication can only weaken the strength of Turkey and be to our advantage. I think we ought to enter, through such Armenians as are devoted to us, into secret negotiations with Jemal. Even if the latter does not succeed in driving out the Germans and bringing down the Constantinople Government, it would still be useful to foment trouble in the Ottoman Empire.

Please confer confidently with the Foreign Minister and wire forthwith.

Sazanov."

On 13/26 December Rome reported that "Sonnino told me that he was in full sympathy with the idea of entering into negotiations with Jemal on the basis of the conditions set forth by you, if there is any prospect of success."

M. Briand was less enthusiastic:—

RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR IN PARIS TO MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

"N.854. 16/29 Dec. 1915.
Copy to London.
Reference my telegram N.851.

Briand, whom I saw to-day, after the meeting of the Cabinet Council, told me that he fully realises the importance of your scheme regarding the negotiations with Jemal, but that in the form in which it had been presented by you, this scheme raised serious objections on the part of the French Government, for the fulfilment of the terms outlined by you presupposed that Russia would retain Constantinople and the Straits for herself, while France had to resign her claim to the countries assured to her by her agreement with us, i.e., Syria, part of Palestine, and Cilicia. French public opinion would not understand such a resignation, just as Russian public opinion would not have understood the forgoing by Russia of Constantinople and the Straits. Besides, it should not be forgotten that England contemplated the formation of an independent Arab Caliphate and was already negotiating in the matter with the Sherif of Mecca. In conclusion, Briand expressed his doubt as to whether the programme outlined by you could be carried out by Jemal, disposing as he does of only very limited military resources. I answered that, in my conviction, in putting the proposal forward, you first had in mind the enormous benefit which would accrue to all the Allies from internal confusion in the Ottoman Empire; that in so doing, you were of course far from intending to disparage French interests, and that in the working out of your scheme, different combinations were possible which would assure these interests as well as those of Britain. I also added that the main point was (? not) to miss the opportunity which had presented itself to bring about such complications as would bar the way to the realisation of Germany's Eastern schemes. Briand agreed with the latter view and said to me that he was prepared to take up the parleys with Jemal proposed by you, if only the claims of France to parts of Asaitic Turkey, the possession of which is assured to her by the agreement with you, are quite definitely reserved.

Izvolsky."

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR IN PARIS.

"N.6459. Telegram 17/30 Dec. 1915.
Urgent to Paris. Communicated to London.
Received your telegrams NN.854 and 855.

Perceiving, as I do, in the negotiations with Jemal, a means towards creating confusion in Turkey, and bring ing about the collapse of the march on Egypt, I have found it necessary to submit the Armenian scheme in all its authenticity to the consideration of the Allies, without entering into the appraisement of its details or supporting Jemal's wishes. It was my intention to consider these points only after the idea itself of entering into negotiations with Jemal should have been accepted, which would not have necessarily presupposed consent to all the points put forward by the Armenians. Jemal's ambitions could perhaps be utilised also on other terms. You may assure Briand that I do not admit even a thought of in any way belittling the rights of our Allies, who share with us the burden of War with so much self-denial. Now that the foreign Minister has given his consent in principle, please ascertain the terms which he considers acceptable to France.

Sazonov."

RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR IN PARIS TO MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

"N.861 Telegram. 19 Dec. 1915/1 Jan. 1916.
Copies to London and Rome.
Received your telegram N.6459.

Have communicated its contents at once to Briand, who again stated that although the French Government had no special faith in Jemal's capacity to play the rôle assigned to him and even somewhat feared a trap on his part, it was nevertheless prepared to agree that negotiations with him be opened, provided the rights of France to Syria with Cilicia and part of Pales-

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tine, granted to her by the agreement concluded with us on the subject of Constantinople and the Straits, are quite definitely reserved. I merely asked Briand on my own behalf whether it was his intention by all means to insist on the annexation of the above territories by France, or whether other combinations would be acceptable to him, such as, e.g., a protectorate with the preservation of a nominal sovereignty of the new Sultan. Such a combination, I added, might not only facilitate the negotiations with Jemal, but also prove to be expedient and advantageous for France herself. Briand's answer was that so far he could express no opinion on the question put by me, but if, in the course of the negotiations with Jemal, any such combination came to be discussed, it would have to be submitted to special consideration. On the whole, your telegram has made an admirable impression on Briand, and, apparently, calmed him. Izvolsky."

The British Government also had its misgivings:—

RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR IN LONDON TO MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

"N.886 Telegram 17/30 Dec. 1915.
Copy to Paris.
Received your N.6391.

Grey told me that he had become convinced of the importance of breaking Turkish resistance by means of internal complications and that, if Jemal had sufficient means at his disposal, he was far from intending to rob this plan of a hope for success. However, he was in a position to formulate two reservations. The first concerned Basra. Without expressing any view as to its future, Britain, having once occupied this city, could not consent to its return to Turkish rule and would have to assure herself special rights there. The second reservation concerned Arabia. Arabs had applied to the British Government requesting it to found an independent Arab State of which Arabia and the (Moslem) Holy Places should be a part. In so far as this matter concerned the British Government, it has agreed with this request on the condition, first, that Arabia should declare its hostility to Turkey and that Syria should be excluded from the composition of the new State on account of the obligations assumed towards France. Basra and Baghdad were not to be excluded from this future Arabia, except, however, a special region to be assigned to Britain. When the Arabs attempted to make it clear, whether England intended to take part in the creation of a Mecca Caliphate, the British Government answered in the negative, holding that this question ought to be settled by the Moslems themselves. Consequently, Britain was bound by her promise, which was conditional upon a rupture between Arabia and Turkey. I asked Grey how the Arab scheme could be reconciled with the scheme concerning Jemal. He declared that in any case Jemal would not be able to achieve anything so long as he stood in opposition to the Arabs, and that the only way for him to fight was by means of an agreement with them. It is extremely important that the Anglo-Arab agreement should remain secret and by no means reach Jemal. Benckendorff."

At this stage it was suggested that the British Government should open negotiations with Jemal, parallel to those on which it was already conducting with the Sherif of Mecca. This suggestion was, however, declined.

RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR IN LONDON TO MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

"N.906. 28 Dec. 1915/10 Jan. 1916.
Received N.6518.

Grey told me that, being unable simultaneously to conduct negotiations with the Armenians and the Arabs, he would prefer that the negotiations with the Armenians be taken up by France. Admitting the fact that England is negotiating with the Arabs regarding Arabia and Mesopotamia, Grey foresees difficulties in the parleys with the Armenians and the Arabs concerning Syria and Asia Minor, where French interests predominate. He said that if the Armenians prefer that the negotiations take place in Egypt, Zavriev might place them in touch with the French representative in Cairo. Nicolson told me that Jemal has always taken up a strongly hostile attitude towards the Arabs and that this will mean a difficulty. Benckendorff."

RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR IN LONDON TO MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

"N.17. 10/23 Jan. 1916.
Copy to Paris.
Received telegram N.85.

Nicolson told me that the British Government, after having again considered the matter, prefers to stand aside of the relations with Jemal's mediator and that its relations with the Arabs make it impossible for it to enter into parallel negotiations without prejudicing the former. In reply to my question, he added that the London Cabinet sees no objection to the negotiations with the mediator referred to above being conducted by Russia or France. Benckendorff."

There is here a gap in the correspondence, and the next document is a discouraging telegram from Paris to Petrograd.

RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR IN PARIS TO MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

"N.196. 9/22 March 1916.
Copy to London.

Zavriev arrived here some time ago. Following your previous instructions, I helped him to see Briand, to whom he communicated the plan of the negotiations with Jemal through the medium of accredited persons, whom he proposed sending to Egypt. Briand accorded Zavriev an attentive reception, but gave him an evasive answer, referring to the vagueness of the information available about Jemal's position and his fitness for the rôle assigned to him. Briand did not conceal from me that he finds it awkward to enter into any negotiations to be incompatible with the Anglo-French scheme regarding the organisation of Asiatic-Turkey, as to which negotiations are now in progress in Petrograd. I informed Zavriev of Briand's negative answer and he is leaving these days for Petrograd. Izvolsky."

The series closes with a telegram dated 2/15 June 1916, in which the Russian Minister in Berne transmits to M. Sazonov information which has reached him with regard to the reign of terror in Syria, and concludes:—

"It is worth noting that the main part in these transactions is taken by Jemal Pasha, who has apparently abandoned all intentions of a rapprochement with the Entente Powers."

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Security Pact.

In the House of Commons last week the Foreign Secretary had the opportunity of showing to what heights he is capable of rising: he had to explain exactly what he meant by his whole-hearted support of the Germanic Security Pact. On the whole, it cannot be said that he made a notable impression, and this despite the fact that the opposition from Labour and Liberal members was not very damning.

In the debating sense, undoubtedly, the honours were with the Government. Mr. Ramsay MacDonald could adduce against the Pact no argument that could not equally be brought against the Protocol; and Mr. Lloyd George on the subject of such things as Poland and France—well, he is Mr. Lloyd George. Over the more considerable body of "isolationists," also—the folk who take their foreign politics from the *Daily Express*—Mr. Chamberlain was able to score an easy vistory: it is so demonstrably true that Britain is now a Continental Power, with Continental responsibilities and duties. And yet—something was lacking. Perhaps it was that the Pact represents too much the old idea (rather than the new ideal) of compromise between Germany and France. Certainly on those students who see Europe whole, who think the eastern frontier as important as Germany's western frontier, who, particularly, envisage the next big alliance as one between Moscow and Berlin (with the implication of Warsaw's enforced decease), a feeling descended of disappointment at the Foreign Secretary's readiness to let the Polish-German frontier take care of itself. How is it that our Government can so consistently plead their belief in the good intentions of Berlin when Cologne is still occupied by our troops as a sign that Germany has yet to fulfil her charge?

As far as one can judge, the Security Pact has been ill received in the country, but mainly on the ground that it may drag the country into an unwanted war. So much of this sort of criticism is puerile that the Government may well neglect it. But even among supporters of the Conservative Administration there are many who deplore the unsatisfactory nature of Mr. Chamberlain's compromise. One need by no means glow with pride at the great potentialities of the thrifty German nation, as Mr. MacDonald does, nor need one feel qualms at the military prowess or ambitions of the French or Poles, as Mr. Lloyd George does, to point to weak and illogical parts in the Pact.

Safeguarding Steel and Wool.

How remote were the Government's intentions from the imposition of real Protection upon the country can be seen from the fact that the Cabinet has had to refuse the request of the Steel Trade for an inquiry under the Safeguarding of Industries Act. The remission of this question, which admittedly involves the whole problem of a general traiff, to the Industrial Defence Committee, means in fact that the demand has been put on the shelf. The so-called "Protection" of the Government is thus seen to be a very mild affair after all.

Whether the application made by the Bradford Wool Trade will meet with any luckier response remains to be seen; the application of the lace trade got through all right. But it can scarcely be believed that the salvation of our national industries will come about through such piecemeal treatment as this.

Bolshevism.

There is at the moment a most unhappy tendency to label any and everything in the world around us which we do not like as "Bolshevism." The creakings in our industrial machinery, the dining together of Labour Members of Parliament, the happenings in China—all these things are commonly, ignorantly, and lazily ascribed to Bolshevism. It is, moveover, an ascription of which even Cabinent Ministers do not hesitate, when the occasion serves, to avail themselves. Nothing, however, could so blind us to the real dangers either of real Bolshevism—a virus wholly of Asiatic growth, which thrives best in grounds of incipient or incompletely trained Nationalism—or of other things that are but incidentally connected with or abetted by the principles of Moscow.

It would be the greatest folly to suppose, *à propos* of these two subjects, which are the chief matters of the moment, that without the existence of Bolshevism the condition of our industrial system or of China would be eminently satisfactory. What is important to us is that if anything has to be rooted up and substituted by something different, it should be ourselves and not the Bolshevists who do it. But blindly to assert the malevolence of Moscow's emissaries and crudely to attempt to stop their activities are very poor substitutes for an endeavour to destroy their *raison d'être* either here or in China.

The Oldham Election.

The victory of the Liberal over the Labour candidate at the Oldham by-election appears to have pleased no one but the Conservatives. Genuine Liberals are furious about the pact with the Tories which ensured the return of Mr. Wiggins. They feel betrayed by this Mr. Wiggins, who seems to have been sufficiently opportunist not, in such a fine show of independence as the *Daily News* would have liked to see, to discard the Conservatives assistance that was showered upon him. "A few more Oldhams and the Liberal Party will be dead," says this organ of "straight" Liberalism. In other words, Liberalism is alive only in defeat: when it touches reality closely enough to provoke the return to Parliament of a Liberal member, it immediately becomes moribund!

On Democracy.

It is very strange to find what confused thought there is upon the subject of democracy. In the *Morning Post*, for example, two eminent men, Dean Inge and Mr. William Graham, respective opponent and supporter of democracy, have just been arguing about the subject. Neither, of course, is convinced; and both, of course, are right. The pessimistic Dean extols its social virtues at the expense of its political aspect: and the optimistic Mr. Graham exhibits academically its power of continuous adjustment. It would not be difficult for one man to take up both these standpoints.

But as a contribution to current political thought, as a discussion related to everyday matters, this duel had little value. For it surely is obvious to all but the politician or the doctrinaire that what Britain is suffering from at the moment is not democracy but plutocracy. No one has yet upset the truth that an economic democracy must precede a political democracy, and we are so far from being an economic democracy as to be a perfect example of a plutocracy. And from this plutocracy it is increasingly manifest that no "democracy" can save us, but only a reassertion of monarchical power. That, of course, is one of the reasons that Fascism, about whose nature and

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peculiar pertinence, incidentally, Signor Mussolini knows rather more than *The Times*, though the latter would not appear to think so, should be so important a study of political students to-day.

The R.A.F. Show.

By far the best aerial display yet seen in this country was, according to general consent, given at Harrow on Saturday. The Royal Air Force may not yet hold the public imagination as does the Navy, but the 100,000 people who were present at this show came away amazed at the perfect efficiency of the R.A.F. men and of their machines. Probably the most useful work was done in the section devoted to Army co-operation, but what chiefly delighted the crowd was the set piece with the story. Here there was an enemy cruiser, simply waiting, of course, to be bombed. After five ship planes had cleared the decks of the foe, twelve huge bombers came along and finished off the job, amid all the bangings and the explosions so beloved of the civilian ears. Certainly the whole exhibition was a most impressive indication of what Britain's Air Force might, and ought to, become.

Los Angeles and Southampton.

It was bound to happen at last, although we have, possibly, been too disgustingly shamed. But after giving civic honours, official receptions, and the rest of it to that strange brood from America known as pugilists, moviemen, and so on, we perhaps deserve it. Last week, at Southampton, some American film-men so "put it over" us as to get detailed, for the purpose of guarding one of the world's most priceless possessions—a film—a detachment of Territorial troops. Further degradation of the King's uniform there surely could not be.

One wonders where all this passion for "publicity," these "stunts" of the cinema-world, will end. Naturally, there is to be an inquiry at the War Office, and questions are being asked in the House of Commons.

The London Group.

Of all the rebel artists who before the War used to love to form coteries and with the stentorian air of unauthoritativeness to proclaim their rude merits, the London Group, which is now holding an exhibition at the R.W.S. Galleries, Pall Mall East, is the worthiest and most persistent. Although it is to some extent overweighted (or, rather, shown up) by examples of men like Sickert, Roger Fry, Meninsky, or Ethelbert White, there is a considerable amount of interesting stuff to the credit of less well-known painters. Of those which may be of peculiar interest here, one may mention "Charcoal Biscuits," of Sophia Fedorovitch (a most vivid scheme in black, white, and blue), Jean Varda's impressionistic and bold "The Greek," a strikingly ancient-modern "Rabbi's Wife," by William Roberts, and the crudely designed "Leda and the Swan," of S. Popovitch.

For those who wish to see how modern British art is developing, few exhibitions could be better than this. Using their own technique and ideas such men (apart from those first mentioned) as Wyndham Tryon, Charles Ginner, Richard and Sydney Carline, and J. W. Power have produced work which is not only intrinsically interesting, even fascinating, but beautiful.

The Season.

To all intents and purposes the London season is over. The last Court at Buckingham Palace has been held; opera at Covent Garden is drawing to a close; the concert world is practically dead. It appears to be generally agreed that it was the most brilliant time of the post-War years, enormously helped, of course, by the fine weather in the first three weeks of June—weather which the last week has done its best to make us forget.

On the theatres, however, the closing of the season seems to be having but little effect, and it is said that producers will be as busy in July as they have been in June. Mr. Galsworthy's new play, for example, "The Show," is coming on to-morrow at the St. Martin's, and during this week three new plays, "The Gorilla," and "The Gentleman-in-Waiting," and Mr. Harold Chapin's "The New Morality," are being produced.

Sport.

The fact that an American, Mr. Jim Barnes, won the golfing championship last week does not seem to have upset anybody's equilibrium very much, although it is rather pathetic to observe how certain people take comfort in Mr. Barnes' once having been an inhabitant of Cornwall.

Nor has there been much to console us at Wimbledon, where Englishmen have put up gallant but unavailing fights. The manifest wish of the Wimbledon public is that the Australian, Mr. Anderson, may pull off the singles: if he can beat the Frenchmen, the championship should certainly be his.

Most of the fun has come out of cricket, where most curious form is being displayed by first-class men. Middlesex and Surrey, who last week achieved two very good (the first an extraordinary record) victories, are hopelessly inconsistent: they seem either to be great or to be grovelling. Without any doubt, Yorkshire is the side of the year. Of the actual result of the 'Varsity match it would be foolish to speak, but there is no question that Cambridge have an infinitely better side than Oxford this year. The Light Blues' batting is very strong, and though their bowling is weakish, it at least looks as good as Oxford's. But at Lords, of course, anything may happen.

Brilliant Art.

One does not often come across in a small exhibition so much brilliant and stimulating art as is to be found in the Summer Exhibition of the Goupil Galleries, Regent Street. No doubt the magnificence of the show is due to the dominating presence of men like Mark Gertler (whose coarse vigour, whether in the representation of his favourite Jewish types or in his still life, finally and completely overcomes one), Sickert (of whose works it may be said, as was said of the poetry of Francis Thompson, that you can work infinitely out and infinitely in), and James Pryde, whose remote individuality is a thing that haunts one. But there is other and less "arresting" work, done by more reticent souls such as the gentle Greaves, the charming Vera Cross, and the very stylish Gilbert Spencer. And, for those who like this kind of thing, there are William Nicholson's fascinating designs for costumes which are being worn in the Hogarth ballet of the popular Pavilion *revue*, "On with the Dance."

The examples in this show of Mr. Arnold-Foster's brush should particularly appeal to readers of this journal. His two water-colours, "Towards Parnassus" and "A Greek Bay," are delightful in their suggestion of a faëry land where it is always afternoon, where the sea is always translucently blue and the rocks are a gleaming white. And his management of ethereal blues is beautifully firm in his two oils, "Sea Mists," and "Kandili."

ALTER EGO.

OBITUARY.

Paymaster-Captain Denham Robert Kelsey, R.N., retired, died on June 23, at Hilliers, Carshalton, Surrey, aged 71. Mr. Kelsey served as assistant paymaster in charge of the Cockatrice during the Egyptian War of 1882. The normal duty of this river gunboat was to represent Great Britain on the Danube Commission set up by the Treaty of Paris. While in her, on June 10, 1883, Mr. Kelsey won the bronze medal of the Royal Humane Society for assisting to save a man from drowning at Galatz.

Mr. Alfred Denis Godley, Public Orator at Oxford, died in Oxford last Saturday, at the age of 69. Mr. Godley visited Greece and Egypt more than once. It was a recent visit to the Near East which, it is believed, brought about his fatal illness. He went with Mrs. Godley in April last for a cruise, starting from Venice and proceeding by the Adriatic to Greece and on across the Ægean to the Dardanelles and Constantinople.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

July 2, 1925 (New Style).
July 19, 1925 (Old Style).
Dulheggia 10, 1343, A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Tammuz 10, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir Adam Block has arrived in London from Constantinople.

Sir Ronald Storrs arrived in London last Monday from Jerusalem.

Mr. and Mrs. A .S. Merton have arrived in London from Cairo.

Mme. Ferid, wife of the Turkish Ambassador, will arrive in London on July 4.

Mrs. L. S. Cobham has returned to 14, Hans Crescent, S.W., from Angora and Constantinople.

The Crown Princess of Roumania was the guest of Lady Muriel Paget at dinner last Thursday.

The Gaekwar of Baroda, who has been staying at the Carlton Hotel, left London last Saturday for the East.

Commander Papaexis, Naval Attaché at the Greek Legation in Paris, arrived in London on June 24 from France.

Mr. Sheldon Crosby, Counsellor at the United States Embassy at Constantinople, arrived in London on June 23 from Turkey.

Mr. Peter A. Jay, United States Ambassador to the Argentine Republic, sailed for New York in the Leviathan on June 23.

Mr. and Mrs. P. T. Kirkpatrick have returned from India, and their permanent address will be Marlings, Herstham, Surrey.

M. Grouitch, formerly Yugoslav Minister to the Court of St. James, and Mme. Grouitch left London last Thursday for Belgrade.

The Earl and Countess of Reading were among the guests entertained at dinner last Friday night by Mrs. Eckstein at 18, Park Lane, W.1.

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An exhibition of the principal results of last season's excavations on the site of Ur of the Chaldees is being arranged in the British Museum, and will be open to the public on July 7.

The Crown Princess of Roumania, Princess Irene of Greece, and Prince Paul of Greece visited the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace last Thursday and remained to luncheon.

Admiral Sir Osmond de Beauvoir Brock (upon relinquishing his appointment as Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean) had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace last Saturday.

The Secretary of State for India and the Countess of Birkenhead will hold a reception to meet the Earl and Countess of Reading at the India Office to-morrow evening at half-past nine o'clock.

The Roumanian Minister and Mme. Titulesco left London last week for Geneva, and M. C. M. Laptew, Counsellor to the Roumanian Legation, is acting as Charge d'Affairés during the Roumanian Minister's absence.

The Patriach Photios, of Alexandria, arrived last week in London to attend the commemoration of the 16th centenary of the Council of Nicæa at Westminster Abbey on June 29. He was accompanied by the Bishop of Nubia and other ecclesiastics.

The engagement is announced between Robert Henry Hadow, M.C., Second Secretary at the British Legation, Teheran, Persia, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Hadow, Srinagar, Kashmir, India, and Elizabeth Lindsay, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Waddy B. Wood (Lomax Place), Warrenton, Virginia, U.S.A.

Mr. Elias Meyer, of Pollock Street, Calcutta, and of Grosvenor Square, London, S.W., merchant, who died on April 17, domiciled in India, left property sworn for the purposes of the English grant at £670,113 gross, with net personalty £388,246. The duties on the property at this valuation will amount to about £185,000.

On June 20, at the British Embassy Chapel, Constantinople, by the Rev. Canon Whitehouse, the marriage was solemnised of Alexander Telford Waugh, C.M.G., H.B.M.'s Consul-General, to Gwendda Kate, daughter of the late A. C. Hugh-Jones, I.C.S., and of Mrs. Hugh-Jones, 13, University Mansions, Putney.

The Crown Princess of Roumania honoured Sir Walter and Lady Gibbons with her presence at luncheon on June 23 at 1, Carlton Gardens. Other guests included Princess Irene of Greece, Major-General Lord and Lady Cheylesmore, Miss Selby Lowndes, Captain the Hon. F. E. Guest, Colonel the Hon. Henry Guest, and Sir John Latta.

The Countess of Reading has kindly promised to be present at a concert to be given at 4.30 p.m. on July 6, by permission of the Hon. Dame Margaret Greville, at 16, Charles Street, Berkeley Square, in aid of the Strangers Home for Asiatics. Tickets may be obtained by applying to the Honorary Secretary, care of Colonel Bannerman, India Office, S.W.1.

Prior to the Court held by the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace last Thursday the King received his Highness the Maharaja of Jodhpur, accompanied by Maharaj Ajit Singh, and his Highness Aga Sultan Sir Mahomed Shah, Agan Khan. His Majesty invested his Highness the Maharaja of Jodhpur with the Insignia of a Knight Commander of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India. Colonel A. D. Bannerman, Political Aide-de-Camp to the Secretary of State for India, was in attendance.

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Book Reviews and Notes.

THE INDIAN PEASANT.

"THE PUNJAB PEASANT IN PROSPERITY AND DEBT," By M. L. Darling I.C.S. (Oxford University Press, 14s.)

This publication is an interesting and stimulating book. The reader learns from it that there are 40,000 moneylenders in the Punjab, and that over 80 per cent. of the peasantry are in debt. The author takes the land revenue as the basis from which he calculates the incidence of debt, and arrives at the conclusion that the Punjab peasantry's total debt is about 15½ times the land revenue, which itself amounts to about one-fifth of the net income from the land; so that the peasant's debt averages about three years' net income. About half of the total is secured on mortgage and jewellery, the rest being unsecured. The annual interest charge on the debt amounts to nearly three times the total land revenue of the Province. The average holding is 8 acres and the average debt Rs. 463. Forty per cent. of the holdings are 8 acres or less, with an average debt of Rs. 310 which is about 27 times their land revenue: sixty per cent. are of more than 8 acres, with an average debt of Rs. 570 which is about ten times their land revenue; thus the larger holders are more highly in debt, the smaller more heavily. The individual holdings of the small holders are often "fragmented" to an almost incredible degree—the author quotes the case of a village in the Jullundur district where the total acreage of 12,800 was split up into 63,000 fields, the individual holdings consisting of a number of these fields at widely scattered intervals. This arises from the Indian family custom that ordains that, on the death of an owner, his sons shall not only each receive an equal share of their father's land, but shall also share equally in each kind of soil of which the total is made up. The author gives an interesting account of the Canal Colonies and their remarkable prosperity: they contain five million acres of cultivated land, more than one-sixth of the cultivated area of the Punjab. In 1921-22 Government made a profit of a million sterling on the canals, equal to 22 per cent. on the capital expenditure, and it is calculated that the Colonies produced crops worth twenty million pounds, of which about five millions was net profit to the cultivator. The author traces, as one of the chief reasons for the success of the Colonies, the fact that no cultivator starts with a holding smaller than 12½ acres, and that this holding is compact and consists of a single field. The incidence of debt, in the Canal Colonies, is only four times the land revenue. The author, however, propounds the maxim that "prosperity and debt are only less intimately connected than poverty and debt." He finds the main causes of India's poverty to lie in over-population, improvidence and disease. In those parts of the Punjab that are agriculturally secure, such as the Canal Colonies, over-population has not yet become a problem, though the author foresees a time, not very far distant, when it will do so: and disease, especially cattle disease, is minimised; but improvidence exists everywhere. As prosperity increases, so does debt, because the security becomes greater and the people are improvident. When questioned as to why he is in debt, the peasant invariably blames the incidence of the land revenue; though all expert inquiry, including that of the author of this book, concludes that indebtedness is never due to this cause and that, on the contrary, reduction in land revenue actually increases poverty because it favours improvidence. In those parts of the Punjab that are agriculturally insecure, that insecurity is the root cause of debt; but Mr. Darling says, "In the South, insecurity is more allied to famine than to plenty: in the West it is the other way round. In both, the harvest is a gamble in rain, but in the South the gambler loses more often than he wins, while in the West he wins more often than he loses. This condition is the more demoralising of the two, for the reaction of the former is thrift and of the latter improvidence." Mr. Darling gives, as the basic factors that compel the peasant proprietor to borrow, the smallness of the ordinary holding and its grotesque fragmentation: the insecurity of agricultural conditions in a considerable part of the Province: universal improvidence: the constantly recurring loss of cattle by disease and drought: and extravagant expenditure on marriages and domestic ceremonial. And, as the main causes that facilitate borrowing, facile credit and the vicious system of the professional moneylender. He cites a case in which a moneylender lent Rs. 8 and, "after a time-honoured custom," entered it as Rs. 10: the interest was fixed at two annas per rupee monthly and was charged on the ten rupees nominally borrowed, so that it actually worked out at 187½ per cent. per annum. He explains how, though the Punjab Land Alienation Act has clipped the claws of the moneylender caste, since it forbids the alienation of land to a person not of an agricultural tribe, it has led to the appearance of the "amateur" moneylender who is himself an agriculturist, and fully as grasping and rapacious as his professional brother.

Mr. Darling then proceeds to discuss the true remedy for the condition of affairs that he has described, and makes out for it a convincing case. In the economic development of India in the nineteenth century, he says, "the spoils fell to the astute and the strong rather than to the simple and weak": there was a rapid growth of large urban centres, and the administration of justice fell into the hands of the "town-bred man of the desk": and the peasant found himself "at the mercy of the moneylender, lawyer and trader. The first tempted him to borrow, the second to quarrel, the third to waste." The first Co-operative Societies Act was passed in 1904; to begin with, it had to contend with active opposition from the moneylender, passive opposition from the lawyer, and suspicion on the part of the peasant; but there are now ten thousand co-operative Societies, with a membership of a quarter of a million, in the Punjab alone. Some of these are badly, even corruptly, managed; but the greater number are admirably managed. Mr. Darling says, "In the Punjab the peasant of to-day regards the Land Alienation Act as the Magna Charta of his freedom, but his descendant is more likely to give that title to the Co-operative Societies Act which, more than any other, has made progress possible to the village." Its object is, to raise the peasant on to a higher plane of wealth and culture, and to prove that the "poor illiterate peasant" need be neither poor nor illiterate and that the "stupid cultivator" will respond to efforts to make him intelligent. When properly managed, co-operative banks provide a check on improvidence, as they enquire into the object of a loan, and will not give it unless the object is worthy; whereas the moneylender never inquired about the object, but only about the security. In addition to co-operative banks, co-operative societies have been started with the object of consolidating holdings and removing the "fragmentation" evil, and for arbitration instead of going to law. Both of these have produced valuable results, and the latter achieved great popularity: two arbitration societies were opened, after much initial difficulty, in 1920, and by 1922 there were 148, with 16,000 members; when they

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were all closed by ministerial order—doubtless, as Mr. Darling says, for good and valid reasons, but with the result of leaving their members "merely bewildered by an order in which they saw nothing but the urban mind's ignorance of rural conditions." Mr. Darling sums up the case as follows: "The very essence of co-operation is that men should help themselves and rely as little as possible upon Government. All good co-operators therefore ardently desire to see education brought to every village. This will take time and, meanwhile, for the illiterate cultivator there is no better school than the village bank. Here even the humblest peasant may take his diploma, learning to look to himself instead of always to Government, to help his neighbours as he would be helped by them, to spend wisely and repay faithfully, to eschew extravagance and, above all, to deal straight. For a country that is entering upon the perilous path of self-government, these lessons are invaluable."

The book includes some maps and illustrations, an index, and a foreword by Sir Edward Maclagan, late Governor of the Punjab, who says that it makes "a notable contribution to the economic literature of India." This claim is well grounded and the book can confidently be recommended to all interested in Indian economic problems.

KOMITAJI DAYS AND WAYS.

"Count Blitski's Daughter." By Leland Buxton. (London: Christophers 7s. 6d. net.)

The reader of this second novel by the author of *The Devil's River* may be warned at the outset that it will be of no use to try to fit all the caps that are so tantalisingly dangled in front of him. In this matter Mr. Buxton plays with him most unfairly. Zothenia ought to be Slovenia, but its history is not; Marishka ought to be—at least, she ought to have gone to Sussex, but there presumably the author's courage or, shall we say, adherence to facts, forsook him. And so throughout the book; characters are boldly familiar enough in parts, but for safety's sake seem to be given a composite entity. Where the author of *The Black Sheep of the Balkans* makes no attempt at disguise is in his Ba-lams (of Balamia). He has evidently enjoyed writing the book with his tongue in his cheek, and the reader will be prepared to share that enjoyment. The more so, as the interest is maintained to the end, the characters are one and all convincing in their actual setting, and the descriptive parts do justice to Balkan scenery. More true to life than *Ruritania* and a lighter effort than *Le Roi des Montagnes*, *Count Blitski's Daughter* does throw some light on *Komitaji* mentality.

PICTURES OF TUNISIA.

The artist always finds Tunisia to be one of the happiest hunting grounds in the Near East; it would be difficult, indeed, to discover London exhibitions at any time without some representations of Tunisian life and scenery.

At the moment there are two prominent shows in which Tunis occupies a large part—that of Baron Rodolphe d'Erlanger at the Alpine Club Gallery, Conduit Street, W., and that of Mr. Knighton Hammond at the Gallery of the Fine Art Society, Bond Street, W. Of Baron d'Erlanger's ability in depicting the Moslem life of N. Africa there is, of course, no question; he has for years been known as a keen student of the artistic side of the Arab's life. This ability and knowledge, however, do not prevent the entrance of a certain monotony into his pictures as if, in fact, the eternal blossoming of Tunisian flowers and the eternal blueness of Tunisian waters had entered into his soul. But apart from this defect there is abundant interest in his landscapes and portraits—particularly in the smaller landscapes. Of his portraits, that called "Ben Murad, the Bey's Architect," is the most striking, and, incidentally, the most reticent. There is a world of Moslem jollity in this kindly old man's face, with its silver beard and eyes alive with intelligence. Other considerable works are a portrait entitled "Abyssinian," in which the dusky tones are put in with great technical mastery, and "The Sharia," depicting three very old and very wise Moslems listening and pondering. For those who like their East no further afield than Tunisia, this exhibition should prove of some attraction.

Mr. Knighton Hammond's water-colours, on the other hand, possess greater significance, more "bite" and sense of atmosphere than do Baron d'Erlanger's oils. This artist brings almost the touch of a Sargent to his vigorous pictures, and whether he is representing the "suqs" or the mosques or merely the types (such as mendicants or jolly beggars) of Tunis, his imagination is always at its exciting work. These water-colours are full of light and colour, and are really of gladsome excellence.

CORRESPONDENCE

The columns of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA *are open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA

EX-KING HUSSEIN.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—A small point is raised in your review of "The Statesman's Year-Book" which perhaps demands a word of explanation from the culprit. It is true that ex-King Hussein went from Jeddah to Aqaba. From Aqaba he went, however, to Maan, where he was when the text of the article was dispatched from Jeddah. From Maan he subsequently returned to Aqaba, which more recently he has left for Cyprus. The text as published represented the actual state of affairs at the time it was written, and the aim of the "Year-Book" is, I take it, to represent matters as they are as nearly as possible at the beginning of the year to which it refers.

It is convenient and fashionable to depict ex-King Hussein as spending the early period of his exile on his yacht off Aqaba, but the "Year-Book" deals with prosaic facts only, and in this case, as so often, "fact is stranger than fiction."—I am, etc., H. ST. J. B. PHILBY.

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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

170, *Strand, London, W.C.2.*
Tuesday Morning.

Bulgarian Bonds.

It is satisfactory to be able to record the fact that a settlement has at last been arrived at in regard to the service of the Bulgarian external debt. On another page will be found particulars of the arrangement which has been approved by the committees representing the British, French, and Dutch bondholders. The scheme provides for the payment of interest for three years from April 1, 1924, at rates ranging from 30 per cent. in the case of the 1909 Loan to 42 per cent. in the case of the Loans of 1902, 1904, and 1907. It will be noted that payment of interest is to be made in the most appreciated currency in which the bonds are expressed, which means that where the coupons are payable in London payments must be made on a sterling basis. As regards the question of amortisation during the remainder of the three years, this can be effected by tenders or purchases in the market or suspended altogether.

Developments in Greece.

Whatever may have been the prospects of a further Greek Loan in the early future before the latest political development it can safely be said that there is now no possible chance of further financial assistance until there is some assurance of settled conditions in Greece. It is, unfortunately, much easier to destroy confidence in a country than to restore it, and the effect of General Pangalos' *coup d'état* is to discount the very favourable impression created by the economic progress made by Greece in recent years. In Greece political changes may make little difference to the life of the country, but it would be difficult to persuade financiers of the stability of conditions in a State whose politics are so obviously unstable. If there ever was a time when the world required a prolonged period of freedom from changes of any description it is now, and it may be hoped that out of the present development it may be possible for Greece to establish a régime which offers solid assurances of permanence.

The Kassala Cotton Company.

At the meeting of the Kassala Cotton Company, the chairman, the Hon. A. M. Asquith, dealt at length with the progress of the development work. The Magauda canal, he pointed out, was completed before the flood came, but only 1,500 acres received sufficient water from it instead of the larger area that had been anticipated. This was due to two causes. One was that the Gash gave a low and steady flow, never exceeding a depth of 1½ metres, instead of the usual flushes three metres deep at Magauda. The other cause was that in one section of the canal the substratum of soil dissolved under the influence of the water, and the depth of the bed of the canal was somewhat diminished by the addition of clay from the subsidence of the banks. The banks have since been protected with stonepitching for a length of about 2½ kilometres west of the head regulator and the design of the canal has been modified so that it should operate with a one-metre flow. During the current season a further canal 22 kilometres long, known as the Metateib canal, has been constructed, about 20 kilometres north of the Magauda canal and 10 kilometres south of the Hadaliya canal. In addition various minor improvements of other existing irrigation works have been carried out. The problem of drinking water, the chairman remarked, affects the company at every turn. During the current season water has had to be brought by canal from increasing distances for the use of 800 Egyptian labourers and for all the company's building operations. Mr. Asquith added that a place called Aroma, some 35 miles north of Kassala, appeared destined to become headquarters of the company. "Here," he said, "the Sudan Government have bored for water to a depth of 250 feet, but so far without result. Mr. Beeby Thompson, the water expert, and Mr. Grabham, the Sudan Government's geologist, after visiting the Gash Delta this spring to advise the Sudan Government on the question of wells and of drinking-water, concurred in advocating a pipeline from existing wells in the southern part of the Delta as being the best means of obtaining immediate requirements. We propose to begin rather tentatively with the installation of pumps and a pipeline from the wells at Mekali to supply domestic water for some of our areas."

The Progress of Cotton Cultivation.

The total crop of the current season, Mr. Asquith stated, is estimated to be about 27,500 kantars. Nearly 19,000 acres were sown, but between three and four thousand failed to carry a full crop to maturity. The cotton is Sakellarides, of grades generally somewhat better than Fully Good Fair, and some 13,300 kantars have been sold by public auction at Port Sudan. It is hoped largely to increase the area under cotton for the next season. In this connection it is interesting to note that applications for tenancies have been made more than sufficient for any area which it can reasonably be expected to irrigate with the coming flood. Mr. Asquith dealt with the question of the abstraction of water in Eritrea. According to figures given by the Italian Government of Eritrea to the Sudan Government 800 million cubic metres of water passed Tesenei in Eritrea last season, while only 456 million cubic metres of water arrived at Kassala. "On the data available at present," said Mr. Asquith, "we believe that this loss of water between these two points, only 25 miles apart, is due practically entirely to the sponge-like action of the river channel; that this intervening sponge or sand requires a certain quantity of water to fill it, and that consequently any water abstracted in Eritrea at Tesenei and so failing to enter the sponge will have to be made good by a similar amount of the water which is allowed to pass Tesenei. Thus, in our

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opinion, any water abstracted in Eritrea will be a net loss to Kassala, and, to an extent which it is difficult to estimate accurately, it will reduce the area eventually capable of irrigation in the Delta. Estimates in this connection are difficult. I told you last year that we do not know yet exactly what dose of water the land requires, one aspect of the question being that the water requirements of new land are probably higher than those of land irrigated in the preceding season."

The Imperial Bank of Persia.

A satisfactory report is forthcoming from the Imperial Bank of Persia for the year ended March 20. The profits amounted to £90,439, and £34,552 was brought forward, and deducting £5,426 due to the Persian Government under the terms of the concession the balance is £119,566. The six months' interim dividend of 4s. per share free of tax absorbed £20,000, and it is now proposed to pay a final dividend of 5s. per share free of tax, to place £30,000 to the reserve and £10,000 to the bank premises account, and to carry forward £34,566.

Dooloogram Tea Company.

At the meeting of the Dooloogram Tea Company, the Chairman, Sir Frederic Painter referred to the satisfactory record of the working of the company during the past season. He pointed out, however, that the result was not quite up to that of the previous year. This was due to the increase in expenditure. An important factor in this connection has been the rise in the exchange, while the Chairman explained that the cost of the labour force is increasing. The crop was somewhat larger than that of the previous year, and realised a good average of prices.

The Bank of British West Africa.

A substantial increase in net profits is shown in the report of the Bank of British West Africa, the figures being £112,352, at which they are more than £16,000 above the total for the previous year. The proposed final dividend of 3 per cent. maintains the distribution at 5 per cent. It is further proposed to allocate £25,000 to contingency reserve, £25,000 to writing down premises, etc., and to carry forward £38,032.

COMMENTATOR.

The Civil Court of Appeal in Bulgaria has decreed the confiscation in favour of the State of all the property acquired by the late M. Stambolisky, the Agrarian Premier, and the former deputy, M. Boyadieff, during the Agrarian régime, which lasted from 1919 to 1923.

A telegram received in London at the end of last week announced the arrival at the Hejaz port of Rabegh of three pilgrim ships from India. The pilgrims have landed, and the caravan arrangements for the journey to Mecca appear to be satisfactory.

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SPECIAL NOTICE.

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BULGARIAN DEBT ARRANGEMENT.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders has received information that the Bulgarian Government has signed an arrangement relative to the service of the external debt which has been approved by the committees representing the British, French, and Dutch bondholders. This arrangement provides for :—

1. Payment of interest on the debt for three years from April 1, 1924, to be made in the most appreciated money in which the bonds are expressed at the following rates: Loan of 1909, 30 per cent.; loans of 1892 and 1896, 32 per cent.; loans of 1902, 1904, and 1907, 42 per cent.
2. Bonds drawn during the period April, 1924, to April, 1925, to be paid at the above rates.
3. Amortisation during the remainder of the three years to be effected by tenders or purchases on the market or to be suspended altogether.
4. The Bulgarian Government undertakes to raise no objection in future with regard to the origin of bonds acquired before July 1, 1922, under normal conditions on a regular market.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

NEW BIBBY LINE MOTOR SHIP.

It is announced that Messrs. Bibby Bros. and Co., Liverpool, have placed an order with the Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering Co., Ltd., Govan, for a twin screw motor ship of about 7,500 tons.

The vessel, which is intended for cargo service between London, Liverpool, Colombo and Rangoon, will be somewhat similar in design to several which have been built within recent years for the same owners, by Messrs. Harland and Woolff, Ltd., of Belfast, who have constructed all the Bibby Line vessels for a considerable time past.

EXPANSION OF BRATISLAVA'S TRADE.

(From a Correspondent.)

The amount of traffic passing through Bratislava is making a steady advance. In 1922 the figure for 56,000 tons, in 1923, 131,000 tons, last year 354,000 tons and in the current year to date 500,000. Leading Slovak commercial organisations are urging a speedy extension of the port facilities, notably a grain storage, transit storage, and the construction of further railway lines.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses :—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Castalia for Bombay (Liverpool, July 4). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Matheran for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 11).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Gloucestershire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, July 15).

British India Line.—S.s. Matiana for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 4); s.s. Nalgora for Bombay and Karachi (London, July 11).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Tyria for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Corfu, Brindisi, Bari, Gruz, Ancona, Venice, Fiume, and Trieste (Liverpool, July 9).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Lahore for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 6).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Dromore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, July 4); s.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, July 11).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Nore for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 9); s.s. Morea for Bombay (London, July 24).

Prince Line.—S.s. Cyprian Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Syrian Coast, and Cyprus (London, July 1).

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PRODUCTION OF MINERALS FROM THE DEAD SEA.

The dependence of Palestine solely on agriculture is a feature which is bound to give rise to some misgiving among those who have the interests of the country at heart and in the last few years the most determined and praiseworthy efforts have been made to endow Palestine with a number of industries. To the success of these efforts the exhibits in the Palestine Pavilion at Wembley bear abundant tribute. But while a good deal has already been accomplished, it is obvious that much more is necessary if the country is to be placed on a sound economic basis, and among the possible openings for development to which attention has been paid has been the question of the practicability of producing minerals from the waters of the Dead Sea. Reports of the various experiments and investigations that have been carried out in this connection in Palestine and in this country together with a summary of the conclusions of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to report on the matter have now been published in the form of a brochure*, together with a series of maps and plans in a separate container.

Rather more than half the publication consists of extracts from reports by the Geological Adviser to the Government of Palestine in 1923. He points out that with increased evaporation and decreased rainfall the limits of the lake gradually retreated to its present shores and the soluble salts concentrated in its waters. At the north end of the Dead Sea there is a storm beach stretching along the whole length of the shore; and behind it is an area suitable for the formation of evaporating pans. The quantities of salts in the Dead Sea are estimated approximately as follows (in millions of metric tons):—potassium chloride 2,000, magnesium bromide 980, sodium chloride 11,900, magnesium chloride 22,000, and calcium chloride 6,000. For practical purposes, it is stated, the supply of potash may be considered inexhaustible.

The question of communications is, of course, a vital matter, for any development work would necessitate the transport of considerable quantities of material. The railway runs to Beisan and Jerusalem, but while there is no road from Beisan to the Dead Sea, the Jerusalem-Jericho main road, which is mainly in first-class condition, is 8,000 yards from the Dead Sea beach at the point where the road issues from the limestone hills, and allowing for a further stretch of road along the beach it is estimated that it would be necessary to construct 6 miles of road. On the grounds of the cost and the expenses that would be entailed in gaining a footing in the potash market, it is stated that in the development of the industry anything outside the ordinary salt pan construction and methods are not to be contemplated.

Considerable attention is devoted to describing the operations for the production of salts. It is pointed out that it is unlikely that carnallite would be exported owing to the high freight charges, and that either of the methods adopted in Germany for the production of potash salts might be applied at the Dead Sea, but the later German method is advocated. It is estimated that for every ton of 80 per cent. potash five tons of salt will be produced, so that if 100,000 tons production is ever reached for potash the disposal of 500,000 tons of salt will have to be considered. The two possible methods of disposal are marketing, which depends on cheap transport, and washing back into the Dead Sea.

The question of living conditions in the neighbourhood of the Dead Sea is a very important matter. Various reports are given on malarial conditions in the area, and it is pointed out that the logical site for any works of a commercial nature is west of the Dead Sea Post on the west shore, at any place further than three kilometres north of Ain Feshkah.

The summary of the conclusions of the Committee to which reference has already been made is on the whole not very encouraging. It is stated that from the technical standpoint, as distinguished from the commercial, no insuperable difficulties are likely to be met with in connection with the extraction of potash from the Dead Sea in quantities of the order of 100,000 tons of potassium chloride per annum. It is further pointed out that a product containing over 70 per cent of potassium chloride can be obtained by natural evaporation, that practically unlimited quantities of common salt and magnesium chloride could be produced, that adequate land is available for the evaporating tanks, and that the area could be rendered habitable by suitable precautions. On the other hand no reliable estimate can be formed at the present time as to the cost of construction of the evaporating pans or in connection with the cost of the operation of the process on a larger scale. Further, transport charges would absorb a considerable proportion of the market value of the potassium chloride, and would, to a large extent, render the common salt and magnesium chloride unsaleable. It is also stated that in view of the uncertain conditions of the markets and the future production in Europe, the Committee is not in a position to forecast the commercial prospects of potash recovery from the Dead Sea. Finally, as long as the market for bromide remains relatively small and variable, it can probably be supplied adequately from other sources. It is emphasised in conclusion that a large scale trial would form a necessary preliminary to an enterprise which, in any case, must be speculative.

* "Production of Minerals from the Dead Sea." (Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, S.W.1. £1 1s.)

BRITISH OVERSEAS SHIPPERS.

British Overseas Shippers, Ltd., has been registered as a private company with a nominal capital of £30,000 in £1 shares to trade especially with British East Africa. The first directors are: Sir Harold Bowden, Bt. (director Raleigh Cycle Co.); J. L. Dickinson Worthing (managing director); J. F. Thomasson, merchant banker; H. B. Alder (managing-director, Fenner and Alder); J. D. Barnsdale (director, Raleigh Cycle Co.); F. C. Bush (director of same company). The registered office is at 4, Lloyd's Avenue, E.C.3.

The Egyptian State Railways have accepted the tenders of J. Cookson, Ltd., for 150 tons of coloured cotton waste, and of Silvertown Lubricants, Ltd., London, for 700 tons of engine oil.

An estimate of the Sudan cotton crop of the ensuing season puts it at about 100,000 bales.

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Basrah: Utam Jashan and Co., Bridge Street, Ashar.

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Calcutta: A. N. Wheeler and Co., 117-119 Park Street.
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Karachi: Standard Bookstall, Elphinstone Street, Karachi.

BULGARIA.
Sofia: Librairie Francaise et Etrangere, 4a, Bvd. Tsar Ostvoboditel.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia: George and Sons, P.O. Box 6.

GREECE.
Athens: Th. Vafiadis, 24, Rue du Stade.
Eleftheroudakis and Barth, Place de la Constitution.

ROUMANIA.
Bucharest: Librairie Universala, 37, Calea Victoriei.

TURKEY.
Constantinople: H. D. Marianopoulos, Librairie Internationale. Pera.

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ENGINEERING TOPICS.

The Railway Centenary.

The Railway Centenary falls at anything but a fortunate period in the history of this country's railways, for it finds them faced with the need for drastic economies as a result of the adverse trade situation. But the existing conditions are happily transient, while the railways are a permanent factor in the world's economy. Since the world's first line was opened in Great Britain, and especially since 1914, the advance in other methods of communication has been surprisingly rapid, but the need for railways remains as great as ever it was and it seems exceedingly doubtful whether any other medium will ever be found satisfactorily to take their place. Great Britain has had the distinction of leading the world in railway construction, and it may be hoped that one result of the celebrations will be to draw attention to the fact that the British engineering industry is second to none in its capacity for supplying everything that is necessary for the construction of railways and rolling stock. Present conditions militate against the expansion of railways abroad, but a good deal of construction is going on in the Near East and elsewhere, and it may be hoped that in the carrying out of future programmes British enterprise will play its full part.

A Centenary Medal.

An interesting point in connection with the railway Centenary Celebrations is the striking of a very beautiful bronze commemorative medal. This medal, which has been designed and modelled by Mr. Gilbert Bayes, F.R.S.B.S., shows on the obverse, portraits of Edward Pease, chairman of the first public railway, and of George Stephenson, who built the first engine on the railway and drove it on its historic journey on September 27, 1825. There are also shown the coats-of-arms of Stockton and Darlington, the two towns between which the world's first passenger train ran. On the reverse are shown a figure of Vulcan holding in his hand "Locomotion No. 1," the first engine to be employed on a public railway, with, in the background one of the L. and N. E. Railway Company's famous 1925 type "Pacific" express locomotives.

Low Temperature Distillation Plant.

International Combustion Ltd., announce that information has just been received to the effect that its associated company, International Combustion Engineering Corporation, of New York, U.S.A., has secured the contract for installing a large low temperature distillation plant for the Milwaukee Electric Light and Power Company.

The plant is to the designs and specification of Dr. Runge, consulting engineer to the International Combustion Engineering Corporation, who has been experimenting for many years with this important subject and has now developed and perfected a plant upon which very important guarantees have been given.

In view of the widespread interest in this important subject, Mr. G. E. Learnard, accompanied by Dr. Runge and Mr. G. G. Hunter, arrived in England on the 19th inst., with the object of conferring with numerous interested parties, and to place the latest information before the British organisation for the benefit of its many clients.

COMMERCIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

"THE COMMERCIAL POSSIBILITIES OF AZERBAIJAN."

To the Editor of The Near East and India.

Sir,—In The Near East of June 11 I find a letter to the Editor by Mr. E. Luboff, who refers to my article, "The Commercial Possibilities of Azerbaijan," published in The Near East on June 4, and asks how, in my opinion, the commercial possibilities of Azerbaijan could become a reality under the existing conditions of the economic system of the Soviets.

My opinion is that whoever reads the daily papers must know that unless the present Soviet system is entirely abandoned there can be no question about any commercial possibilities either in Azerbaijan or Russia, and I therefore omitted to refer to this in my article.—I am, etc.,

The Author.

THE PORT OF SALONIKA.

To the Editor of The Near East and India.

Sir,—Owing to the rupture of the Græco-Yugoslav negotiations the port of Salonika has become the centre of considerable interest in British commercial and political circles. This being so, I have no doubt that the following brief exposition of the case will be of interest to your readers.

Before the War, when the Customs dispute between Austria and Serbia was in full swing, the Serbs first turned their attention to Salonika. In those days 70 per cent. of the trade of the port was Serbian. Owing to the War, during the years immediately following the Armistice, the volume decreased, but it has since been gaining again very considerably, and at present the Yugoslav trade passing through Salonika is considerably greater than that of Greece. Southern Serbia is the natural hinterland of Salonika, and a great volume of export trade passes down the Vardar Valley, through Salonika to Egypt and the East as well as to the Levant and Western Europe. The granting to Yugoslavia of her demands would materially increase the volume of British shipping trade in those parts.

The above is an important aspect of the question which appears to have been overlooked in the various articles and correspondence I have read on the subject up to the present.—I am, etc.,

T. Mahoney-Shealawler.

7, Stanhope Terrace, N.W.1. June 27.

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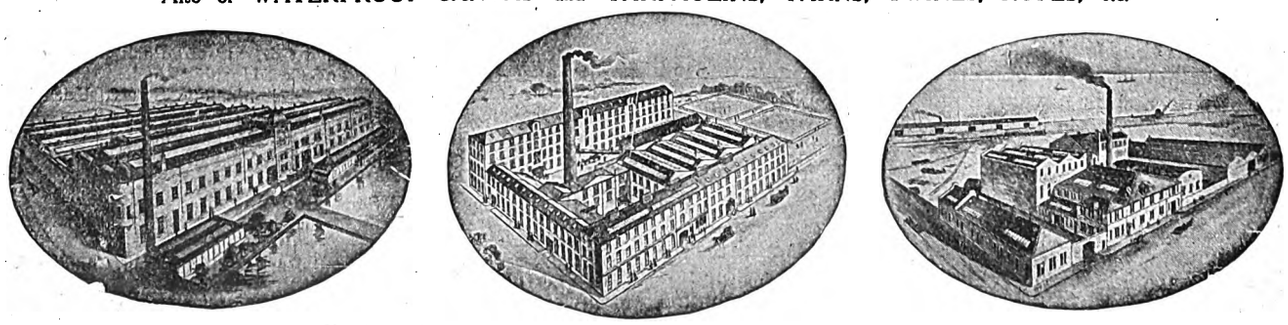

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, June 18.

The New Cereal Regime.

After the unfortunate experiments of last year, when two totally opposed policies were tried, i.e., freedom of export without any restriction except a large export tax, and export prohibition, the question of the right policy to be adopted is naturally the subject of much uncertainty.

During the year just past it was with the greatest difficulty that the necessary supply of wheat was secured by measures which included the importation of wheat from America and then requisition pure and simple. For the coming year it is hoped that a suitable solution has been found by adopting the quota method, which has been applied on former occasions with varying results.

Freedom of export will be established after the necessary quota has been set aside for home consumption and for reserves. The quantity of wheat necessary for each town will first be determined and then purchased by means of a fund of 200 millions appropriated for this purpose by the National Bank. This system seems to have gained the approval of the producers and the consumers. It is hoped by these measures to encourage agriculturists to intensify their production, which has been poor since the War.

Though the reports received from the provinces of the state of the crops are much less favourable, a fair harvest is expected which will ensure a sufficiency for home consumption and a small surplus for export.

Petroleum Production.

The production on the various fields is rapidly developing in a very satisfactory manner. It has already appreciably exceeded the pre-War figure, owing especially to the large production obtained in the beginning of the year.

During the first three months of 1925, the petroleum production reached 528,274 tons as against 392,452 tons during the same period in 1924. This increase of 135,000 tons is equivalent to 35 per cent. The monthly average has been 175,000 tons as against 137,000 tons last year.

New regions upon which wells have been sunk have justified the hopes reposed in them, and the Roumanian petroleum industry seems now on a fair way to prosperity at least so far as production is concerned.

A Transport Convention.

After many meetings held recently at Belgrade, between Roumanian, Yugoslav, and Polish delegates, an agreement has been arrived at with regard to communications and transit.

Besides an arrangement concerning the direct goods tariffs between Roumania and Yugoslavia, an agreement has been come to between these two States for the opening of three new lines on July 15, which have considerable importance for the traffic of Transylvania. Nothing definite was arranged regarding the question of the construction of a new bridge over the Danube.

Motor Touring Competition.

During the first week of this month the fourth motor touring competition in Roumania took place. This race, in which amateur motorists took part, was arranged to show the suppleness, consumption, speed and reliability of the different machines. The Crown Prince took part as in former years. The course covered a distance of about 2,100 km. starting from Bucharest and going through Chisinau, Sovata, Reshitza and back to Bucharest in seven stages. The machines which showed the greatest efficiency were the American Buick and Chrysler, which are well suited to the requirements of Roumanian roads.

MANCHESTER COTTON MARKET.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended June 27 states:—

During the past week the market all round may be said to have been under the influence of the continued political troubles in China and the general trade gloom. The Board of Trade returns regarding textile exports have not helped to dispel the feeling of depression, and at the moment the only encouraging feature is the favourable news regarding the progress of the monsoon in India, and the hopes of an increased demand from that quarter a little later on.

Yarn.—Conditions in the yarn market continue to be discouraging. The general feeling can best be indicated by mentioning that suggestions for a short period of all-round closing down of the mills are being made with a view to effecting a clearance of the accumulating stocks. Such business as is actually transacted is said to be usually on the basis of concessions on the part of the seller, and, even so, the quantities changing hands are almost retail in character. At the moment no single overseas market can be signalised as tending to relieve the depression.

Cloth.—The continuance of the disturbed conditions in China are seriously effecting the market generally, as buyers for other centres are quick to take advantage of the unsatisfactory situation in order to obtain reduced quotations for such business as they have to place. Hesitation on the part of buyers themselves is not so much due to expectation of cheaper cotton as to the known difficulties of spinners and manufacturers and the possibility of their having to accept lower prices in order to keep spindles and looms working. Cases are even reported of weaving sheds actually closing down in some districts next week. A little inquiry from India based on the encouraging monsoon news is virtually the only overseas feature worth recording. Buying for the Home Trade is more active, but only to a very moderate extent.

Raw Cotton.—Minor fluctuations have occurred from day to day during the past week, but on balance there is little change. Imports have remained comparatively small, whilst on the other hand "spot" sales have perhaps slightly more than balanced them, thus effecting a small reduction in local stocks. The next official Bureau report regarding the American crop is due on Thursday next, and opinions are divided concerning the probable estimate of the crop condition, which is, however, expected to show little change. Shipments of American cotton to Great Britain this season have been 2,507,000 bales as compared with 1,640,000 bales at the same period last year. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows:—American middling, 13.53; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 32.05.

INQUIRIES ON OVERSEAS COMMERCIAL MATTERS.

The Department of Overseas Trade desires to remind United Kingdom exporters requiring information on overseas commercial matters that it is desirable to approach the Department rather than to write directly to the Department's representative posted in the market concerned. It is frequently the case that the information desired is already available in the Department, and direct application to the Department thus results in the saving of much time. Where the information is not so available, the Department takes immediate steps to secure it and to forward it to the inquirer.

It is particularly emphasised that the method adopted by some inquirers of addressing the same inquiry simultaneously to the Department and its overseas officers leads to unnecessary duplication of work and to delay. Inquirers will therefore find it to their advantage to proceed in the manner suggested above.

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Company Meetings.

KASSALA COTTON COMPANY.

Extension of Irrigation Works.

The second ordinary general meeting of the Kassala Cotton Company, Limited, was held on June 25 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C. The Hon. Arthur M. Asquith (the Chairman of the company) presided.

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—Turning to the balance-sheet, on the liabilities side you will observe little change since last year. During the year we called up a further 4s. on our preference shares.

On the assets side, the total expenditure in the Sudan on development, canalisation, etc., has risen from about £16,563 at the end of 1923, to £118,736 at the end of 1924.

As explained in the report, we have thought it right to include in this figure the amount of debenture interest paid and accrued, less interest earned, for this period of construction during which, in the nature of things, there could be no revenue.

Turning to the profit and loss account, you will see that, after making the adjustments which I have mentioned about debenture interest, and after charging preliminary expenses, we carry forward a loss of £15,499 1s. It is satisfactory to have left behind us the period during which, of necessity, there were no incomings from crops to set against our outgoings.

Turning to the report, I gave you last year a general idea of the terms of our concession, of the problems of irrigation engineering which we have undertaken, and of various other aspects of our task. I described the difficulties with which our local staff had to deal in digging the new Magauda canal, in transporting 500 Egyptian labourers, and all cement, tools, etc., by camel, for more than 200 miles from the railway, and in maintaining an adequate supply of drinking water for this labour force by camel transport from somewhat distant wells. Some particulars of this canal are given in the report.

I said last year that the greatest credit would be due to our local management if, in addition to the extension and improvement of existing irrigation works, they succeeded in completing this large new canal.

Well, gentlemen, I am glad to be able to tell you that all these difficulties were overcome, and that this canal was completed before the flood arrived. It was therefore very disappointing that only about 1,500 acres received sufficient water from it, instead of the larger area which we had anticipated.

There were two causes for this. One was the fact that, instead of the usual flushes three metres deep, at Magauda, which would have given sufficient depth in our canal for all our pipe regulators to discharge sufficient water on to the land, the Gash gave us a low and steady flow, never exceeding a depth of 1½ metres.

The other cause was that in the section of the canal which I have mentioned, the substratum of soil, which had been like iron to the pick, dissolved under the influence of the water, and the depth of the bed of the canal was somewhat diminished by the addition of the liquid clay from the subsidence of the banks.

In an endeavour to provide against a recurrence of this mishap this season, we have since protected the banks with stonepitching for a length of about 2½ kilometres west of its head-regulator, and we have modified the design of the canal so that it should operate with a one metre flow.

Whilst on the subject of development work, I will mention that during the current season we have constructed a further canal known as the Metateib Canal—about 20 kilometres north of the Magauda Canal and 10 kilometres south of the Hadaliya Canal. I must try, as soon as our staff are less busily engaged on actual development work, to give you, with the report, some sort of map, to give you an idea of the lie of the land.

Now, regarding the current season's crop, nearly 19,000 acres were sown, but between three and four thousand, for various reasons, but chiefly owing to their having received too little water, failed to carry a full crop to maturity. Picking is now at an end, and the total crop is estimated to be about 27,500 kantars.

We hope to make a good step forward during the coming season in extending our acreage under crop. How far we shall succeed in this depends largely, of course, upon that rather uncertain factor—the nature of the Gash flood, and partly upon climatic conditions, but, granted a good flood, we shall be very much disappointed if we do not succeed in largely increasing our crop.

We have heard this week from our manager, Mr. Gray, that all canals will be ready to-day (June 25) against the arrival of the flood, and that applications for tenancies have reached him more than sufficient for any area which we can reasonably expect to irrigate with the coming flood. I think the fact that tenants are forthcoming in such numbers is a sign that our administration there and our scheme generally meet with the support of the inhabitants.

The completion of the railway, of course, helps us at every turn in dealing with our problems, and perhaps I may be allowed to offer this company's most sincere congratulations to the staff of the Sudan Government Railways Department, so long and so efficiently presided over by Captain Midwinter, for the rapidity with which this line was constructed.

Now regarding the abstraction of water in Eritrea. We have tried in the report to give you all the significant facts. You will observe that, according to figures given by the Italian Government of Eritrea to the Sudan Government, 800 million cubic metres of water passed Tesenei in Eritrea last season—whilst according to gauge readings at Kassala, some 25 miles downstream, only 456 million cubic metres of water arrived there. On the data available at present, we believe that this loss of water between these two points, only 25 miles apart, is due practically entirely to the sponge-like action of the river channel; that this intervening sponge of sand requires a certain quantity of water to fill it, and that consequently any water abstracted at Tesenei and so failing to enter the sponge will have to be made good by a similar amount of the water which is allowed to pass Tesenei. Thus, in our opinion, any water abstracted in Eritrea will be a net loss to Kassala, and, to an extent which it is difficult to estimate accurately, it will reduce the area eventually capable of irrigation in the Delta.

Estimates in this connexion are difficult. I told you last year, we do not know yet exactly what dose of water the land requires, one aspect of the question being that the water requirements of new land are probably higher than those of land irrigated in the preceding season.

The agreement with the Government of Eritrea was, of course, arrived at by the Government of the Sudan on technical advice and on its own responsibility. We appreciate the fact that the Sudan Government endeavoured—by giving to Eritrea a percentage of its profits—to set limits to the amount of water to be taken in Eritrea, and that Eritrea has agreed to restrict itself to a single scheme, and we welcome the fact that Eritrea has now an interest in the success of the crops to be grown under our supervision in the Gash Delta.

To sum up, all that one can say at the moment is that we believe that practically the whole of any water that Eritrea abstracts will be a net loss to us; that no such abstraction entered into the calculations of either negotiating party in framing the terms of our Concession Agreement, and that while the Sudan Government does not admit any legal liability to us in this connexion, and we still hope that abstraction of water on any considerable scale may not take place, if and when any serious abstraction does take place to our detriment, we shall expect to receive due consideration from the Sudan Government, upon whose fairness from past experience we believe we can rely.

Finally, gentlemen, I told you last year that I thought we were exceptionally fortunate in our staff. My visit, at the end of last year, confirmed me in this opinion. I was deeply impressed by the wonderful progress which had been made under the direction of our managing director, Mr. Alexander MacIntyre, and of his deputy, Mr. Poyntz-Wright; by our local manager, Mr. Gray; Mr. Fleming, his assistant; our chief engineer, Mr. Telford; and the other officers and engineers of our local staff, in this trying climate, and over this extensive area. Good brick bungalows have now been erected for their use, assistants have been sent out to reinforce them, and the railway has arrived; so that I hope conditions may now be somewhat easier. The directors have voted a bonus of £1,000 to Mr. Gray and his assistants, who have borne the burden and the heat of the pioneer work, and I feel confident that our action in this matter has your hearty approval.

Mr. F. Eckstein, in seconding the resolution, said:—I wish first of all to associate myself fully with the tribute paid by the chairman to our staff in Kassala. Towards the end of January I revisited all our areas in that district, and I was perfectly amazed to see the work which had been done since my visit just 12 months before. From the managing director downwards, they have all performed wonders, and have used their energy and their brains to make our undertaking a success. They thoroughly deserve a bonus, and, although we cannot show a profit in our books this year, I am quite sure

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you will approve what we have done in this respect and that we should show our gratitude and appreciation.

At the time of my visit our cotton was in full growth, and it looked extremely well; and what was still more pleasing to me was the fact that it was entirely free from pests of any kind. I made there and then a rough calculation as to the probable financial result of our crop, and I have come to the conclusion that in this our first year we shall make all our expenses, we shall make our debenture interest, and have a bit in hand. We have not yet brought in all the cotton from the field to our depots, and consequently we have not ginned and disposed of the whole of our crop, but we have sold about half of it, at very satisfactory prices, and I feel quite sure that if present prices hold my forecast will prove correct. Considering that we are essentially an agricultural undertaking, the results are highly satisfactory, both to your board and, I think, to you.

As regards the difficulties which have arisen with reference to the water of the Gash, both the directors' report and the chairman in his speech have dealt so frankly and so fully with the subject that I need add nothing; but I have every confidence in a bright future for our company.

The Chairman having replied to questions, the resolution was put and carried unanimously.

DOOLOOGRAM TEA COMPANY.

A Satisfactory Year.

Increased Expenditure.

The fifteenth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Dooloogram Tea Company, Ltd., was held at the offices of the company, 50-51, Lime Street, E.C., on June 24, Sir Frederic G. Painter (the chairman) presiding.

Mr. A. M. Halls, the representative of the Secretaries (Messrs. McLeod, Russel and Co.), having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—As the report and accounts have been in your hands for some time, with your permission, I will, as usual, take them as read. It gives me great pleasure to come before you again with quite a satisfactory record of the working of this company for the past season. The result is not up to that of the previous season, and I will explain very shortly why this is so.

Increasing Cost of Labour Force.

You will notice a considerable increase both in the revenue and in the expenditure. The former does not, however, balance with the latter, which is accounted for by several causes, some beyond the control of your directors, principally the rise in exchange. This increased the expenditure by no less a sum than £1,700. Several items of machinery had to be replaced. It has been found necessary to enter on a programme of manuring. This is an expensive item, but will amply repay in due course the expenditure. Buildings have undergone an extensive course of repair.

In addition there is the yearly increasing cost of our labour force. The latter, though burdensome, is one that neither you nor we would wish to avoid, as so much depends on the comfort and contentment of our employees on the gardens. There is no great augmentation in our coolie force; it remains much about the same. We could do with a larger settled force, and thus avoid the expensive employment of village labour. Strong efforts are being made to this end. The question of recruiting, more especially after a good monsoon, is one of great difficulty, and in the meantime no opportunity will be lost.

The Crop.

The outturn was somewhat ahead of the previous year, and realised quite a good average on the London market. The quality was satisfactory, and though some of our gardens do not manufacture teas of high quality, owing to situation, they have the redeeming feature of being carefully manufactured. Our managers have been strictly warned that serious notice will be taken of any falling away in the quality of their manufacture. Estimates have been based accordingly, and up to the present the outturn is about the same level as last year.

I need not say more, as the report and accounts speak for themselves with no unfavourable voice, but if any shareholder wishes for further information I shall be glad to reply to any question to the best of my ability.

I will now move "That the published report and accounts as issued to the shareholders be and are hereby received and adopted; that a final ordinary dividend of 15 per cent., less tax, making 30 per cent., less tax, for the year, be paid forthwith; and that the balance remaining at credit of profit and loss account be disposed of according to the proposals as set forth in the report."

Major Norman McLeod seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

The Chairman next proposed the re-election of Major Norman McLeod as a director of the company.

The motion was seconded by Mr. J. E. Humphrey and unanimously agreed to.

The auditors (Messrs. Tribe, Clarke, Painter Darton and Co.) were re-appointed, and a vote of thanks to the Chairman and directors and the staff in India concluded the proceedings.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA.

The report of the Bank of British West Africa, Ltd., for the year ended March 31 last states that, after providing for current charges (including the contribution of the staff profit-sharing fund), rebate on bills, and for all bad and doubtful debts, there remains £112,352, which, with £35,680 brought forward, makes £148,032. The directors recommend a final dividend of 3 per cent., making a distrubution for the year of 5 per cent., less tax. They also recommend a transfer of £25,000 to contingency fund and £25,000 to writing down premises and furniture, leaving £38,032 to be carried forward. The investments held stand in the balance sheet at less than their market value as at March 31, 1925. In view of the close association which exists between the bank and Lloyds Bank Ltd., the branches at Alexandria and Cairo have been closed, and the business conducted there has been amalgamated with that of Lloyds Bank Ltd., in Egypt, as from June 1, 1925. Two of the directors have joined the Egyptian Committee of Lloyds Bank Ltd.

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The financing of the world's commerce has become one of the most intricate of machines ever constructed, and under the banker's hands lie all the cogs and controls necessary for its efficient running. It is of the utmost importance that the merchant should clearly understand the working of its mechanism in order that he may make the fullest use of the bank's facilities, not only for his personal benefit, but also for the increased commercial prosperity of the country. To assist its customers, the Westminster Bank has now prepared a booklet explaining the many ways in which the commercial man may use the bank for the furtherance of his business, and how he should proceed so as to take the utmost advantage of interest, rebate, discount, rates of exchange, etc., and combine with progress and enterprise the necessary security and caution.

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G.I.P. RAILWAY.

The report of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway for the year ended March 31, 1925, states that the gross earnings (including State lines) were Rs.15,69,27,914, against Rs.14,84,41,758 in 1924; and expenditure Rs.9,41,58,067, against Rs.9,94,58,187. The net revenue was thus Rs.6,27,69,847, against Rs.4,89,83,571. There was an increase of Rs.84,86,156, or 5.72 per cent., in the gross earnings and a decrease of Rs. 53,00,120, or 5.33 per cent., in expenditure, the result being an increase in the net earnings amounting to Rs.1,37,86,276, or 28.14 per cent. The revenue for year (excluding State lines) was Rs.5,80,69,038, against Rs.4,53,52,603, and the total interest charges, Rs.3,69,81,269, against Rs.3,64,34,703, leaving a surplus of Rs.2,10,87,769, as compared with Rs.89,17,900. The company's proportion of surplus profits is Rs.10,54,388, but of this amount the Government withheld Rs.1,50,000, pending the result of certain inquiries. The amount available is therefore Rs.9,04,388, which, after deductions of Indian income-tax and super-tax, leaves Rs.7,66,203, which has been remitted to England at the exchange of 1s. 5 31-32d., producing £57,365, which, with £12,245, the balance at March 31, 1925, makes £69,610. Out of this the directors propose a dividend of £2 per cent., amounting to £51,500, in addition to the £1 10s. per cent. for the half-year guaranteed by the Secretary of State for India. Resolutions are to be moved by stockholders and by the directors with reference to the general business of the company, and the settling up of its affairs on the termination of the working contract with the Secretary of State on June 30. It is proposed that the chairman, managing director, and directors be awarded out of surplus profits account as compensation for loss of office a sum not exceeding £2,750, to be distributed as they may decide, and that the present directors be empowered to grant out of the surplus profits account sums by way of compensation for loss of employment to all or any of the members of the staff not exceeding £7,500. Further, it is proposed to distribute out of the surplus of the past year by way of final dividend among the holders of the 3 per cent. stock registered in the books of the company on June 17, 1925, a dividend to the highest available 1d. per cent. and the remainder transferred to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Annuity Trustees.

CYPRUS ASBESTOS.

The report of the Cyprus Asbestos Company for 1924 states that the aerial railway from the mines to Limassol is in operation. A large warehouse and pier at Limassol have been completed, and the company is in an unequalled position regarding transport facilities. The construction of the new mills is making excellent progress. The buildings for the new mills and central power station have been completed; the whole of the plant has been shipped from England; practically the whole has already arrived in Cyprus. The erection of the machinery is making good progress, and it is expected that the new installations will be completed by August 6 next. The sales of fibre are very satisfactory. The fibre is being shipped as fast as it is manufactured and stocks are practically nil. Orders on company's books amount to about £100,000, and no difficulty is anticipated in selling the contemplated output of 20,000 tons of fibre when the second series of mills has been completed. The fibre in the mines may be regarded for all practical purposes as inexhaustible, and technical difficulties having now been finally overcome, it would seem to be only a question of the erection of the necessary installations to put the company in an unrivalled position in the asbestos industry. On April 27 last authorised capital was increased to £600,000 by creation of 292,500 preferred shares of £1 each and 150,000 deferred shares of 1s. each, ranking pari passu with existing shares. It is proposed shortly to issue a portion of the new capital, and shareholders will be given an opportunity of subscribing.

TEA RESULTS.

The report of the Jokai (Assam) Tea Company for the year 1924, states that the outturn was 9,087,037 lb., an increase of 848,628 lb. The area of mature plant plucked was 11,362 acres, showing an average yield of 800 lb. per acre, as against 727 lb. in the previous year. The crop profit is £252,710, and the total profit, with interest, etc., received, less sundry subscriptions, £11,118, is £263,828. It is proposed to transfer to income-tax liability account £20,000, leaving £243,828; adding £52,037 brought forward, the total is £295,865. The board recommends a final dividend of 30 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary shares, making 45 per cent. for the year; the transfer to the reserve fund of £36,758; to renewals and replacements fund £25,000, and staff provident fund £2,500, leaving to carry forward £52,155.

The Scottish Tea and Rubber Trust announces a final dividend of 9½ per cent., less tax, making 12½ per cent.

The profit of the Tingri Tea Company for 1924 was £43,391, subject to corporation tax. The balance available is £46,444, less transfer to reserve of £10,000. A final dividend of 15 per cent., less tax, is proposed, making 30 per cent., carrying forward £6,210.

The profit of the Bargang Tea Company for 1924 was £16,760, subject to corporation tax. A final dividend is proposed of 15 per cent., less tax, which makes 25 per cent, leaving to be carried forward, subject to corporation tax, £1,331.

The report of the Jorehaut Tea Company for 1924 states that the

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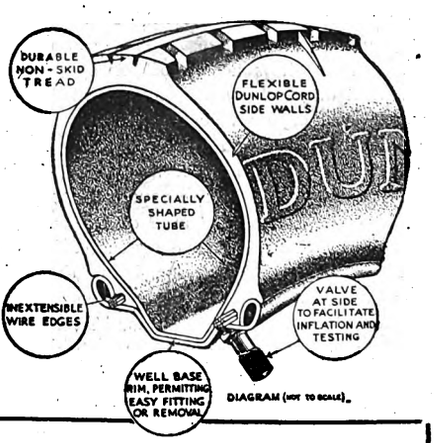
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crop of tea produced amounted to 6,231,576 lb., an increase of 284,167 lb. over 1923. The gross profit is £227,573. Deducting commissions £25,064, directors' extra fees, £8,448, and £1,250 written off estates, leaves a net profit of £192,811. The sum of £9,833 was brought forward, after adjustment of 1923 crop account and payment of corporation profits tax, so that the balance available, subject to corporation profits tax, is £202,644. The reserve fund of £125,000 has been increased to £130,000 by placing to it the par value of 5,000 bonus shares of £1 each received from Butler's Wharf, Ltd., and the directors have decided to allocate out of the profits on the year a sum of £20,000, bringing the reserve fund up to £150,000. The directors recommend a final dividend of 30 per cent., less tax, making for the year 50 per cent., less tax, leaving £11,894 to be carried forward.

The outturn of the Empire of India and Ceylon Tea Company for 1924 was 3,449,841 lb., compared with 5,167,315 lb. in 1923. The net profit was £161,031, plus £12,670 brought forward and £4,342 additional proceeds on account of 1923. The directors recommend a balance dividend of 25 per cent., transferring £1,000 to provident fund, carrying forward £26,269, subject to corporation tax and Indian income-tax.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at April 30, 1925, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes. Banking Department. Liabilities: Share capital (300,000 fully paid shares of £10 each) £E2,925,000, reserve fund: statutory reserve £E1,462,500, special reserve £E901,875, current, deposit, and other accounts £E14,347,288, Egyptian Government £E19,249,982, Sudan Government £E432,873, Mixed Tribunals £E1,655,351, bankers accounts £E463,877, cheques and bills payable £E258,474, sundry other accounts £E562,428—£E42,259,648. Assets: Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government £E27,386,870, sundry securities £E280,364, advances on merchandise £E937,634, advances on securities £E1,875,060, advances otherwise secured £E362,061, sundry other advances £E734,366, bills of exchange £E3,054,326, local bills discounted £E304,333, buildings and furniture £E229,437, money at call and at short notice £E658,125, bankers accounts £4,378,807, sundry other accounts £E111,253; Cash: notes £E1,480,986, gold £E35,950, silver, nickel, etc., £E430,076, £E1,947,012—£E42,259,648. Issue Department: Notes issued £E36,700,000—£E36,700,000. Gold £E3,339,576, *British Treasury Bills £E15,010,424—£E18,350,000. Securities: Egyptian Government securities and securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government £E420,262, British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds £E17,929,738, £E18,350,000—£E36,700,000.

*By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See *Journal Officiel* of October 30, 1916).

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned
(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade 35 Old Queen Street, S.W.)

EGYPT.

Paper.—The Superintendent, Government Press, Bulaq, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of paper, bristol board, and millboard. July 25.

Vessel for Coastguard Duties.—The Director-General, Coastguards and Fisheries Services, Alexandria, invites tenders for the construction of a sea-going vessel for Coastguard duties. August 1.

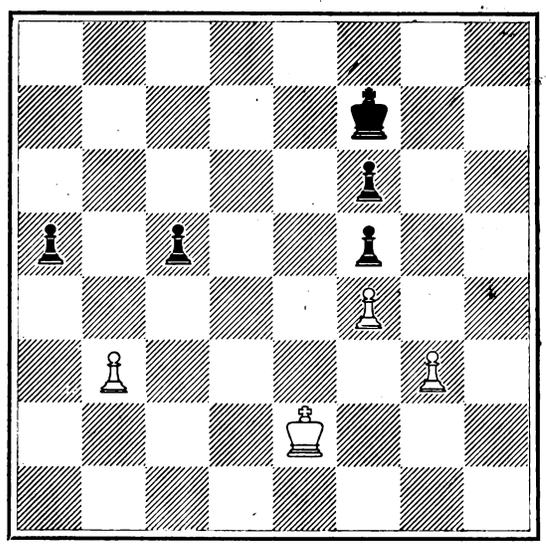
The traffic receipts of the South India Railway Company for the week ended May 30 amounted to Rs.10,67,384, making the total from April 1 Rs.89,06,839.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria	Piastre to £	97⅛	97⅞—⅝
Athens	Drachmæ to £	25 22½	283-288
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	276-281
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.42—20.44
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.03-25.04
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	81/16- 18⅛d.
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	108.30 - .40
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	1.060
Budapest	Kronen to £	4 02	345-347.000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 1/16—18⅛d.
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	900
New York	Dollars to £	4 86 2 3	4.86⅛—4.86 1/16
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	107.30—.40
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	164
Rome	Lire to £	25 22½	136⅞
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	680
Teheran	Krans to £	50	42.15
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	34.55-34 60
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	25.30-25 45

CHESS.

By "CARO-KANN."



White to play—What result?

The termination of the position I gave last week was as follows:—1, R—B3, K—K2; 2, R—K3, B—Q2; 3, RxB, PxR; 4, RxP, resigns. If 1 . . . BxR; 2, RxR, QxR; 3, QxP (ch), BxQ; 4, BxB mate. If 1 . . . BxP (ch); 2, KxB; RxR; 3, R—KR3 and wins.

In my previous notes I merely touched briefly on the main aspects of the Caro-Kann Defence, and I now propose to deal with it in fuller detail. I shall not repeat the initial moves of 1, P—K4, P—QB3; 2, P—Q4, P—Q4 in each variation, but will leave them to be understood.

Taking the exchange variation first, 3, PxP, PxP, as I have already pointed out White, in my opinion, should continue with 4, P—QB4. Black should reply with Kt—KB3 and if 5, Kt—QB3, Kt—B3; 6 PxP, KtxP; 7, Kt—B3, B—Kt 5; 8, B—QKt5 with an excellent game. A very different type of opening is forthcoming if White at the fourth move plays P—QB3. The reply is Kt—KB3, after which might follow 5, B—Q3, B—Kt5; 6, Kt—B3 (best; if P—B3, B—R4, and if Q—Kt3, Q—B2) Q—B2 followed by Kt—B3 and the Black position is to be preferred.

3, P—K5 is not to be recommended. Black plays B—B4, and there would probably follow 4, B—Q3, BxB; 5, QxB, P—K3; 6, Kt—B3, P—QB4; 7, P—QB3 (best) and again Black has rather the better of it, the White centre being very liable to attack.

There remain the positions arising from 3, Kt—QB3. Black is compelled to play PxP, and there follows 4, KtxP, Kt—KB3. If 5, Kt—Kt3, P—K4 and Black has the better of it. If 5, KtxKt (1) KtPxKt; 6, B—QB4, B—B4; 7, Kt—B3, P—K3; 8, B—B4, B—Q3 and there is little in it. If (2) KPxP; 6, B—QB4, and if B—Q3 a possible combination is 7, Q—K2 (ch), Q—K2; 8, QxQ, KxQ; and again there is not much to choose.

In addition to the grants made after reference to the Hebdomadal Council, Magdalen College has also voted sums to the British schools at Athens, Rome, and Jerusalem, to chemical research and Oriental research, and to exploration in Asia Minor.

Mr. A. J. K. Clark Kerr, Counsellor to the Residency in Cairo, has been appointed Counsellor in Tokyo. Mr. Clark Kerr was appointed to Cairo in 1922, having held appointments, among other places, at Teheran and Tangier.

The late Greek Government signed a contract with an Anglo-American group, represented by Mr. Franklin Remington, of the Foundation Co. of New York (says a Reuter message). The contract provides for the reclamation of lakes and swamps in the Salonika plain and the regulation and control of the Vardar river. It is estimated that the proposed works will render 280 square miles of rich agricultural land fit for cultivation, and will also benefit by protection from floods some 800 square miles. The contract amounts to over 26,000,000 dollars, and the financial arrangements have been made through London and New York bankers.

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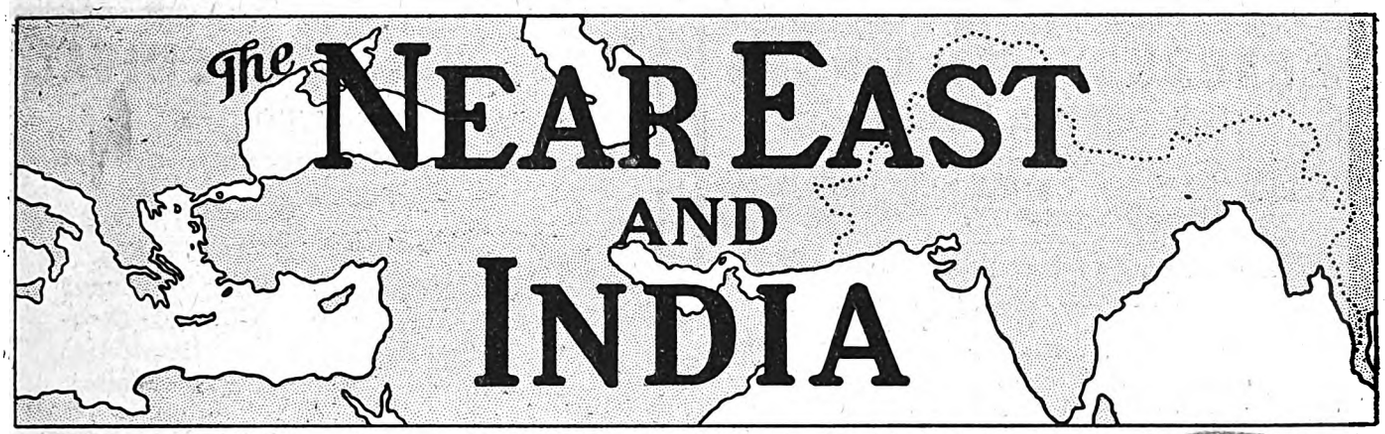

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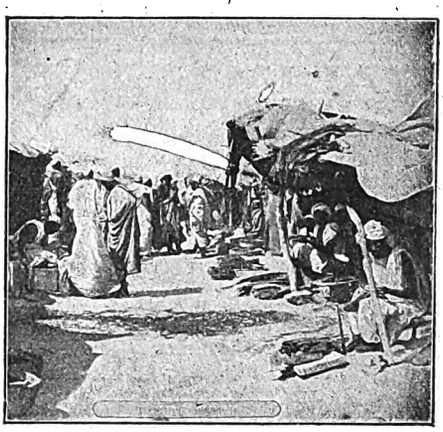

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THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

No. 738.—Vol. XXVIII. THURSDAY, JULY 2, 1925.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	Page
NOTES OF THE WEEK	31
SPECIAL LETTERS—	
Egypt	34
Albania	33
Bulgaria	35
Greece	36
Turkey	36
Iraq	36
Palestine	38
Cyprus	38
Oman	39
SPECIAL ARTICLE—	
Some Footnotes to the History of the War in Asia.—II. ...	46
LEADING ARTICLE—	
The Problem of Iraq	33
THE WEEK AT HOME	49
PERSONAL AND GENERAL ...	40
INDIAN AFFAIRS—	
Special Letters: Calcutta ...	41
Simla ...	44
The Indian Mail	41
Indian Exchange	44
COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
Notes and News	51
Commercial Correspondence ...	52
Progress in Palestine	53
The Foreign Trade of Yugoslavia	54
Engineering Topics	55
Company Meetings—	
(1) Egyptian Hotels	56
(2) Imperial Bank of Persia...	56

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

The New Greek Government.

It is all to the good that General Pangalos has secured without difficulty a vote of confidence in the Greek Chamber; for the last thing that Greece wants to-day is any hiatus in the peaceful administration of the country, with the menace of civil war lurking in the background. As things are, M. Michalokopoulos has done well to bow to the *force majeure* that General Pangalos brought to bear on the political situation, and he will be the first to realise that acceptance of the new order in existing circumstances does not necessarily imply a vote of censure on the painstaking efforts of the late Government to set Greece's house in order. At the same time it is acknowledged on all sides that General Pangalos in office is shaping better than his threatening attitude when in opposition promised. The change of Government has been effected with much less bitterness than might have been expected. An experienced and tactful diplomatist, M. Rendis, has been appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs, and General Pangalos's programme contains nothing to cause alarm. The Constitution is to be revised, the Constituent Assembly will come to an end, and during the parliamentary recess the Cabinet requires authority to issue decrees on certain subjects, if occasion requires. M. Rendis has subsequently repudiated any imperialistic views for the new Government, as well as any desire to embark upon "adventures." There are to be no excessive military preparations. Twelve Greek generals have at once been placed on the retired list, four of them members of the National Assembly. Whether an attempt is made to create political feeling out of this step will depend largely on the control that the Prime Minister is able to keep on the general situation. He has struck the right note in advocating a reconciliation between the parties, for the Greek people is manifestly wearied of political strife.

Palestine Under the Mandate.

British policy in Palestine has been criticised on the political side; but it would not be an unfair summary of the results obtained during the last five years in the economic sphere to say that there are to-day two blades of grass growing where only one, sometimes none, grew before the War. Sir Herbert Samuel, the out-going High Commissioner, is, therefore, entitled to the optimism of his farewell message to the people of Palestine. The country, he holds, shows every sign of growing prosperity. Agriculture, industry, and commerce are developing. The population is rapidly increasing. There is an accumulated balance of revenue over expenditure of over £600,000. It has been possible to reduce the taxation that lay heavily upon the cultivator. The railway and postal services are sufficient and are remunerative to the State. More than six hundred miles of new roads have been built, public security has been completely maintained, and progress has been made in elimination of malaria and other diseases that affected the population. Nearly two hundred new village schools have been opened, and antiquities of the country of the deepest interest to the world at large have been safeguarded. The Government has taken every opportunity to promote a greater spirit of harmony between the many religious communities comprised within this varied population, which efforts have had results. Sir Herbert Samuel admits that very much remains to be done, but claims that the work of these five years has not been unfruitful. The picture that he draws, it will be readily admitted by those who can dissociate themselves from political controversy, is worthy of British administration. The fact that here and there holes can be picked and flaws found does not materially detract from the merit of the achievement. The task before the new High Commissioner will be to increase the harmony between the different sections of

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the community until it achieves a practical result in co-operation.

Turkey and the Kurds.

Sheikh Said, the leader of the recent revolt among the Kurds in Asia Minor, has paid the penalty for his unsuccessful rising. Together with a number of his compatriots he was sentenced to death by a military court, and the executions followed shortly afterwards. The Turkish Press has remained faithful to the anti-British lead officially given to it at the outbreak of the revolt, and records as among the last words uttered by the Sheikh his answer to a question put to him by the Turkish Commander as to who was the greatest enemy of Turkey. The reply, needless to say, was "The British," but the Turkish Press does not state whether this "disclosure" is to be regarded as contradicting the allegation that the Sheikh had received encouragement from the British or as confirming it. As an execution-ground repentance it deserved the more dramatic *dénouement* that a commutation of the death sentence would have provided; but these apparently are heights of propaganda to which the Turkish authorities cannot yet soar. The importance given to the Sheikh's opinion suggests that the Dervish leader succeeded in convincing the court that tried him of the purely religious aspect of his rising, and his statement is intended to mark the solidarity of Turkish public opinion, whether loyal or rebellious, in its hostility to Great Britain. As Ahmed Ferid Bey, Turkish Ambassador to the Court of St. James's, presented his Letters of Credence to the King last Saturday, there is evidently "bad staff work" somewhere in the official circles in Angora.

Political Rapprochement in Yugoslavia.

After many vicissitudes, a working agreement between the Radicals in Yugoslavia under M. Pashitch and the Raditch Party, it is reported, is on the point of being consummated. During the period while M. Pashitch is under treatment for his illness, the leadership of the Radical Party is in the hands of M. Juritchitch, the Acting Prime Minister, M. Trifkovitch, President of the Skupshtina, and M. Zivkovitch, President of the Radical Club. One of the first acts of this Triumvirate was to enter into negotiations with M. Paul Raditch as a result of a Memorandum addressed by the latter to M. Pashitch. Joint sessions of the representatives of the two parties have been held, and the favourable tenour of the *communiqués* issued by the conference is regarded as foreshadowing an early settlement. The formation of a new Cabinet under M. Pashitch is expected, in which a number of seats will be given to members of the Raditch Party, who have agreed to accept the existing Constitution and certain Bills already submitted to Parliament. Various reforms in the Administration, however, will be introduced as a concession to Croatian opinion, and M. Stefan Raditch will be liberated and pardoned. An agreement of this nature is clearly in the interests of Yugoslavia; it should not only create in the country a feeling of greater stability, but should also inspire confidence abroad and facilitate the granting of much-needed loans.

Excavations at Athens.

From the United States comes the announcement that a concession for archæological excavation in the centre of Athens has been granted by the Greek Government to the American School of Classical Studies. More than forty American Universities and Colleges will participate in the work. The concession, which covers a large portion of the city lying immediately north and east of the Acropolis, is likely to entail the removal of some hundred thousand inhabitants for whom accommodation will have to be found elsewhere at the expense of the concessionaires. The potential value of this site for archæological research has long been known to the Greeks and to all interested in the subject. Frequently during the last generation, when in the course of rebuilding it has been necessary to carry the new foundations to a lower level, archæological discoveries have been made, such as a burial ground in Stadium Street, and a fine Praxitilean female head in what used to be called the Rue des Muses. But the cost of excavations on an organised scale has hitherto been regarded as prohibitive. The quarter of the city involved would seem to stretch from the Acropolis to Museum Station and Hermes Street; part of it is occupied by small houses and shops, and there are in it, apart from the site of the Agora, such familiar landmarks as the "Tower of the Winds," the Keramicos, and the Stoa of Hadrian.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Near and Middle East Association on Egypt, was held at the Hyde Park Hotel on Friday evening last, Sir Denison Ross being in the chair. During an address on Egypt by Lord Edward Gleichen, exception was taken to some of the speaker's remarks by the representatives of the Egyptian Legation in London, who left the room by way of protest. (On the presentation next day of an apology by General Gleichen to the Egyptian Legation, the incident was closed.) Subsequently a paper on the question of the Jaghbub Oasis, written by Captain Dixon Johnson, was read (extracts from which will appear in another issue). Among those present were: Lord Hemington, Lord Headley, Prince Arasteh, Princess Kropotkine, General Sir George Macauley, Sir Gerald Stricland, M.P., The Countess Paoli de St. Georges, Sir Harry Lamb, Sir John Fraser, Sir Henry and Lady Penson, Lady Sprigge, Lady Downes, Madame Yovanovitch, Mr. E. Nelky, Major F. F. Rynd, Mrs. L. Cobham, Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. Leland Buxton, Mr. A. H. Hooker, Dr. Thomas Gann, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Spender, Mr. and Mrs. James Conchie, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Dick, Mr. St. John Philby, Rev. Gordon Ponsonby, Mrs. Charlotte Mansfield, Miss Durham, Captain Russell Sidebotham, Colonel and Mrs. St. John Cooke, Mr. Yusuf Ali, and Mrs. Charles Hancock.

THE PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM.

Mgr. Damianos, Patriarch of Jerusalem, attended by the Archbishop of the Jordan, on July 1, visited St. John's Gate, the headquarters of the Grand Priory of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England. His Beatitude was received by Major-General Sir Percival Wilkinson, the Secretary-General, Colonel Cameron of Lundavra, the secretary, and other members of the Order, one of whom, Mr. H. C. Luke, who was at one time Assistant-Governor of Jerusalem, acted as interpreter. In visiting the adjoining Church of St. John, Clerkenwell, which was originally built by the Order, Mgr. Damianos was interested to learn that it had been first consecrated in 1147 by the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem during the period when the Throne of the Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem was, for political reasons, vacant.

The Bulgarian Sobranye concluded its sittings last Thursday. It will reassemble on September 1.

Recent arrivals in Peshawar from Afghanistan state that six Soviet aeroplanes, which are flying from Moscow to Pekin, were expected at Kabul from Tarmez, Bokhara, on June 20. The Ameer and his Court turned out to witness the arrival, but the aeroplanes did not appear and had not arrived when the informants left.

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THURSDAY, JULY 9, 1925.

THE PROBLEM OF IRAQ.

Both in respect of responsibility incurred for, and her actual position in, Iraq and Palestine, Great Britain has been subjected to a considerable amount of promiscuous criticism. However convincingly the challenge may have been met, an impression is left that the acceptance of the Mandates was a mistake, if only because there is no immediate profit to be derived from them and any chance of ultimate gain is remote. Against this line of reasoning the moral argument carries little weight; but in view of the interest that the controversy arouses it is at least the duty of those who are opposed to the Mandates to give to official or to strictly impartial statements of conditions in the territories in question as much attention as they are prepared to devote to the prejudiced versions of partially informed and possibly disappointed critics. During the past week or so Iraq has been brought to public notice on two occasions by the publication of the Report on the Financial Mission appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to inquire into the financial position and prospects of the Government of Iraq, and again in a speech delivered by Mr. L. S. Amery at the Annual Dinner of the Central Asian Society. The Secretary of State for the Colonies, it may be objected, was merely speaking to his brief; but there was one part in his interesting speech to which reference may here be made. He paid a well deserved tribute to the British officials who over a period of years have been responsible for the introduction of civil government and for the gradual establishment of order, law and progress in a country which for centuries had had a distant and dubious acquaintance with the first two and had been a complete stranger to the third. In the controversy over Great Britain's position in Iraq the sterling and unobtrusive work done by the British official is apt to be overlooked; he is identified with the British Government's policy, and the merits of his services as interpreter to the Middle East of all that Great Britain stands for in her relations with Eastern peoples are ignored. Mr. Amery paid to British achievement in Iraq the high compliment of comparing it with the British achievement in Egypt, and it is of interest to bear his tribute in mind when we come to read the critical analysis to which the position in Iraq to-day is subjected in the Report issued by Mr. E. Hilton Young, M.P., and Mr. R. V. Vernon.

The authors of the Report are not concerned with the wisdom of unwisdom of the Mandate, nor have they any motive in making the worse appear the better cause. Their own reputation stands or falls by the accuracy of their diagnosis of the actual position and by the soundness and practicability of their recommendations. It is merely in the course of their dispassionate review of existing conditions that the reader gleans here and there a point which throws light on the larger question, the moral aspect of Great Britain's responsiblity in Iraq. The authors would not subscribe to the contention put forward with such assurance by some critics in regard to Palestine, on the strength of Arab dissatisfaction with the Balfour Declaration, that the Arabs were better off under Turkey than they are under the British Mandate. "Comparing the best statistics available for the collection of Land Revenue in Turkish times (1910-11) and now (1922-24), we find that the reduction in its burdens may be considered as a very substantial offset to the apparent increases of Customs burdens. That the taxpayer gets better value for his money in security and public services is certain. Perhaps the greatest improvement from his point of view, next to security for life and property, is equality in the collection of taxation, in contrast with the Turkish method of compelling the law-abiding to make up for the deficiencies of the lawless. In general, the burden of taxation is undoubtedly less now than it was in Turkish times. Nor is it high on any absolute standard." Elsewhere we read: "The country has suffered from centuries of educational starvation, and it stands at a point in its career as a nation when the development of knowledge and understanding in its future citizens is almost the greatest need of the moment. We are glad to learn that there has already been substantial progress beyond the Turkish standard, that this is especially visible in the increased number of teachers and pupils, and that the necessity of training Iraqis for the work of teachers is realised and already to some extent met." Or again, in a country "where a number of fell diseases are endemic, where the perils of plague and cholera epidemics are imminent, and where typhus is a regular visitor . . . , where great pilgrimage centres constitute inevitable foci of infection," it is satisfactory to learn that in the opinion of these observers the Health Services of Iraq does bring home to the people the lesson that 'peace, order and good government' do contribute some tangible benefits, and the service "is probably unique in a Muslim country." Iraq, however, sees financial difficulties looming ahead. "It lacks much of the apparatus essential for a developed State. It started life without a financial balance. As an independent State it has to support an administration which is necessarily far more expensive than its former one, with all the institutions of self-government, and those higher standards in the discharge of State services which are inevitably required of a progressive Government. In these circumstances, the present scale of expenditure on social development and on the apparatus and organs of Government is not more in general than the country requires. It may be more than is possible, and indeed we recommend reductions in view of the financial circumstances; but it is not more than desirable."

With this caveat in defence of those who laid the foundations of the new Iraq and now find the country overtaken with a world-wide stagnation of trade, the Mission indicates how, in its opinion, Iraq should set about cutting its coat according to its cloth. The salaries of civil servants, police salaries and military pay account together for over forty-four per cent. of the total estimated expenditure. Clearly economies must be affected here, but the problem is too complicated to be dealt with from within; and the Report recommends the appointment of a committee, embodying preferably Egyptian experience and including some responsible member of the commercial community of Baghdad. Substantial reductions are urged in the departments of Agriculture, Irrigation and Public Works. It is not denied that the money which it is proposed to spend will serve useful purposes, with the promise of yielding good returns on the outlay, but the overriding consideration that has to be faced is that funds cannot be spared from revenue for the investment, nor in the present state of the country's credit can the funds be borrowed. In the matter of Irrigation works it is pointed out that postponement will enable in some instances essential hydraulic and soil surveys to be made, the absence of which in the past have militated against the success of certain works undertaken prematurely. Finally, the Report provides evidence that the British Government has not been unmindful of the British taxpayer in its dealings with Iraq. The authors do not hesitate to urge the cancellation of some of the harsher bargains imposed on the Iraqis, and suggest that in negotiations over Iraq's share of the Ottoman Debt, His Majesty's Government should lend assistance to Iraq and not feel under any obligation to regard themselves as trustees for the bondholders. Whether she was right or wrong to do so, the fact remains that in Iraq as in Palestine, Great Britain has put her hand to a plough which cannot suddenly be abandoned. Common interests are at stake, and she must stand by the people until the common goal in view is reached.

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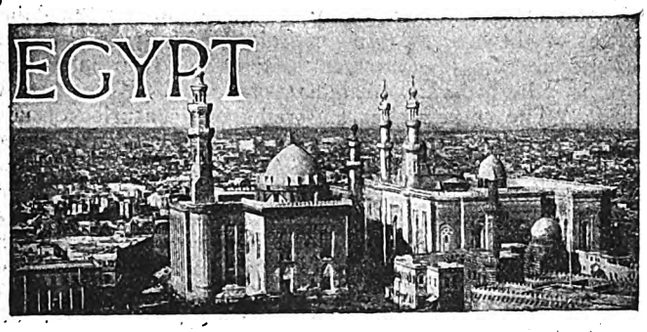
The Near and Middle East*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, June 28.

A Dull Period.

Rumours of a minor Cabinet crisis and of the resignation of the Minister of Justice, which were current towards the end of the week, have been officially denied, and outwardly the local political world is as dull as it has been now for many weeks. The Prime Minister is preparing to go on leave to Europe, his visit to include, it is said, a short private stay in London, and during his absence everything is likely to be quieter than ever. The acting Premier will be Yehia Pasha Ibrahim, who is due back from Europe on July 7. The only possible source of excitement during the next few months appears to be the cleavage between the Liberal Constitutional and Unionist parties, a division which has already caused tension between the two groups which form the present Coalition Ministry, and which may one day involve a Ministerial crisis of importance, although that day does not yet seem to be near at hand.

Party Politics.

Nevertheless, the Liberal Constitutional Party watches with a jealous eye the very strenuous efforts now being made to popularise the Unionist party in the provinces. Just as, during the Ministry of Sarwat Pasha, the administrative machine was used to press provincial notables into the ranks of the Liberal Constitutionals, and to enrol subscribers to the party's newspaper, *Al Siyassa*, while under Zaghloul Pasha's Ministry officials were used as a part of the Wafd's organisation, so now provincial officials have been enrolled as propagandists for the Unionists. Delegations from the party's central organisation in Cairo tour the provinces, stirring Mudirs to action in behalf of the cause, urging officials to use their influence on the side of the party of Unity, collecting money for the party funds, and boosting the circulation of the *Ittehad*. These tactics are meeting with a good deal of success, and deplorable as is this utilisation of the Administration to serve party ends, it has now been practised by three Governments, representing three different parties, and must therefore be considered as being, at least in the present stage of Egyptian political development, a general and inevitable feature.

The Liberal Constitutionals, indulging in the complete inactivity which is their constant rôle, excepting on the eve of an election, are temporarily eclipsed by their much more active allies and are beginning to feel that the co-operation of friends can be more dangerous than the hostility of enemies. This sentiment applies perhaps more as between the parties than where the two groups in the Cabinet are concerned, for Ziwar Pasha has more than once declared that his colleagues, Liberal Constitutionals and Unionists, are pulling together as one united team, and hitherto there has been no visible sign of Ministerial discord, although it is known that one or two of the Ministers have had some little difficulty in giving their assent to certain recent decisions, particularly that relating to the Government's remarkable exchange of 2,700 feddans of fertile Delta land for a palace at Abbassia of somewhat limited utility. Up to the present time there has been nothing which in itself deserves great attention, but activities and tendencies along the lines indicated are worth watching now as possible symptoms of future developments.

Syrian Medical Officers.

Twenty-eight Syrian medical officers of the Egyptian Army have recently been placed on pension in circumstances which have aroused surprise and sympathy in Egyptian circles, which usually waste little solicitude on Christians in general and Syrian officials in particular. Informed by the Government that the withdrawal of the Egyptian Army from the Sudan makes their services superfluous, these medical officers have, from June 24, been compulsorily retired, all long before reaching the age-limit, and some at ages when their pensions are very small, without compensation of any kind. Adding to their discontent, the Ministry of War has made the retirement effective from June 24, when the majority of them have still before them several weeks of leave granted them on full pay. What makes these doctors' case all the harder is that, while they are all pensionable and entitled, as is every permanent official, to be kept in the service, failing misconduct on his part, or other good reason for his discharge, until attaining the age-limit, or, if prematurely dispensed with, to be indemnified for the lost years of service and loss of the normal pension, yet the Government has retained many Egyptian doctors on yearly contract who are entitled to no pension or compensation and whose services the Government could dispense with at the end of any year. The Syrian doctors were, for the most part, engaged for service in the Sudan at a period when Egyptian medical men refused to go to that country, and the excellent service they have rendered is testified to by both their Egyptian and British superior officers. It will be remembered that two Syrian medical men were murdered by mutineers at Khartoum last Autumn. In the circumstances it is but natural that the Residency, as it has done, should occupy itself with their case, and it is generally hoped that through this intervention justice may be secured for these men, who will otherwise be turned adrift with very inadequate pensions at an age when it is most difficult to start out in civilian practice in competition with other medical men who have established during the fifteen to twenty years that most of the discharged army doctors have spent in the Sudan.

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ALBANIA.

Tirana, July 1.

The Bank Concession.

The Bill granting a Concession to the Italian Bank "Il Credito Italiano" with a view to establishing a National

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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Albanian Issue and Credit Bank, has been passed by Parliament and has received the President's assent.

The Concession provides for the immediate creation of a National Bank with a capital of 12,000,000 gold lire (approximately £480,000). Fifty per cent. of the capital will be subscribed in Albania, and this money has already been guaranteed. The remaining 50 per cent will be found by the Credito Italiano in Italy, with or without the co-operation of other groups.

Opening Up Albania.

The Bank will have its headquarters at Tirana, and will be the Government Bank and State Treasury. It will possess, moreover, a monopoly for the issue of all token moneys whether in notes or in coin. The nature of the business it will transact will be restricted to pure banking —that is, it will have nothing directly to do with the promotion of industrial concerns involving the locking up of its capital. Simultaneously, however, with the creation of the Bank, a Development Company is to be formed with an initial capital of 15,000,000 paper lire (approx. £115,000) having as its object the promotion of the industrial development of the country. The Credito Italiano has underwritten the subscriptions of the capital, 50 per cent of which is open to subscription by Albanian subjects. One of its first tasks will be to carry out an industrial survey of Albania, with a view to gauging the potential resources of the country, which is supposed to possess considerable mineral wealth—and to formulate proposals for developing them. The Company will have the option on equal terms of any new State concessions to be granted, and will naturally have the backing of the Bank.

A preliminary loan to be expended under the direction of the Bank for the improvement of communications (roads, bridges and portual facilities) has been promised by the Concessionaires.

Albanians and Foreign Enterprise.

The credit for these measures, which should result in great benefits to Albania, is due to Mufid Bey Lipohova, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and ad interim Minister of Finance, and to his brother the newly-appointed Minister in Rome. These men are to be congratulated on their sense of realities and on their firmness in resisting the attacks of a large and uniformed (but not for that matter the less menacing, because intensely patriotic) body of opinion. Sacrifices, however, have got to be made, if a beginning is to be made at all. Albania cannot be developed without foreign capital, so that if development is wanted (which is the same as saying that if Albania is to emerge from its actual primitive conditions in order to become a well-to-do modern State) sufficient inducements must be held out to tempt foreign capital to flow into the country. This the brothers Lipohova have done, and they are likely thereby to earn the gratitude of posterity.

Sofia, June 30.

Relations With Yugoslavia.

Among the many thousand persons arrested in Bulgaria after the Cathedral outrage were seven or eight Yugoslavs. It appears that on several occasions the Yugoslav Government asked for information regarding the accusations levelled against its subjects, at the same time requesting that they should be speedily brought to trial or, failing that, expelled from the country. Having, so it is said, found the Bulgarian Government explanations unsatisfactory, Yugoslavia decided to close its frontier to all persons holding Bulgarian passports. As soon as this had been done the Bulgarian Government made an inquiry into the position of the Yugoslavs who had been arrested. It was ascertained that five had been liberated, one was still in prison, and one was missing. It is understood that the Yugoslav Government was made acquainted with these facts, and it was hoped that the incident would be considered more or less closed. Yesterday, however, Yugoslavia addressed another Note to Sofia, wherein, besides referring to her arrested subjects, complaints were made that armed Bulgarian bands had been causing trouble along the South-Eastern frontier of Yugoslavia. Much speculation has been aroused by the Yugoslav attitude regarding the above mentioned matters. It seems that the bands in question are alleged to have caused trouble about a month ago, and it is asked why diplomatic representations were not then made. It is felt that Yugoslavia is acting in a somewhat curious manner. All the same, there is no question that if a Yugoslav subject is found to be missing, which is to-day almost equivalent to being killed, the matter cannot rest there. Further inquiries will have to be made and those responsible for this occurrence will have to be punished.

The Sobranye.

To-morrow the Sobranye ends its session, and the deputies disperse for their summer vacation. Owing to political disturbances there has not been very much constructive legislation passed during the recent session. The Pernik coal-mine has become autonomous, and there is a plan to put the State Printing Works on the same basis. Indemnities have been voted for families and relatives of victims in the Cathedral explosion. Several insurance measures have been discussed and a certain amount of routine administrative matters put through.

There has been much talk regarding a reconstruction of the Cabinet, but so far nothing definite has transpired. It may, however, be said that there is a quite strong current of opinion which believes that some kind of reconstruction is very necessary. Those people who favour a reconstruction do not yet seem to be in a position to enforce it, so it is probable that until the autumn the Cabinet will remain as at present constituted.

Refugees from Greece.

The influx of refugees, or, correctly speaking, *emigrés*, from Greece continues. The majority enter Bulgaria by way of Svilengrad, although a few cross on foot into Petritch. Practically all those that come in *via* Svilengrad have handed in declarations to the League of Nations Greek-Bulgarian Commission. The latter has valued their properties, houses, and belongings and the *emigrés* should in time receive compensation. Meanwhile they are distributed between various towns and villages in Southern and South-Eastern Bulgaria. Most of them are agriculturists and are only too ready to work. Land has been granted to the majority of these *emigrés*, but there is a serious lack of agricultural machinery and implements. Nearly every family has four, five, or more children, and their condition is far from satisfactory. Macedonian and

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Thracian organisations, the Bulgarian Red Cross, and in a few isolated cases private initiative are doing their best to aid these unhappy people, but there is a gradually growing belief that a more comprehensive scheme will be required to put the refugees on their feet. During the winter much hardship is to be anticipated, while the conditions under which the refugees live is readily calculated to breed discontent which may easily be fanned by Communist and other agitators.

News in Brief.

M. Stanislas Baronovsky, the new Polish Minister, has presented his Letters of Credence to King Boris.

It is reported that Ilia Pandursky, a well known Macedonian *Komitaji* belonging to the Federalist section of the Macedonians, has been assassinated in Macedonia.

On Sunday, the 28th, a new double line of tramways connecting Sofia with Kniajevo, was opened. Kniajevo is some five miles out of Sofia, and has hitherto been served by a single line which proved very unsatisfactory to travellers.

GREECE.

Athens, June 26.

The "Revolution."

The discontent which has been smouldering for some weeks among the officers of the Army broke out last night, and Athens awoke this morning to find a revolution a *fait accompli*—or almost so. Troops were guarding the Parliament House, National Bank, Telegraph Office, and so on, but it was not quite clear whose troops they were. It is even reported that troops of both factions were guarding the same building. The adherence of the fleet to the movement was secured during the night, and Admiral Hajikyriakos has assumed command. The movement has also the support of the garrisons in Salonika and Patras. The protagonists on either side are Generals Pangalos and Kondylis respectively; what principles are involved is not so clear. There is no disturbance, and though most shops in the centre of the town are closed this morning, the streets are full of people going about their business. M. Michalokopoulos has resigned, and it was at first stated that M. Papanastasiou was to form a coalition Government. (It will be remembered that he was the first Prime Minister of the Republic, fifteen months ago. Since that time there have been, including M. Michalokopoulos' resignation and return to office a week ago, six changes of government.) This morning's papers, however, bring the news that General Pangalos himself is Prime Minister and Minister of War.

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Aeroplane Work at Phaleron.

Work on the new British aeroplane factory at Phaleron is proceeding quickly, and the plant is reported to be ready. According to the terms of the agreement, six aeroplanes will be completed and handed over to the Government within three months from July 1.

Drainage Works in Macedonia.

It was proposed to lay before Parliament for approval the contract between the Greek Government and the Anglo-American Company "Foundation," for the drainage works in Macedonia. Whether this will now be held up remains to be seen, but the final stage of the negotiations had been reached. Objections had been raised that the profits the company would realise were excessive. A long article in the *Eleftheros Typos* for June 21 points out that the system on which the agreement is based excludes the possibility of excessive profit or of indifferent work, and the scale of profit is considerably smaller than that allowed to the Eulen Company, which is undertaking the water supply of Athens, while the risks are considerably greater. The "Foundation" Company undertakes to drain and have ready for cultivation within 18 months from the date of signature of the agreement, 100,000 stremmata—and in five years to have the whole plain round Salonika available for agriculture. This area includes the swamps round the mouths of the Vardar, Haliakmon, and Galliko rivers, as well as the three lakes of Ardzan, Amatoro, and Yénitze, districts at present notorious for malaria. The advantages to be gained for Greece by this undertaking are incalculable. With a refugee population already settled on the spot, for the most part agriculturists, market gardeners, and tobacco-growers, it is clear that this part of Macedonia has a great future before it, and in a few years Greece may well become self-supporting.

A Bronze of the Fourth Century B.C.

The discovery by fishermen near Marathon of an almost complete bronze statue of the late 4th century B.C. has aroused great interest. It lay, according to the reports, at a depth of forty fathoms. It represents a boy of about fifteen years old, upright, holding some flat object in his left hand, and with his right hand upraised. The statue is in excellent condition. The toes of the right foot, and the object he holds, alone are missing. The style closely resembles that of the statue found off the island of Cerigotto in 1901, but the present statue is smaller, being only four feet high.

This and the statue recently found by the British School at Sparta are the chief archæological sensations of the year.

The Schliemann House.

It is announced that the fine house of Mrs. Schliemann in University Street may become the property of the Government, and be used as a Byzantine Museum. Everyone who has visited Athens knows the Schliemann House with its elegant facade. It is much to be hoped that the project will be realised, as the Byzantine Museum is quite inadequately housed in its present quarters.

Constantinople, June 30.

The Last of the Kurds.

The curtain has been rung down on the last act of the Kurdish insurrection and Sheikh Said, and forty-six of his co-revolutionists have paid the heaviest penalty for

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their indiscretions. Yesterday's papers contained repulsive detailed accounts by eye witnesses of the last moments of these traitors, including a vivid description of the actual execution which took place to the accompaniment of joyful applause from the public amassed to witness the looked-forward-to spectacle. At the last moment Sheikh Said contributed additional satisfaction by repeating the allegation that the English are Turkey's greatest enemy.

Now that this last important chastisement of the instigators and active participators in the insurrectional movement has been administered preventive measures are constituting the question of prime importance to be considered by the Tribunal of Independence. One very effective measure which has already been decided upon and put into execution is the closing of all *tekkés*. The latter are a sort of small chapel similar to Dervish retreats which were used by sheikhs for the practising of sorcery and which are stated to have served during the recent troubles as meeting places for the misguided exponents on Kurdish independence. There are, however, many points still to be cleared up regarding various and vast organisations which are said to have been connected with the insurrection, and investigations are yet being pursued during which incriminating documents continue faithfully to roll in.

Officialdom and Religion.

The fête of Kourban Bairam commences to-morrow, but although official departments will close for the four days as usual, no official receptions are to be held this year. It is becoming increasingly evident that the present Government intends that in future religion shall have no connection or bearing whatsoever on Turkey's official side of life. The arrival here of only 10,000 sheep as compared with 20,000 last year for the celebration of Bairam would also appear to be evidence of the falling off of numbers now keeping the ancient custom.

General News.

Amongst the modifications in Turkish legislation made by the Special Commission for the Amendment of Laws formed under the presidency of the Minister of Justice, appears that of the right of heritage. Women will, in future enjoy all advantages which up to the present have been enjoyed by men. In addition monogamy will be decreed and the notarial registration of all marriages becomes obligatory.

The *Echo de Turquie*, a bilingual periodical (French and Turkish) edited by Réchad Noury Bey makes its first appearance to-morrow at Angora. This will be the first publication in a foreign language which has yet been edited in the interior of Anatolia, and it is reported that the *Echo de Turquie* will, later on, also possess an English section. The first edition deals primarily, with political, public, social and economic life, Occidental art and finance and agriculture.

Since the death of the *Orient News*, Constantinople has been deprived of its only English newspaper. This has been a cause of constant complaint on the part of the small British colony here, which certainly requires some medium of communication and advertisement other than the existing French Press. It is, however, impossible to publish an English paper in Constantinople without some serious subsistence being guaranteed, as a circulation of only three hundred does not pay for the paper used.

IRAQ.

Baghdad, June 24.

The Cabinet.

The Cabinet has fallen, owing to disagreement between the Prime Minister and his Minister of Interior, Abdul Muhsin Beg as Sa'dun. Yasin Pasha handed his resignation to the King on June 21.

Except in Mosul, Suleimaniyeh, and Arbil, the elections by secondary electors of deputies for Parliament were held all over Iraq on June 8. It is noteworthy that the leaders of the two chief political parties in Baghdad have both failed in the elections. Jaafar Pasha al Askari holds two seats, so that in view of his London appointment a by-election may be necessary. It is reported that the Baghdad Election Committee is not satisfied that the voting in the districts of Samawah and Kadhimain was conducted without interference.

Suleimaniyeh.

Since the attack on the Levies, reported in my last letter, the situation round Suleimaniyeh has been comparatively quiet, and no opposition was shown to a mixed column which marched to Halebja and back. The decision to occupy the town of Choartah, thus carrying the war into the very heart of the enemy's country, involved the construction of a strong post near the Amin Pass, between Suleimaniyeh and Choartah. It was in the defence of this post that Captain Coffey lost his life. Choartah was occupied without opposition on June 6, although Sheikh Mahmoud with a large body of followers was known to be in the neighbourhood.

Turkish Severities.

Bishop Timotheus of Zakho has telegraphed to King Faisal for help for the Christian inhabitants of the Goyan district, whose villages have been occupied by the Turks. A priest and his son have been carried off to Constantinople, and the people are, according to the Bishop, in grave danger of "annihilation." The inhabitants of this district, with some of the neighbouring Kurds, appealed to the Mosul Frontier Commission for inclusion in Iraq. Later reports state that the Muslims as well as the Christians are being treated with great severity. Many villages have been burned, and a number of headmen shot. As the Goyan district lies just north of the Brussels line, no action can be taken by Iraq officials on the frontier, in spite of numerous appeals for protection.

Mosul.

Reports from Mosul of impending famine, owing partly to the severity of the winter and partly to the depredations of locusts, are so serious that it has been decided to inaugurate a relief measure. Preliminary work on the new Mosul-Kirkuk railway line, which would not otherwise have been begun for some months, is to be put in hand at once, and it is hoped that employment for about 1,000 men may be provided.

General.

His Majesty King Faisal is taking a short holiday at his farm at Khanikin.

The two men of the Dulaim tribe who, after a cross-desert pursuit, were arrested by the Iraq police in connection with the attack on a convoy of the Eastern Transport Company on March 5, have been condemned to death by the Baghdad Court of Sessions. They were found guilty of robbery and of the murder of Mme. Maillard, wife of the French Vice-Consul in Baghdad, who was killed by a shot intended for the driver of the car. Great satisfaction is felt here that the full penalty of the law is to be exacted, for apart from popular indignation and sympathy, the feeling is very general that on the security of the desert routes depends to a great extent the future prosperity of Iraq.

The report of the Financial Commission has now been translated into Arabic, and has been circulated to the Ministries, with a request from the Prime Minister for comments by each on such recommendations as affect its own sphere of work.

Baghdad is eagerly discussing how best to use the Maude Memorial Fund, which amounts to about one and

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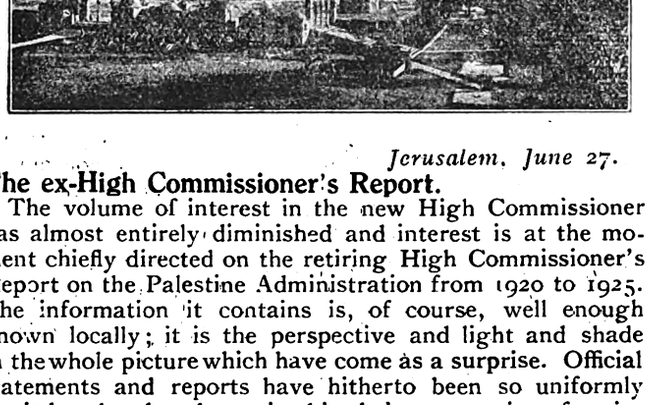
a half lakhs of rupees. The High Commissioner has asked for suggestions from the public as to the purpose to which the money shall be devoted. The columns of the *Baghdad Times* are open to suggestions, which have ranged so far from an Aviation School to a Lunatic Asylum. The fund was originally intended for a memorial gateway outside the north gate of the city, but it was later decided that the money might more wisely be used for something which, while still commemorative of the great General, might also be useful to the citizens.



Jerusalem, June 27.

The ex-High Commissioner's Report.

The volume of interest in the new High Commissioner has almost entirely diminished and interest is at the moment chiefly directed on the retiring High Commissioner's Report on the Palestine Administration from 1920 to 1925. The information it contains is, of course, well enough known locally; it is the perspective and light and shade in the whole picture which have come as a surprise. Official statements and reports have hitherto been so uniformly strait-laced and so determined in their suppression of praise or condemnation of Arab or Jew, that Palestinians, and especially the Jews, are left slightly breathless at the outspokenness of this new document. Up to the present very little Arab comment has appeared: it cannot be expected to be anything but vigorously condemnatory. The Arab Press and politicians have a much higher esteem of their methods and worth than has Sir Herbert. But the shock to the Jews has been most marked. The retiring High Commissioner's references, almost panegyrical, to their efforts in the re-invigoration of Palestinian life, trade and agriculture, have almost reconciled them to what they had believed to be his deliberate aloofness towards their hopes and aspirations during the past five years. On second thoughts they are rather resenting his statement (intended for praise) that what the Jews have done, they have done with virtually no assistance from Government. The Jews admit the truth of this, but they are greatly afraid (a) that this will be used as an argument that they can get along quite well in the future without material Government aid, and (b) that this may make a dead-letter of the clause in the Mandate which requires certain material help to be given to them in the shape of state-owned land.

Archæological Discoveries.

It must be a very long time since Palestine unearthed such interesting archæological relics as have recently been announced. The "Tabgha Skull," discovered by Mr. Turville-Petre of the British School of Archæology in Jerusalem, bids fair to become as famous as "the Heidelberg Jaw," "the Pitdown Skull," or the "Neanderthal Man" to the student of proto-archæology.

The discovery of "the Third Wall" of Jerusalem by the Jewish Palestine Exploration Society is quite the most interesting piece of evidence produced for a long time towards solving the vexed question of Jerusalem topography in the first century. It is taken for granted by the discoverers that it actually is Josephus's "Third Wall," but a certain amount of scepticism is now being aroused. There are perfectly sound reasons for thinking that it is not one of the town walls at all, but only part of the circumvallation built round the besieged city by Titus to render his blockade more effective. There is also the curious fact which needs explanation that, though the foundations of the wall are there obviously enough (the natural rock groved to receive the huge stones, and two courses of Roman masonry in situ), there is simply no trace whatever within the neighbourhood of the great mass of debris which might have been expected from the destruction of the rest of the wall. The inference can only be that this is a wall (dating any time up to the Second Revolt in 135 A.D.) begun but never finished.

Jerusalem's Water Famine.

An interesting situation has arisen out of Jerusalem's water famine. Owing to the dangerous situation that is threatening, the Government issued an Ordinance empowering the Jerusalem Municipality to utilize the Urtas spring (a few miles south of Jerusalem). The people of Urtas have successfully challenged the legality of this Ordinance, the High Court ruling that the Government action is a breach of the Mandate and the Palestine Order in Council. Although one welcomes the episode as a demonstration of the Mandatory Power's sense of justice, it makes the water situation still more grave. It is going to prove an expensive and collossal business to bring by train from Lydda sufficient water for the seventy or eighty thousand inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to keep up this supply at least four months.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, June 23.

The Colonial Secretary.

The weather has been exceptionally cool. The Government offices are to move up to Mt. Troödos on June 27. Mr. Fenn is acting as Governor during Sir Malcolm Stevenson's absence. It is understood that he will not remain as Colonial Secretary, but will be appointed to another Colony.

The Greek Protest.

A reply from the Colonial Secretary to the Greek Archbishop relative to the protest against the new Constitution of Cyprus as a Colony has been published. It states that the Secretary of State for the Colonies has requested H.E. the Governor to intimate that, as already pointed out on more than one occasion, the question of union with Greece has been finally closed, and cannot be reopened. That such a protest should have been launched after so many fruitless Greek petitions, deputations, special missions, etc., must be surprising to all who are not fully acquainted with the situation.

The Agricultural Bank.

A *Cyprus Gazette* (extraordinary) of June 17, publishes the agreement between the Government and the Agricultural Bank of Cyprus, Ltd. Advances must not exceed £50,000. It is provided that if the profits of the bank shall be less than a sum equal to 4 per cent. of the average amount of advances—during the accounting period—the Government will pay to the Bank on demand the amount of such deficiency. But if in any subsequent year the net profits should exceed the guaranteed minimum, the amount of such excess shall be paid by the Bank to the Government until recouped for sums so paid. After five years the Government may give notice to determine the agreement.

Depression.

The general state of depression continues, and anxiety is expressed in view of the economic situation. In the first quarter of 1925 imports exceeded exports by over £92,000. For the present no remedy is suggested beyond that of raising considerably the duties on articles of luxury. The papers point out, what is quite true, that many articles.

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of native manufacture are of excellent quality, and should not be neglected, as they are, in favour of foreign goods.

General News.

Tht Chief Justice, Sir Sydney Nettleton, has taken leave from June 23. Mr. B. Dickenson, P.D.C., Puisne Judge, will act for him.

Mr. T. Greenwood, Commissioner of Larnaca, has been made a C.I.S.O.

[The correspondence referred to in the above letter between the Archbishop of Cyprus and the Colonial Secretary is thus published in the *Cyprus Gazette* of June 12:

No. 360.

NOTIFICATION.

In accordance with instructions received from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, His Excellency the Governor directs that a copy of the following correspondence be published for general information:—

(*a*) Memorial from His Beatitude the Archbishop of Cyprus to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(*b*) Reply thereto.

Archbishopric of Cyprus,
Nicosia, 1st May, 1925.

Right Honourable Sir,

On the occasion of to-day's official pronouncement of the declaration of the Island of Cyprus as a Colony, We, the Archbishop of Cyprus, President of the Holy Synod of the Autocephalous Church of Cyprus and National Leader of the Hellenic population of Cyprus, express in the name of the clergy and people, their very deep grief, and lay an emphatic protest against the renewed ignoring by this political action of the indefeasible historic national rights of the Hellenic people of the Island to their national restoration, which it was expecting soon to receive from the Liberal English Nation; and we declare that the burning and unalterable desire of the Hellenic people of the Island was, is, and will always be, its union with its mother Hellas.

We remain,
With the deepest respect and honour,
(Signed) ✠ KYRILLOS.
Archbishop of Cyprus.

To the Right Honourable,
The Secretary of State for the Colonies, London.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Cyprus.
12th June, 1925.

Most Reverend Sir,

With reference to Your Beatitude's letter of the 1st of May, 1925, enclosing a memorial addressed to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies in which you protest against the retention of Cyprus as part of His Majesty's dominions, I am directed by the Governor to inform you that your memorial was duly transmitted to the Secretary of State who has requested His Excellency to intimate to you in reply that he has received your memorial, and desires that you should be informed that you must clearly understand that, as has already been pointed out to you on more than one occasion, the question of the Union of Cyprus with Greece has been finally closed and cannot be reopened.

I have the honour to be,
Most Reverend Sir,
Your Beatitude's obedient Servant,
C. D. FENN,
Colonial Secretary.

His Beatitude
The Archbishop of Cyprus,
Nicosia. (M.P.624/25).]

OMAN.

Muscat, May 30.

The Return of Sayyid Said.

Sayyid Said, Prince Regent of the Sultanate of Oman, returned to Muscat from India on April 29, being received with a salute of fifteen guns. The next day he paid an offical visit to the British Consul at Muscat, and also to Commander Inglis, head of the British-Indian expedition stationed at Beit al-Falaj, twelve miles north of Muscat. There, also, he received a salute of fifteen guns.

The Sultan at Dhofar.

News has reached Muscat of the Sultan's arrival in Dhofar. It is semi-officially stated that the main object of his visit is to convert this remote town into a suitable traffic centre. At any rate, forts are now being erected in Dhofar, and roads opened up.

Discontent of the Omanese.

The Arabs of Oman, being extremely dissatisfied with the conduct of the State Council, filed complaints against its proceedings to the Sultan and to the Government of India and its representatives in Muscat and Bushire, protesting against the tyrannical nature of its acts. Since this course has been of little avail, the Omanese have become inclined to revolt against their own Government. But the installing of Sayyid Said in charge of the Government of Oman and the discharging of the Council will, probably, check the insurrectionary tendencies of the Arabs, for public opinion in Oman is very favourable to the young Prince, who has, indeed, proved his ability as an administrator on several occasions.

The Position of Captain Thomas.

Those who listened to the Sultan's speech in the durbar in regard to the position of Captain Thomas gained a false impression that this English officer was authorised to represent His Highness during his absence from Muscat. In order to contradict this erroneous impression, Captain Thomas has explained that his exact position in the Government of Oman is strictly limited to being that of Chancellor of the Exchequer, and that, because his powers were confined to this post, the belief that he would institute reforms in all the Government Departments was based on a complete misconception.

Captain Thomas is proposing to impose new taxes on the traders in Oman, and the State Council, before whom this proposal was laid, is in favour of the idea. The traders, however, have already raised protests against such a step, asserting that it would paralyse trade in Oman. It appears to be generally thought that the economic situation does not warrant the imposition of such taxes.

The Massira Oilfields.

Mr. Mackie, Agent of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company at Abadan, Persia, who has been in Muscat for some time, has been successful in concluding negotiations with the Sultan's Government in connection with a concession for the oilfields in Massira Island, in the Indian Ocean. The concession is for two years—for which the Company has agreed to advance to the Oman Government a sum of Rs.30,000 (£2,000).

General News.

Captain Alban, ex-Commander of the British Indian Forces at Beit Al-Falaj, has arrived in Muscat to act for four months as British Consul. His knowledge of the local languages and his experience of Oman generally adapt him admirably for the post.

Kersandass, the kidnapped Brahman trader of Jaalan District, has been released by his captors on their receipt of Rs.1,100 (£73).

Complaints have been lodged by fifty Baluchis of Burka (a town forty miles north of Muscat) to the State Council concerning the conduct of the Governor of Burka, Sayyid Shihab, a brother of the Sultan.

A truce, which binds the parties to keep the peace for one year, has been concluded between the Arabs of the Beni Abou Hassan Tribe of Jaalan and the Governor of Sur, Sheikh Rashid bin Uziaz, a member of the State Council, having been chiefly instrumental in this transaction.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

July 9, 1925 (New Style).
June 26, 1925 (Old Style).
Dulheggia 17, 1343, A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Tammuz 17, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

Lady Wilson, wife of Sir Leslie Wilson, Governor of Bombay, is leaving India for England on Saturday.

M. N. Vouluvitch, Secretary at the Yugoslav Legation, returned to London last Thursday from leave in Serbia.

The Yuvaraja of Mysore arrived at Claridge's Hotel last week from Paris.

M. Smodlaka, of the Yugoslav Legation, and Mme. Smodlaka left London, on July 1 for Belgrade on leave.

Dame Louise Samuel has returned from Palestine and has now taken up her residence at 4A, Symons Street, Sloane Square.

Lady Stavridi gave a reception last Sunday at 33, Lennox Gardens to meet the Patriarchs of Alexandria and Jerusalem.

Mr. Sheldon Crosby, Counsellor at the United States Embassy in Turkey, who has been on a visit to London, left England on June 30 for his post.

Colonel Ion Antonesco, Military Attaché at the Roumanian Legation, has left London for Norway on leave. He will be absent about two weeks.

The Hon. Sir Ronald Lindsay (His Majesty's Ambassador-Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Constantinople) had an audience of the King at Buckingham Palace last Saturday.

Sir Herbert Samuel, High Commissioner for Palestine, has left Jerusalem on the termination of his period of office, and, with Lady Samuel and Miss Samuel, will be travelling for some time.

The Queen of Roumania arrived in London last Saturday from Paris. Her Majesty, who visited the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace last Sunday, will be in England for about a month, and is staying with the Infanta Beatrice at Esher.

Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby will take the chair at the luncheon to meet the Baroness Ernest de la Grange, on France's Day, July 14, at the Hotel Cecil. Tickets may be obtained on written application to Mrs. Aubrey Le Blond, 134, Whitehall Court, S.W.1.

Princess Mohamed Ali Hassan, daughter of the Egyptian Minister, and her brother, Mohamed Izzet Bey, who is the Master of Ceremonies at the Court of King Fuad of Egypt, arrived in London last Saturday from Zurich on a visit to the Minister and Mme. Izzet Pasha.

Under the auspices of the East India Association, Sir Montagu De P. Webb will, on July 13, at 3.30 p.m., read a paper entitled "Recent Progress in India." The meeting, which will take place at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, will be presided over by Sir Charles Armstrong.

The marriage arranged between Mr. A. Shuldham Redfern, Sudan Political Service, elder son of Dr. and Mrs. J. Redfern, of Croydon, and Ruth Marion, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O'Donnell Grimshaw, of Newlands, Guildford, will take place at Guildford, on July 21.

Air Vice-Marshal Sir Edward Ellington, Air Officer Commanding Royal Air Force, India, left India on July 1 on four months' leave, travelling via Baghdad and thence to Egypt by air. Group-Captain J. A. Chamier, Chief Air Staff Officer in India, will command the Royal Air Force in India during Sir Edward Ellington's absence.

The War Office announces that General Sir G. F. Milne, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., D.S.O., A.D.C., will succeed General Lord Cavan, K.P., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O. K.C.B., as Chief of the Imperial General Staff on February 19, 1926.

The Egyptian Minister and Mme. Izzet Pasha entertained at luncheon at Claridge's Motel on July 1, Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby and Viscountess Allenby, Sir Geoffrey and Lady Archer, Sir Edward Goschen, Sir Arthur and Lady Downes and Miss Downes, Harari Pasha and Mme. Harari Pasha, Mrs. Fanshawe, Mr. and Mrs. Worsfold, Abdul Hamid Soliman Pasha and Mme. Soliman Pasha, Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Guest, and Sesostris Sidarouss Bey, Counsellor of the Legation.

The King received at Buckingham Palace last Saturday morning Ahmed Ferid Bey, who has been appointed to represent the Turkish Government at the Court of St. James's. His Excellency attended, accompanied by members of his staff, in order to present to His Majesty his Letters of Credence as Ambassador. In accordance with custom, carriages were sent from Buckingham Palace to convey the new Ambassador and his staff from the Embassy to the Palace, and from the Palace back to the Embassy. His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Turkish Embassy, who had the honour of being presented to His Majesty: Moukbil Bey (Comsellor of Embassy), Shevky Pasha (First Secretary of Embassy), Orhan Halid Bey (Second Secretary of Embassy), and A. Zekiai Bey (Third Secretary of Embassy).

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Indian Affairs.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, June 17.

Mr. C. R. Das.

"With dramatic and awful suddenness death has called the tribune of Bengal"; thus the *Statesman*. Indian Calcutta is actually stunned and the death of Mr. C. R. Das will shock the whole of educated India. He has been spared the bitter fate of most Indian political leaders, and he may be counted fortunate, politically speaking, for he has died young. All parties unite to-day in paying tribute to one whose leadership has been conspicuously successful, apart from the question of its wisdom or its desirability; he had, however, lived to discover that the lot of the revolutionary leader is in the end to run after his followers, and it is quite probable that a realisation of the results of his campaign has shortened his life. His remarkable personal influence and charm, his courtesy and his culture, are universally admitted by those who have met him; coupled with the sacrifice of his legal career and his eloquence, they have made him a hero to Bengal. Possibly the greatest tribute to his powers is the fact that his sudden death has left his party completely leaderless; he was the party, and he had established a personal autocracy which is without precedent in Indian politics.

"The King is Dead: . . ."

It is too early to make any estimate of the consequences to Indian nationalism of so stupendous a loss; the whole of the recent career of Mr. C. R. Das has been a striking example of the fact that here it is not politics that count but men. He had established himself as elected representative of the national spirit, and as such the whole country seemed to be content to accept his personal decision upon any matter, no matter whether he was consistent or eccentric. Important matters in the Corporation which were purely executive were held up for his personal orders as Mayor, and the whole policy of the Congress Party has been swayed by him to an extent which is almost incredible to Western minds; the position he had achieved gave him no petty kingdom; his was an absolute monarchy.

Disruption?

The loss of such a man is bound to have a profound effect upon the future of the extremist party, and it will certainly be some weeks before his lieutenants are able to gather up the strings and make some assessment of the position. Where so much was left to the decision of an individual, where methods were almost entirely personal and casual and based upon the inspiration of the moment, it is inevitable that there should be feelings of dismay in regard to the future. Recent happenings indicate the existence of tendencies to break apart amongst the sections which have made up the extremist coalition, and there is every possibility that there will be a separate Mohammedan party, and also that the more extreme sections of the Hindus will again find their leaders lacking in daring and recklessness. It is a great opportunity for the Liberal Party, which has recently become increasingly active and is showing a sound appreciation of political realities.

The Corporation Loan.

A disquieting feature of this matter has been made public during the last week: it appears that amongst the expert opinions taken by the Corporation in regard to the discussion with Government on the new loan proposal was one of a retired Accountant-General of Bengal. His views were not favourable to the Corporation, but although they were printed, they were suppressed from the papers which were circulated to members, while favourable opinions of other experts were sent out. The matter will not be allowed to rest here, but it is an interesting commentary on the mentality of the party in power.

The Moribund Reforms.

The announcement is officially made that the Governor-General in Council, with the sanction of the Secretary of State, is pleased to direct that the transfer of all Transferred Subjects in Bengal shall be suspended with effect from the 13th of the current month to January 21, 1927, the date on which the term of the existing Bengal Legislative Council will expire: so for the time being ends the experiment of the Reforms in Bengal. No one will pretend that they have been successful, and in fact it is a proud boast of the extremists that they have killed a Scheme that neither they nor anyone else ever wanted. Certain it is that the force behind the attempt to give it a fair trial in Bengal has been almost entirely from Europeans; the few moderate Indians who co-operated with them have incurred an obloquy from their own countrymen that it will take them very long to live down, and one of the bitterest gibes they have to swallow is that Government itself has "let them down," by giving way to the agitators. At present the most eagerly awaited event is the forthcoming statement of the Secretary of State following the conclusion of his interviews with Lord Reading.

Racial Talk.

The European Association had a meeting at the end of last week to consider the present political situation, and a resolution was carried almost unanimously urging that Government should pay no attention to clamour and should decline to re-open the question of the Reforms before 1929, having regard to the refusal to co-operate in working the present scheme. This decision has provoked hostile comments in practically all the Indian Press and even some of the more moderate papers use immoderate language on the matter. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* promises "a bumper crop of racial hatred" as a result of this policy, and it suggests that Europeans should realise that whatever they may do, they cannot stem the "tide of progress and of freedom." It is difficult to know what it all means; Sir Henry Wheeler's plea at the Calcutta Dinner for a definition of terms is opportune; self-determination, Indianisation, freedom, slavery, what do they all mean? In terms of personal happiness the majority of the inhabitants of Bengal are far better off than the average factory hand in the industrial nations.

Markets.

The piece-goods market continues unsatisfactory, and in the opinion of a prominent operator, things are about as bad as they can be. There is little doing in stocks and shares, and the small brokers are having a very thin time. The jute position is interesting; there are very few buyers for the new crop, as operators are holding out for high prices; the probability appears to be that new jute will open dear in any case, no matter whether it is a large or small crop. Most of the local mills are in a position to hold out until the arrivals are heavy, and there will be no urgency to buy until September, but others are short, and it is considered that if foreign mills are not to close there will have to be a heavy August shipment. The anticipation is that the market will open at about Rs. 16. In the meantime gunnies are in the trough of the wave, and at present it is impossible to buy jute and turn it into fabric at a profit. Tea remains satisfactory, and steady; current returns indicate increased output, but the market is well in hand and prices should not fall.

THE INDIAN MAIL.

Public Services Commission.

It is announced that the Public Services Commission will be constituted in October. Its immediate appointment was recommended by the Lee Commission, which characterised it as one of the vital points in its report: the recommendation being that it should consist of five members, who should be of the highest possible standing and whose duties should include the safeguarding of the interests of the Services, the laying down of conditions

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for recruitment to, and the enforcing of discipline in, the Indian Services. The *Statesman* (Calcutta) says that the delay in appointing the Commission appears to have been due to divergence of opinion whether the Government of India should devolve some of its powers to the Commission or whether the Commission's functions should be merely advisory: and concludes that the decision has resulted in favour of the latter alternative.

The *Bombay Chronicle*, while characterising the announcement as "a direct insult to the Legislative Assembly which had declared itself against a Commission, and open defiance of public opinion voiced throughout the country," says that it was at first believed that the "Commission to protect the Steel-Frame Service" would consist of a President and two members: but that it is now becoming increasingly clear that there will be a President and four members: the President will probably be an Englishman to be brought specially from England, two of the members will be Europeans, one a Civilian and the other a non-official, and two will be Indians—one Hindu and one Mohammedan.

The Non-Official European.

Much interest has been excited by a letter to the Calcutta *Statesman* from a gentleman signing himself "Covenant," in which he exhorts the British commercial man to assert himself in the matter of the future government of India. The writer says that, when the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms were first proposed, non-official Europeans were content to leave matters to the Secretary of State and his advisers and to confine themselves to criticism. Let them not repeat the mistake. The British official is but a passing visitor—he is a good and faithful servant to India until he has earned his pension, after which the country knows him no more. Not so the man of trade, industry, and commerce. In interest, if not in person, he is a permanence in India: he commits his fortunes to the country, he depends on her welfare for his daily bread and for the maintenance of his family, and he not uncommonly remains at work in India twenty years and more after his official contemporaries have disappeared. "It was not the official who won India for the Crown; it is not the official who has developed her resources, created her industries, built her railways, constructed her harbours, brought her into line with European civilisation: it is not the official whose capital is sunk in the country or whose vital interests depend on her good government." More than any other man, the British non-official is concerned to see that India is peaceful and well-governed, that her finances are wisely administered, her commerce nurtured and her safety assured: it is his right to determine the form and character of her administration and, if he shrinks from asserting it, he is not only blind to his manifest interests but neglectful of his duty.

"Covenant" goes on to say that the real "steel framework" should be the laying down of the essential conditions that must be preserved intact in any constitution conferred upon India. These he sees to be, that provision for the external and internal safety of the country shall be made a first charge upon Indian revenues, that no anti-European or discriminative legislation shall be permitted, that the control of posts, telegraphs, railways, canals and other all-India services shall remain in British hands, and that the administration of the great sea-ports created by his predecessors, wherein the Indian has no historic interests, shall be entrusted to the men who understand their needs. Subject to these and a few other restrictions, it should be possible to commit the government of the country to Indians, and the enormous field of responsibility thus thrown open to him should do more than satisfy the most ardent aspirations of the Nationalist. He holds that the Reforms are unsuited to India—"the scheme sits as grotesquely on Indian antiquity as a Homburg hat and cutaway coat on a venerable pundit"—and that it is a mistake to suppose, because some of its manifestations have failed, that opposition to them is diminishing: those movements were the symptoms, not the cause, of the underlying trouble. The European in India appears to be hypnotised by the fact that a revision of the Reforms is to be undertaken in 1929, a date formally laid down by Act of Parliament, so that it is supposed that consistency requires adherence to it. But the writer holds that it is not fair either to Indians or Englishmen that an ill-advised experiment should be continued for a day longer than can be avoided. "Every informed person knows that, for the immense majority of India's inhabitants, paternal government is, and must remain, an absolute necessity. The men who are discontented with the present ordering of their affairs are the many well-educated and trustworthy Indians trained by our system of administration. It will not be denied that the educated Indian is every whit as competent to look after his own affairs as the educated Englishman or Scotsman: and it is into his hands—not to India as a whole, for there is no India as a whole—that the duties so long and ably discharged by British hands should now be transferred. The proper remedy for his dissatisfaction is not to foster political corruption by subordinating him to an ignorant electorate, but to leave him to manage his own affairs in his own way, on the principle laid down by Mr. Jorrocks—"the seat as is most comfortable for the man will in all humane probability be the most comfortable for the 'oss": when the Nationalist will be found not only to make an excellent job of his administration, but to dwell in peace and harmony with his European friends. "In any case, it is his affair and not ours and, provided the essentials of the British connection be preserved, the Indian should be left to work out his own salvation according to his lights. But it is for the non-official European—the banker, the commercial man, the trader, the shopkeeper—to see that the essentials *are* preserved and are not frittered away on doctrinaire experiments in self-determination."

The Indian Electorate.

The *Pioneer* (Allahabad) has an interesting article on party politics in India: which, as understood in England, are non-existent there. The report of the Muddiman Committee included evidence on this point from all the Provincial Governments, who were unanimous in declaring that the close touch between representatives and electors, that constitutes the vitality of a representative system, was altogether non-existent. The representative practically never addressed his constitutents or canvassed their view on any legislative project: electioneering was, as a rule, confined to the issue of handbills containing exhortations to electors to record their vote for a special candidate or for a special colour. Owing to the prevalence of illiteracy, the candidates' voting boxes were distinctively coloured: it is on record that, in a case where a Swarajist candidate's box was green and his opponent's white, the former was recommended because it was of the colour of the peasant's crops, and voters were warned against the latter on the ground that he who voted in it should beware of white leprosy. A large proportion of the electors did not know the name of the candidate whom they were voting for, but had merely been told the colour of his box: many thought that Mr. Gandhi was a candidate, and many believed that the subject on which they were voting was whether the local taxes were to be paid to Government or to Mr. Gandhi. The Swaraj party, though it claimed to have received a mandate from the electors to abolish dyarchy, made no attempt to explain their creed to the electors—the majority of whom admittedly did not know the meaning of the word. Time and education, says the *Pioneer*, may change all this and enable electors even of the most backward type to realise at all events the implication of the vote: but on the larger issues, especially in view of the present intensification of communal differences, it cannot be said that there is any near prospect of political parties developing in India in the manner in which they organise themselves in Western countries. There are, no doubt, simple-minded Members of the British Parliament who sympathise with the Indian Swaraj Party because they believe that conditions in India are analogous to those prevailing in England: but they would probably be surprised to learn that, though agriculture is India's life blood, none of the Indian political "parties" has even suggested a policy for the solution of agricultural problems.

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Burma Railway Development.

A correspondent of the *Statesman* (Calcutta) writes that, when the Chief Commissioner for Indian Railways recently visited Burma, he announced that the Indian Railway Board was prepared to sanction funds for the development of railway construction in Burma, comprising a thousand miles of new line to be constructed over a period of five years. That offer was immediately accepted, and the Chief Commissioner took back with him to India an ambitious scheme for railway development in Burma, totalling altogether over 1,850 miles of line. There is already a main line from Bangkok, in Siam, to the Federated Malay States, giving direct connection with Penang and Singapore: and one of the proposals is to carry a line to the extreme south of Burma, one point of which will be only fifteen miles from the Siamese line, so that it may reasonably be expected that Siam will complete the connection. The first part of this important line has already been constructed, but its further extension involves difficulties in bridging mountain torrents and in clearing dense jungle, while the country through which it would pass is rugged and mountainous. It is also proposed to continue an existing line to the Chinese frontier, though there is no prospect of connection there with a Chinese line: its object is merely to improve the trans-frontier traffic in that direction. Railway connection between India and Burma, says the correspondent, still seems remote, though the scheme includes a line eastward from Akyab, on the Bay of Bengal, to link up with the main Burma system. If these ambitious schemes materialise—if sanctioned, most of the lines are to be begun next year—Burma will, within the next ten years, have a system of railway connection second to none in the East. All parts of the Province will be linked together by a network of lines, some of which will be extended to its Eastern and Southern frontiers, there to be connected with the railways of Siam and the Federated Malay States.

The first railway in Burma was opened in 1877, and the total mileage of the Province is now about 1,700, so that the proposed scheme, if sanctioned in its entirety, will more than double the existing mileage. The War brought into prominence the lack of roads and railways necessary for the trade in wolfram and timber, and considerable work was done, in the matter of roads, to meet these difficulties: and it may be hoped that the complementary railway construction, impossible at the time, is now in a fair way to be undertaken.

Alwar Disturbances.

The "extremist" Indian newspapers have lately been full of highly-coloured reports on disturbances that have occurred in Alwar State, in Rajputana. The State has now issued an authoritative account of the real facts, which shows that the trouble was brought about by methods already familiar in British India. Dissatisfaction appears to have been expressed at the terms of the latest land settlement, and professional agitators, from outside the State, were quick to seize the opportunity to make capital out of this feeling. Inflammatory meetings were held and a self-constituted body calling itself the Rajput Committee telegraphed a report of them to the State authorities, who deputed a commission to make inquiries on the spot. The agitators refused to appear before the Commission, and also refused an invitation to come to Alwar and state their case in person, but continued to hold meetings, to which cultivators were enjoined to come in large numbers and carrying arms, were threatened with caste excommunication and violence if they failed to attend, and were openly instructed that any action on the part of the State should be resisted by force of arms. On this, State officials, with a detachment of State troops, were sent to arrest the ringleaders, but were met by a large mob armed with guns, swords, and other weapons, who refused to listen to argument and declared that they were prepared to kill or be killed. Attempts were made to persuade them to disperse quietly, with the promise that any person who desired to represent a grievance would receive a sympathetic hearing if he was prepared to put it forward in a constitutional manner; but the only result was a threatening advance by the mob, some of whom fired their guns at the officials. There was then no alternative but for the State troops to fire, which they did, two of the malcontents being killed and four wounded, one fatally. Some huts also caught fire—this being falsely represented as having been done deliberately by the troops: who, in fact, rendered prompt help to the wounded, while compensation was paid to the villagers whose huts had been burnt. The Editor of a vernacular paper who visited the scene of the incident and published a grossly and maliciously false account of the facts, afterwards admitted that he had been wrongly informed and promised the State officials to contradict the allegations made in his paper. It is almost needless to add that he has not done so.

Sikh Shrines.

The Select Committee on the "Gurdwara" Bill has completed its sittings and agreement has been reached on all the main points. Minor differences that still remain to be settled will not, it is hoped, present serious difficulty when the Bill comes up for discussion in the Punjab Legislative Council; though the central "Akali"—hitherto irreconcileable—body seems disposed to insist on all the amendments proposed by it and to recede from its approval of the Bill unless these are all accepted.

One of the chief difficulties that the framers have had to face is that of the definition of a "Gurdwara," or Sikh shrine. Orthodox Sikhs acknowledge ten "Gurus," or saints: the first of whom, Guru Nanak, preached a reformed Hindu religion, purged of the superstition and grossness with which it had become overlaid. The next eight Gurus followed in Nanak's footsteps, and it was only the tenth, Guru Gobind Singh, who originated the Sikh brotherhood, all of whose members bear the affix Singh (lion) to their name, and of which the Akali Sikhs are the chief representatives. There are many other sects calling themselves Sikhs who do not accept the whole of the Akali creed: prominent among whom are the Udasi Sikhs, who do not take the title of Singh and from whom the majority of the "Mahants," or keepers of the shrines, have been drawn in the past. The shrines instituted by Guru Nanak and his first eight successors were shrines of the reformed Hindu faith that Nanak preached, in which Hindu and Sikh religious observances were carried on side by side: it is only the shrines instituted by Guru Gobind Singh that are solely Sikh to the exclusion of Hindu observances. The Udasis argue that they ought to be left in control of all shrines instituted by the first nine Gurus: while the Akalis argue that, on the constitution of the Sikh "nation" by Guru Gobind Singh, all the shrines instituted by his predecessors became exclusively Sikh and should therefore be all under the control of the Akali sect.

The Haj.

The news, that the first pilgrim steamer destined for Rabegh had been held up at Port Sudan owing to King Ali's blockade and bombardment of Rabegh, reached India in mail week: and, as was of course certain, Shaukat Ali and his Khilafat Committee have immediately thrown the blame on Government. Shaukat Ali inquires, "Where is the British mastery of the seas? What is the British Navy doing?" Other indignant supporters of Shaukat Ali call upon Government to "take effective steps against Amir Ali's obstacles": suggest that the detention of the pilgrims at Port Sudan was deliberately done, without any real cause, in order to show that Government's warning against the pilgrimage was justified and Shaukat Ali's confidence of Ibn Saud was not: or write, "Who is this Amir Ali? The nominee of the King's Government. What is the King's pledge to his people? Defender of Faith. What is the faith of the Hajis? To visit Mecca and Medina. Who obstructs the way? The King's nominee. Is the King's Government unable to ensure the safe landing of the Hajis at Rabegh? No responsible man will assert it." The Government is warned that "India is indignant" and that they are faced with "grave danger."

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The Amir's Metaphor.

The Amir of Afghanistan, in a recent speech delivered to his troops after the successful suppression of the rebellion in the province of Khost, announced that the War Ministry would depute an officer to go to the villages and distribute medals, in order that solders might be held in reverence and esteem. "This," said the Amir, "I consider to be an excellent method, because there is a saymg in the Afghan language that the value of a carrot is not estimated so much by its food value as by the crackling that it makes in the mouth."

CURRENT TOPICS.

Secretary of State's Indian Speech.

Owing to the exigencies of printing, it is unfortunately impossible to notice, in the current issue, Lord Birkenhead's statement on Indian constitutional questions due to be delivered on Tuesday in the House of Lords.

The Bombay Cotton Industry.

A *Times* telegram says that Sir Basil Blackett, the Indian Finance Member, met the representatives of the Millowners' Association at Bombay on his way back to Simla from England, on July 2. The Association asked for Government assistance to tide over the present period of depression, suggesting the abolition of the excise duty. Sir Basil pointed out the world-wide existence of trade depression, from which India had not suffered more than other countries, and said that there were other causes, than those mentioned by the Association, tending to depression: for example, "the pernicious agency system of buying and selling materials." He, however, promised early discussion and consideration of the question of possible Government assistance to the industry.

D.U.K. Railway.

The Government of India have decided not to exercise their option, under the terms of the contract, to take over the Delhi-Umballa-Kalka Railway next year. Some surprise has been expressed at the Government having given notice of its intention six months before it was necessary to do so: and it is thought possible that this portends an attempt on the part of Government to come to some other arrangement with the company than that provided for by the terms of the contract: which would have entailed the payment by Government of over £400 for every £100 of ordinary stock. The price now stands at about 280; and, on the present dividend of 16 per cent. which, owing to a rebate of income-tax, is equivalent to 18 per cent., the investment now returns over 6 per cent. It is not unlikely that many people have bought the stock on the expectation of Government taking over the line on the contract terms: and a drop in the present price has resulted from the Government announcement.

Bakr-Id Celebrations.

The fears that have been exercising the authorities in India regarding the celebration of the Mohammedan festival of the Bakr-Id have happily been dispelled. Communal disturbances between Hindus and Mohammedans were expected in a number of places, and special precautions were taken to guard against them. These precautions have evidently been successful, for a telegram from India reports that the festival passed off quietly throughout Northern India. A riot occurred in the outskirts of Calcutta, but this was fortunately not serious, though 36 persons, mostly Mohammedans, are reported to have received injuries.

Passage Concessions for Indian Marine Officers.

The Secretary of State announces that the passage concessions which were recently introduced for officers of the Indian Military Service with effect from February 14, 1925, have now been extended to officers of the Royal Indian Marine. Detailed rules are being drawn up, but the provisional arrangements which have been approved are being communicated by the India Office to all officers concerned who are now in this country.

INDIAN EXCHANGE.

There was little variation last week in Rupee Exchange in the London market, except that rates showed no tendency to fall away. The holidays in Calcutta and Bombay, no doubt, affected the market inasmuch as business was compressed into a shorter week, and towards the end of the week much activity was shown in both spot and forward in India, operations having been put through in Calcutta for the end of the year up to 1/6¼ for telegraphic.

It is reported that Government came to the assistance of the market and bought a considerable amount from Banks on Saturday at 1/6⅛ and they were in the market again at the same rate on Monday last.

Exports from India must have been fairly brisk to have caused this demand for Exchange; but the rate here seems now inclined to become a little easier.

The outlook depends entirely upon the prospects of the monsoon, which so far seems to be taking its normal course.

Last week's Return of the Imperial Bank of India shows that the trade demand has again fallen off to a very considerable extent, so that a further drop in the Bank rate to 4 per cent. was not altogether unlooked for. The factors which conspire to bring the rate down may have been hastened by the imminence of the Government Conversion Scheme in connection with their outstanding Rupee loans.

The first jute forecast by the Government may be expected about the middle of this month, when it is usually issued, and it is to be hoped that the expectations of a much larger crop than usual will be justified.

July 6.

INDIANISATION OF THE ARMY.

(By Our Simla Correspondent).

Simla, June 17.

It stands to reason that the promise of the grant of self-government to India carries with it a promise to Indians of the opportunity of being trained to defend their country, not only as the rank and file, but also as the officers of a national army. The interpretation of this implied promise varies. At one end of the scale there are some Indians who appear to believe that such a national army can be formed almost at once by the filling of the commissioned ranks of the Indian Army from top to bottom with students from Indian universities, who will make efficient officers merely by reason of their education. At the other end are the military advisers of the Indian Government who counsel caution and a modest beginning. The setting aside of ten vacancies at Sandhurst for Indian cadets and the decision to Indianise eight Indian Army units as an experiment are the outward and visible sign of this modest beginning, but they are not sufficient for the Indian politicians who demand that the army shall keep pace with the civil services in the matter of Indianisation. Little heed they the fact that in the British Army a period of twenty years' service is rarely considered sufficient in peace time to fit an officer to become a really efficient commander of a regiment. Barely do they realise that in war time an inefficient officer may easily be the cause of the unnecessary loss of many lives. They desire to see the British officer giving place to the Indian with greater celerity, and in this desire they overlook almost to a man the real military needs of their country.

For a hundred and fifty years the Indian Army has been officered in the higher ranks by British officers, and it is through their impartiality and aloofness in questions of religion, caste and the like, which have riven the civil life of India, that this army has attained its present high standard of efficiency. Though it is a small army, it

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is nevertheless only just sufficient together with the British garrison for the defence of India, but at the same time it is all that the Indian taxpayer will for some time to come be able to afford. If its British officers are removed too hastily, or if, when removed, they are replaced injudiciously by Indians who have been brought up in the controversial atmosphere of this country and are not imbued with the spirit of fair play which is the outstanding characteristic of the British officer, then there is a danger, nay a certainty ,that this antagonism of caste and creed, which to-day finds no place in the army, will disrupt its units and destroy its efficiency with disastrous results to the security of the country. This is one of the paramount reasons for training the Indian cadets who are to officer India's army of the future at Sandhurst, where, brought up in the same atmosphere as English boys, they can acquire that breadth of mind and sense of tolerance which alone can fit them for the task of commanding Indian troops with success. There is another reason too, why at present the training of Indian cadets at Sandhurst is insisted on. If an Indian is to hold the King's Commission and by virtue thereof to be in a position to exercise command over British troops, he must be trained in the same school as the officers to whom those troops are accustomed, or else he cannot hope to command their respect. Such training they can only obtain at Sandhurst.

But why not, argues the Indian politician, inaugurate a Sandhurst in India? Or, if that is not feasible at present, why not allot more vacancies to Indian cadets at the English Sandhurst? After all, ten vacancies a year is a very small number, and, if the Indian Army which has a cadre of officers totalling between three and four thousand, is ever to be completely Indianised, the process at this rate will take centuries. This is the most crucial point of all. Although ten places are allotted to Indian cadets at Sandhurst, it is a very difficult matter at present to fill up with suitable candidates even this small number. The number of applicants for them has never been great, and among those who do apply there are few who can pass both the educational and physical tests required for the Royal Military College. For the son of the educated Indian of to-day does not as a rule approach the necessary physical standard easily attained by the British boy of similiar age, although he may be well able to pass the required educational tests, and the sons of fighting classes, though their physique may be satisfactory enough, have rarely the necessary education to enable them to pass the entrance examination. Other difficulties present themselves in actual practice. Far too many of those Indian lads who have actually passed through Sandhurst have found the drudgery of a military life unpalatable, and have resigned their commissions before they have had time to benefit the Army. Again the fathers of many likely boys, particularly those who themselves made the army their career, cannot face the cost of the education necessary to enable their sons to obtain the King's Commission. The former category are of little use as recruits to the commissioned ranks, but the loss of the latter is a serious one which might be prevented if scholarships or cadetships were found to get them their initial training at a cost suitable to their parents' means. This, however, would prove an expensive matter for the Government.

There is every reason to suppose that the education at an Indian Sandhurst could be made cheaper for the parents than the present course at the Royal Military College, and this would enable a number of boys of the right type, whose fathers cannot afford the cost of the Sandhurst training, to enter the army. It would perhaps be possible as well to reduce the standards of education and physique at such institutions, and so admit further boys who are at present debarred from obtaining commissions. In this manner it might be possible to obtain the desired number of cadets to officer the Indian Army throughout within a comparatively short space of time. But in this manner, even if a Sandhurst in India could be made as efficient as the one in England, which is very doubtful, it is obvious that India would only obtain the second best and, seeing how limited is the amount which she can afford to pay for her defence, can she with her vast area and lengthy frontiers afford to have anything but the best in her small army? The truth is that the solution of the problem lies in the earlier education of the Indian boy. The sons of the educated classes must be trained from their earliest youth, so that their bodies are fit for a military life, and their minds and characters prepared to stand the downs as well as the ups of an army career, while those of the present fighting men must be educated mentally to an extent which will allow of their attaining the standard required of an officer in the higher ranks. Only when this process is well advanced will sufficient cadets be obtained who will satisfy the standards which India must demand of the future officers of her Army, and until then the speedy Indianisation of her military forces would be a dangerous experiment to attempt.

CORRESPONDENCE

The columns of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA *are open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

THE PROBLEM OF INDIA.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—It is gratifying to most of us out here, who take an interest in Near East happenings, to note that you have at last recognised the very real link that the Near East forms between England and India. It is to be hoped that your growing attention to affairs Indian will be appreciated among the public at home—whose positive duty it is to recognise the acuteness of the problem that now lies with the Secretary of State and his colleagues at Whitehall and in Parliament. In this connection I draw your attention to an extract from a report given by the *Civil and Military Gazette* of Lahore, Punjab, of a recent Amritsar Municipal Board meeting There are many and divergent views regarding the problems of control in India, but of all of them two specially stand out:—the one represented, shall I say, by the recent exhortations of the Secretary of State who pointed to the opportunities offered to the youth of Great Britain by the I.C.S., and the other in the contention of those who state that we have commenced to "reform" India at the wrong end; that, in short, we have taken for granted the capacity of the Indian to legislate in the higher spheres before training him morally and mentally in the ethics of Municipal and District government.

Does not the action of the Amritsar Municipality justify one's asking the Secretary of State what is likely to happen in "the dry tree" (when British control still further decreases), if such things can happen to European public servants "in the green tree" (when we are said to be in control)? The other party, too, is surely nonplussed, for we have, in this by no means solitary case, an example of what Indian Municipal responsibility means.—I am, etc., "A Passenger."

Simla, June 18.

The first general sitting of the newly constituted Municipal Committee of Amritsar was held on Tuesday morning in the Town Hall A discussion raged on the question of granting leave to Mr. Taylor, Superintendent, head waterworks, who has attained the age of 65. He has served the Committee with distinction, as the members declared, during the past fourteen years without any leave. There was a storm of opposition to this "wastage of public money" and Sodhi Charan Singh, a new member dressed in Akali garments, and some of his colleagues declared that the officer was absolutely unfit and thus no extension in service should be granted to him. It was pointed out that leave had been due to him for two years under the rules and that he was entitled to six months' leave on full pay, but that it could not be sanctioned unless he was granted an extension in service which would expire in August next. While some members praised his work, others condemned him for his old age. Ultimately when the question was put to votes it was rejected by 14 to 11. Thus an officer was deprived of all privileges to which he had been legally entitled merely on account of the Committee's whims.

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SOME FOOTNOTES TO THE HISTORY OF THE WAR IN ASIA.

By LEONARD STEIN.

II.
PALESTINE.

The selection of diplomatic correspondence from the Archives of the Russian Foreign Office, recently published by the Soviet Government, contains numerous allusions to Palestine.

The documents relative to the Sykes-Picot Agreement add little of material importance to what is already common knowledge, and need not here be reproduced. The earlier papers deal mainly with the French claim to Palestine, and illustrate the solicitude of the Russian Government for the interests of the Orthodox Church.

On 3/16 March, 1915, M. Sazonov telegraphed as follows to the Russian Ambassador in Paris:—

"N.119. G. H. Q. 3/16 March, 1915.

The French Ambassador arrived at G. H. Q. and communicated to me the contents of Delcassé's telegram, in which the consent of Russia is sought to the acquisition by France of Syria and Cilicia. On this occasion Paléologue explained that in his opinion the French Government meant the word Syria to cover also Palestine. Palestine, however, being not mentioned in the aforesaid telegram, it would be desirable to ascertain whether the extensive interpretation of the Ambassador really corresponds to the views of the French Government. This question appears to be essential, for while the Imperial Government is prepared amply to satisfy the wishes of France in regard to Syria proper and Cilicia, the question of the Holy Places will have to be reserved for more careful consideration.

Sazonov."

On 4/17 March, 1915, M. Izvolsky replied as follows:—

"N.140. 4/17 March, 1915.

Received your telegram, No. 119. Have discussed its contents with Delcassé, who is very satisfied with your reply with regard to Syria and Cilicia. As to Palestine, he will perhaps insist on possessing this or that place which is a part of it, but he fully agrees with you that the question of the Holy Places requires a special and more careful consideration."

The previous article in this series contains the text of M. Izvolsky's telegram of December 19, 1915/1 Jan. 1916, in which he reports M. Briand's assent to the proposed negotiations with Jemal Pasha,—

"provided that the rights of France to Syria with Cilicia and part of Palestine, granted to her by the Agreement concluded with us on the subject of Constantinople and the Straits, are quite definitely reserved."

On March 4/17 1916, in the course of negotiations leading up to the Sykes-Picot Agreement, M. Sazonov, summarising the Russian view, stated in a Note addressed to the British and French Ambassadors that,—

"As regards Palestine, the Russian Government will agree to any scheme guaranteeing to all Orthodox institutions existing in Palestine the free exercise of their cult, as well as the preservation of their former rights and privileges, and will put forward no objections in principle to the settlement of Jewish colonists in this country."

The reference at this stage to Jewish Colonisation is noteworthy.

Then follows a letter, dated March 26, 1916, from the French Ambassador to M. Sazonov:—

"In the course of the conversation with which you honoured me to-day, you were good enough to state, at my request, that 'should the Government of the Republic obtain the consent of the British Government to the inclusion of Palestine into French Syria, the Imperial Government would not object thereto.'

"Expressing to you my gratitude for the statement quoted, the significance of which will be fully appreciated by the Government of the Republic, I assure you, that, whatever the régime that will be applied with regard to Palestine, the reservations indicated in your aide-memoire of 4/17 March, 1916, concerning the Holy Places and privileges or religious rites, will be strictly observed."

In his reply, dated 15/28 March, M. Sazonov confirms the statement referred to by M. Paléologue, but adds:

"I nevertheless consider it my duty to add to it that it naturally does not refer to the Holy Places and territories where there are religious Orthodox institutions. Such cities and localities must receive an internal régime with the preservation of a free access to Mediterranean harbours.

For reasons not unknown to you, the Russian Government would not deem it possible to recognise here the exclusive sovereign rights of any single Power."

Mention has already been made of the reference to Jewish colonisation in Palestine in M. Sazonov's Note of March 17, 1916. This subject is more fully dealt with in the following memorandum, dated March 13, 1916, addressed by the British Embassy in Petrograd to the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs:—

"A telegram has been received from Sir Edward Grey stating that the attention of His Majesty's Government had recently been drawn to the question of Jewish colonisation in Palestine.

"Although, as it is known, many Jews are indifferent to the idea of Zionism, a numerous and most influential section of Jewry in all countries would highly appreciate the proposal of an agreement concerning Palestine, which would fully satisfy Jewish aspirations.

"If the point of view set forth is correct, it will be clear that by means of utilising the Zionist idea important political results might be achieved. One of these would be the conversion to the side of the Allies of Jewish elements in the East, in the U.S.A., and other places, whose attitude to the cause of the Allies is, to a considerable extent, hostile.

"Mr. Lucien Wolf has defined Jewish aspirations in Palestine in the following manner:—

"'If, as a result of the War, Palestine should fall within the sphere of French and British interests, the French and British Governments will not fail to take into consideration the historic interests of Jewry in this country. Both Governments would assure to the Jewish population equal political rights with other inhabitants, religious and civil freedom, such municipal privileges in colonies and towns as would appear necessary, as well as reasonable facilities for colonisation and immigration.'

"Sir Edward Grey has no objection to the formula quoted above, but in reply he simply informed Mr. Wolf that he must discuss this question with the Allied Governments and that this matter will meet with a sympathetic attitude on the part of His Majesty's Government.

The only object of His Majesty's Government is to devise some such agreement, sufficiently attractive for the majority of Jews, as would facilitate the conclusion of a transaction securing Jewish support. Having this consideration in view, it appears to His Majesty's Government that if the scheme provided for enabling the Jews, when their colonists in Palestine are strong enough to be able to compete with the Arab population, to take in hand the administration of the internal affairs of this region (excluding Jerusalem and the Holy Places), then the agreement would have been (sic) much more attractive to the majority of Jews. His Majesty's Government would not wish to express a preference for this or some other solution of the question. It is, however, informed that an international protectorate would meet with opposition on the part of influential Jewish circles.

"Communicating all this telegraphically, Sir Edward Grey instructs Sir George Buchanan to solicit from the Russian Government a serious consideration of this

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question, and to favour him at the earliest possible date with the communication of the Russian point of view.

13 March, 1916."

A year later the Zionist Movement is found engaging the active interest of the Russian Government.

RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR IN ROME TO MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

"N.284 20 April/3 May 1917.

A representative of the Jewish Association, Sokolow, has arrived here in order to ascertain the attitude of the Italian Government towards Jewish aspirations, which have, according to what he says, met with the full sympathies of the British and French Governments. These aspirations amount to the recognition of the Jews as a Nationality in Palestine, their being granted an autonomy, not interfering with the political status of Palestine and of other nationalities, and permission for Jewish immigration. This question is known to the Provisional Government from Dr. Bazarov's report to the Minister-President, Prince Lvov. Please advise me as to our position in the matter. Greis."

RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR IN ROME TO MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

"N.339 6/19 May 1917.

Reference my N.284. Sokolow was received by the Pope and the Prime Minister. He says that both at the Vatican and the Consulate sympathy was expressed with Jewish aspirations in Palestine. Greis."

This is followed by a telegram, dated 13/26 May 1917, in which the Russian Chargé d'Affaires in London supplies detailed information on the Zionist Movement to the Foreign Minister, M. Tereshtchenko.

In the course of his report, which is too long to quote in full, M. Nabokov remarks that:

"During the War the influence of the Zionists here has grown considerably. Besides the immigrants, they have been joined by such representatives of the high Jewish circles as Lord Rothschild, Robert Herbert Samuel, the Chief Rabbi of the Empire and others. English Press takes Zionism seriously and treats it as an essential factor in the Eastern question, which is subject to decision at the Peace Conference. Some organs have, from the very beginning of the War, been actually advocating an energetic campaign in Palestine, and the creation there of a separate Jewish State. The Zionists are in close touch with the British Government and have access to its highest members. The aim of this Movement is to get the Peace Conference to hand over the administration of Palestine to a Jewish Company, to be given a special Charter for the colonisation of the country, and the re-creation there of a Jewish National Centre. According to this programme, the Company should be organised on a democratic basis, representing as it were, the Parliament of the Jews of the whole world. The Zionists admit that the rights of the local population should be internationally guaranteed, and the Holy Places altogether internationalised. In case the Peace Conference finds it necessary simultaneously with the establishment of the Jewish Company to set up over Palestine a Protectorate of any one Great Power, Zionists here would decidedly express their preference for Britain."

After explaining that the Zionists are strongly opposed to a condominium in Palestine, M. Nabokov proceeds:

"In some quarters of English Jewry, an opposition to Zionism is noticeable. Judging, however, by the recent public utterances of these circles—*The Times* of May 24—this opposition is not concerned with the essential part of the question, declaring itself, as it does, in favour of the re-establishment of the Jewish Nationality in Palestine, but differing from the Zionists in the question of the Company, to which they apparently prefer a simple British or French annexation."

On 1/14 June 1917, the Russian Chargé d'Affairs in Paris reports to Petrograd as follows:—

"N.643. 1/14 June, 1917.

Received your telegram, N.2082.

Inquiries in accordance with the contents of this telegram were immediately made at the Foreign Ministry here, which, however, has not, so far, supplied the information asked for. Apparently, sympathies with the idea of establishing a Jewish State in Palestine have cooled down considerably. So far as the Embassy has been able to ascertain, the only practicable realisation of Zionism appears to be at present the activify of the Jewish Colonisation Association (Management in London, Branch in Paris). It has a capital of 300,000,000 francs, and is engaged in colonisation work in South America and Palestine, without aiming, however, at creating there a separate Jewish State.

Sebastopoulo."

One further document which calls for notice is a copy of the long instructions issued to M. Picot in Paris on April 2, 1917, on his departure for Palestine. The following passages may be quoted:—

"The obligation which is being laid on you is thus a quite definite one. On the one hand you will have to organise the Occupied Territories, assuring to France in all relations with the natives a status equal to that which Britain will occupy. On the other hand, while our troops join the British Army in an offensive against the Turks, you will have to use all means of propaganda among the Arabs, which you have at your disposal, to facilitate the advance of the Allied troops, creating menaces to the hostile army and thus undermining its morale.

"A fact obvious to all—the presence of our flag by the side of the British—will be a clear indication to all of the complete agreement between France and Britain.

"Therefore, wherever an occupation takes place owing to the action of one contingent or another, you will have to see that the national flags of both Governments are immediately hoisted. . . . You will endeavour as far as possible to assure the re-opening of our schools and hospitals, so that the first result for the population of the advance of our troops should be the resumption of France's charitable and educational activity, which has temporarily ceased on account of military operations."

At the same time, M. Picot was instructed to do his best to conciliate the Arab Moslems, and to take full advantage of this opportunity for France "to appear in their eyes in the role of Liberator." The instructions then proceed:

"The agreements recently signed indicate for you the general outline of the policy by which you must abide in your relations with the Arabs in other respects. What we want to do is to free a people, for long past enslaved by the Turks, granting it such privileges as it is entitled to. In contrast to the Constantinople rulers, who have persecuted the most famous among the Arabs and tried to banish their language even from the sacred books, our activity must aim at renewing the lustre of a civilisation which has not been lacking in grandeur. You will have to take account of these feelings in an appeal, which you will have to address to them. You will lay a special stress on the point that it is not a question of imposing foreign rulers upon them, but only of assisting them in the creation of national institutions, capable of assuring to them a proper system of government."

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ANNUAL DINNER OF THE CENTRAL ASIAN SOCIETY.

Mr. L. S. Amery on Iraq.

The annual dinner of the Central Asian Society was held in the Edward VII. Rooms, Hotel Victoria, on June 30. Lord Peel, First Commissioner of Works, and President of the Society, presided; the Secretaries of State for India and for the Colonies were the principal guests, and the general company numbered more than two hundred. After the toast of the King-Emperor had been honoured, Lord Birkenhead proposed the toast of the Central Asian Society. He expressed the opinion that we are approaching a time when we shall have to re-examine the whole basis of the relationship of the East to the West. An obvious illustration of this need was the present condition of affairs in China, where he said the students, instead of imbibing the doctrines of Confucius, were throwing themselves into armed crusades against the foreign "devils." He drew attention to the consideration that throughout the Eastern world the principal enemies of the British nation were the student classes. Whether they took Egypt or India or China, it was always the students who were most certain that the British Empire was not only doomed but damned, and that they had been happily appointed to be the instruments of its immediate execution. Confessing his inability to explain this circumstance, he said that it might not be unrelated to such things as the name of the proprietor of some hairdresser's establishment in any large town in India being followed by the words, "Calcutta B.A., failed." Dealing with British responsibility for the welfare of India, Lord Birkenhead said that the situation might easily be rendered dangerous either by the eyes of blindness or the language of optimism. The fundamental fact of the Indian situation was that we went there centuries ago composing, if he might put the case paradoxically, by the sharp edge of the sword differences which would have submerged and destroyed the ancient civilisation of the sub-continent. We went there upon that basis and we hold our trust upon that charter still. It was true to say to-day in the year 1925 that, if we left India to-morrow, it would be submerged by the same anarchical and murderous disturbances as those which devastated it in the days when the names of Clive and Warren Hastings became illustrious. There was not in his judgment reason for supposing that any man entitled to speak as representing our trusteeship for India, whether belonging to the Labour Party, the Liberal Party, or the Conservative Party, would find himself in a position in which it would be possible for him to liquidate the obligations which were imposed upon us both by history and by honour. He knew in this connection appreciatively that Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, who was Prime Minister of this country last year, and was exposed to influences which neither he nor his colleague the Colonial Secretary had to meet, spoke plain and manful words which might have come from the lips of a Conservative Prime Minister. Mr. Ramsay MacDonald spoke of the irrational and dangerous claims which were made by many elements in Indian politics.

Viscount Peel made play of the fact that Mr. Amery was present in a three-fold capacity—as Secretary of State for the Colonies, as Secretary of State for the Dominions under the newly adopted division of functions, and as Minister for the Mandated Territories. He remarked that he did not know in which manifestation or incarnation (they were familiar with these matters in Asia) Mr. Amery would appear before them that evening.

The Secretary for the Colonies.

Mr. L. S. Amery said that if he went over all the ground suggested in the speech of their Chairman, they would have an all-night sitting. Lord Peel had spoken of the remarkable versatility of his colleague Lord Birkenhead: but he would rather speak about his modesty. He had said nothing about a certain expedition into the heart of Asia Minor which they took together nearly thirty years ago, or of the fortitude and the many sufferings they voluntarily endured until they emerged at Constantinople primed with an immense mass of information which Lord Birkenhead had not yet given to the world, but which he could produce in the form of a work of six or seven volumes in a very short time. He (Mr. Amery) would tell them of only one incident when they were benighted in the wilds of Southern Asia Minor and in their extremity at last discovered a hut occupied by some villainous-looking brigands. The only accommodation they could offer was on the floor of the hut, and, exhausted by their long journey, they sank into a deep sleep. But he was awakened soon after by the low-pitched conversation of their hosts sitting round the fire and discussing something which seemed to be of tremendous importance. He heard one of them say, "I think we had better kill the little one first." While anxiously fumbling for his revolver and indulging in indignant reflections on the unfairness of this preference, he gathered from further remarks that it was only a question as to which chicken was to be sacrificed for the breakfast of the visitors.

Since those adventurous days he had occasionally visited Eastern lands, and only the other day he was able to obtain a bird's eye glimpse of the Middle East. It was literally a bird's eye view, thanks to the help received from the Air Force. After a picturesque description of the varying phrases of life and scenery observable from the air during the journey, Mr. Amery said that he could do no more on that occasion than give them a few of the chief impressions which he derived from that short tour. One of the first was that of the wonderful efficiency of the Air Service and its value in the protection and control of a great remote and undeveloped country. When Mr. Churchill decided in 1921 to entrust the whole of the defence of Iraq to the Air Force and to make a vast reduction in the armed forces occupying that country, he was running a tremendous risk. At that time we were still at war with Turkey; we had to face the possibility not only of a Turkish invasion of the frontier, but also of attack all along our right flank, and a general rising behind us in a country which only a few months before had been in open rebellion and which, though reduced to peace, had never been disarmed. We were confronted with difficulty in coming to this decision, but even more difficult would it have been to withdraw, for that would at once have invited an advance of the Turkish forces and the Kurds of the frontier to insurrection. To stay where we were despite the difficulties and dangers was on the whole the safest course.

The result had been the efficient protection and peace of the whole of that vast country with the exception of perhaps a few inaccessible valleys in the highlands. The country was more completely at peace than it had ever been since the days of Haroun al Raschid. To-day as taxpayers we were reaping the fruits of that policy. In 1921 we were spending in Iraq nearly £21,000,000 a year for the upkeeping of a great force which included 33 battalions of infantry, 6 cavalry regiments, and 15 or 16 batteries of artillery. To-day we were spending less than £4,000,000 on 8 squadrons of the Air Force and 4 battalions of infantry, with a few local troops, and he hoped that even that force could be still further reduced when the frontier question had been finally settled by the League of Nations. We should soon be in a position in which Iraq would be able to find the cost of purely local defences, and any Imperial money spent in the country would be spent not so much on Iraq, but only in Iraq in connection with the general purposes of our Imperial Defence organisation. He did not think that any person who had not been in Iraq could understand what a splendid training ground it was for the Air Force. In his judgment, for all-round efficiency the Air Force in that country could not be equalled in the world.

A second thing that impressed him even more deeply than the work of the Air Force, was the splendid work done by the English in the years since the War in creating out of chaos such as the country had known for centuries the framework of a good administration. This had been accomplished not by the easy methods of direct authority, but by the method of enlisting the support and co-operation of the people of the country themselves. The principle on which we had worked ever since Mr. Churchill took over the affairs of the Middle East had been to encourage and co-operate with the national sentiment of the country. It had its own Arab Government with its

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own King, its own Constitution, its own Administration, subject only in return for the support we had given to accepting a certain measure of advice and guidance from the British High Commissioner on matters vital to the welfare of the country, and to the help in the district local administration of a certain number of British advisers. That policy had been a real success. It had not been, as so many of them had feared, a mere pretence of responsible government, a mere facade from behind which British officials settled everything. It had been a real co-operation and partnership, to which the Arabs had contributed something of great value. At headquarters there were men with such profound knowledge of the Eastern mind as Sir Percy Cox, whom he was glad to see there that night—(cheers)—and Sir Henry Dobbs. They had succeeding in inspiring both King Faisal and his Ministers with complete confidence in the sincerity of the British Government in wishing to build up a healthy and prosperous Arab State. In the districts nothing struck him so much as the real spirit of comradeship between the District officers and the British officers who were appointed to assist and advise them. He noted with great pleasure that the British officers habitually bore testimony to the great sense, loyalty, and goodwill of their Iraq colleagues, and to the resulting smoothness of the working of the machinery of Government. This achievement was due to years of strenuous, patient, and sympathetic effort on the part of devoted Englishmen of whom very little had been heard in this country, and who had received even less recognition than attention, of whose work we could well be proud. The work was exactly of the same kind as that which was done in the early days in Egypt. He only wished that there was someone to-day with the power of expression and the gift of description which Lord Milner had as a young man to describe in a detailed volume the work of the Englishman in Iraq during and since the War.

Another impression he formed was that in Iraq, though the financial situation might be difficult, there was every reason to anticipate that the country, once the richest and most powerful in the world, could be brought back by its own Government and with the co-operation we could give to something of its past greatness. But there was one thing essential there, and that was to get rid of existing uncertainties. Any uncertainty as to the frontier should be removed by the decisions of the League of Nations. As regards any uncertainty that might seem to attach to future relations with this country, he had no doubt that we could before long arrive at a satisfactory permanent arrangement. We were in Iraq now not under mandate, but under a treaty of co-operation which was effected only for a short period of years because it would have been impossible for us three years ago to make sure of the co-operation to which he had referred. All he need say on the matter of a fresh agreement was that it must be on the basis of not requiring the people of the country to sacrifice their legitimate aspirations, nor requiring the people of this country to sacrifice hard-won revenue. He believed an arrangement could be made for a system of co-operation by which both Iraq and the British Empire would be gainers.

He would like to answer the question of those who asked what was the justification of this country in being there at all, and devoting itself to the hard toil of the work of reconstruction. We had more than one justification. He could say with perfect truth that he believed that before many years were past this country would see there, in actual commercial development, a very reasonable and indeed substantial return for what it had done for Iraq. He was convinced that the whole of the Middle East was about to go through a period of great development, and if this country had given a lead there and acquired a position in the trade of Iraq, it would gain not a little from the subsequent trade development of adjoining countries.

He could give another reason as a justification of our work in Iraq. This was from the point of view of the defensive communications of the British Empire both in future railway developments and still more in the development of air communication. There were very great advantages in having at so central a point for future world communications, as Iraq would be, a strong, prosperous, and friendly Government which looked to the British Empire as a protector and an ally. But he thought the main justification was even stronger than those to which he had alluded. We could not, either with decency or with honour, ever withdraw from a country which we had succoured in the War and liberated from the Turkish yoke. The obligation to remain was embodied in more than one definite pledge during the War, and was confirmed by humanity and our treaty obligations—obligations not suddenly and thoughtlessly undertaken. Our connection with the country, our special position in the Persian Gulf and Mesopotamia went back at least two centuries, and just as in India, as Lord Birkenhead had told them, we began two hundred years ago to bring peace and order out of chaos, and the responsibility thus incurred had been maintained, so we had similar obligations in respect to Iraq. What might be the ultimate result of that responsibility, what great advantages it might or might not bring, no one could say with certainty, but we could say and recognise that we should be false to our whole traditions if we threw up our hands and abandoned those who had placed their confidence in us.

Among those present were: Viscount Peel and the Hon. Doris Peel, the Earl and Countess of Birkenhead, Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Amery, Lord Lamington, Susan Countess of Malmesbury, Lord Raglan, Sir Maurice de Bunsen, the Hon. Evelyn and Mrs. Hubbard, Field-Marshal Sir Arthur Barrett, Sir Percy Cox, Sir Charles and Lady Yate, General Sir Alexander Coobe, V.C., and Lady Cobbe, General Sir Edmund and Lady Barrow, Admiral Sir Edmond Slade, Major-General Sir Neill and Lady Malcolm, Sir Michael and Lady O'Dwyer, Sir George Barnes, Sir Aurel Stein, Sir Hugh and Lady Barnes, Sir Edgar Bonham-Carter, Sir John Cadman, General Sir Raleigh and Lady Egerton, Sir George and Lady Forbes, Sir William Geary, Colonel Sir Wolseley and Lady Haig, Lady Joynson-Hicks, Lieut.-General Sir Aylmer and Lady Hunter-Weston, Colonel Sir Cecil and Lady Kaye, Sir Harry Lamb, Sir Edward Penton, Sir William Sheppard, Brig.-General Sir Percy Sykes, Miss Ella Sykes, and Colonel Sir William Willcox.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Mining Crisis.

It cannot be disguised that the possibility exists of a very serious crisis in the mining industry. The mine-owners have put forward certain suggestions in the interests, they say, of saving the industry, and the miners, moderates and extremists alike, have summarily rejected them. Since, if this crisis develops into a fight, it is the public which, through the Government, will have to resolve the matter, it may be worth while to examine these proposals of the mine-owners.

The position of British coal-mining, the owners begin, is uneconomic. At the present time no capital exists either for the sinking of new pits or for the development of old. The scheme, as it now obtains, of a minimum wage and of a seven-hour day, is a luxurious one. Obviously, there-

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fore, a way out of this stagnation, which would imply the collapse of many other industries, must be found.

On broad theoretical grounds, there may be little amiss with the owners' position. But when they come to concrete suggestions, one is positively startled by their severity and cynicism. For what they propose is virtually that profits be the first charge on the industry, that the men be given smaller wages than they now receive, and that the chief reductions take place in the poorest districts. If the men choose by district agreement to attempt to preserve the minimum wage and the subsistence wage—well, there is 87 per cent. of the proceeds of the industry for them to do it with. But, whatever happens, thirteen per cent of the proceeds is to go to the owners. To take a concrete case of the effect of these proposals: if they had been applied in the Northumberland area for the quarter ending last April, the owners, instead of losing £136,605 would have made a profit of £170,637, and the miners would have lost £307,243.

It is difficult, indeed, to understand the spirit in which the owners have preferred these terms. Possibly the Mining Association wishes to bring the matter quickly to a head; possibly it wishes Government's intervention; possibly it is prepared, were the miners to renounce their seven-hour day, to show more reason on the basis of an eight-hour day. Of course, no one can say that the wages of some miners ought not to be reduced: at least there may be a case for their reduction. But to put it forward in this manner, at a time when the atmosphere is thick with talk of the "Truce of God" and of Mr. Baldwin's harmonious Co-operation between Capital and Labour, is a course which will certainly not prompt the public hastily to condemn the miners' rejection of these terms.

The Government and Criticism.

It must be admitted that this Government is singularly open to criticism, but also that it rides on with dignity under this criticism. The Prime Minister, unlike his immediate predecessor, is too broad-shouldered and human a man not to see that his larger hopes must from time to time cause irritation with that section of the community which believes in quick measures and remedies. As I have often said before, Mr. Baldwin is at his best when he is not discussing politics, for in defining these he is necessarily general and verbose. And it is largely because he seems to prefer exposition (and the subsequent shaping by humanity of circumstance) to definite Governmental action, that the more opportunist and impatient school of politicians, of whom Mr. Lloyd George used to dazzle most strongly, feels impelled to call his Administration "a Government of slosh." But what the cheapjacks call "slosh," the normal man calls "inactivity" or (if he be a good party man) "benevolent supervision." It is so easy to suppose that "security" is synonymous with "slumbering," and, in time, no doubt, this Government will sufficiently identify the two to ensure its downfall. But even then it will not be Mr. Lloyd George who will succeed.

The Oxford Chancellorship.

It probably is not possible for one who is of the other place, to understand the workings of the mind of Oxford, so that it remains only, and in a sense of respectful ignorance, to sympathise with those of her sons who have been denied by their more passionate and remoter brothers the presence of Lord Oxford as their Chancellor. It was in those last hectic days that so stirring a *caveat* went out against the ex-Prime Minister; and it must have been the warning against Lord Oxford that was uppermost in the minds of the votors as they recorded their suffrages for the successful candidate.

However, it is all their affair; and one must not suppose that the wickets of the Dark Blues will be any easier to capture because a Chancellor has been chosen for them more worthy than illustrious. The undergraduate, after all, is more often than not ignorant who the Chancellor of his University is.

Derangement in London Streets.

One does not know who the imp in authority is who so superbly synchronises the efforts of the workmen on the roads to prevent the traffic from running freely, but it is to his credit that all the fuss which has been made in the newspapers over him has not yet gone to his head: he still in perfect serenity pursues his chipped path of mis-rule. The latest instance of his genius is priceless. Last week Waterloo Bridge was re-opened to traffic. No sooner had this presumptuous step been taken than the Westminster City Council ordered their men to frustrate the petty plan by tearing up the road at the corner of the Strand and Wellington Street. The stratagem worked admirably. Double traffic was rendered impossible; the Bridge became a one-way highway; and the traffic from the south—the owners of which had so foolishly looked forward for many weeks for the official re-opening of the Bridge—was diverted, to be blocked at Blackfriars Bridge.

It is all so very simple, could people but realise it. The official departments which so order the derangement of things are really paid anti-Bolshevists, whose duty (to which they show unswerving loyalty) it is to show the incompetence, the slackness, the utter lack of co-ordination, and the indifference of municipal and State authorities.

France at Tennis.

Whatever may be said about the collective virtues of English men and women at Lawn Tennis, there is little question that at the present time France, from the point of view of individual players, has us beaten to a frazzle. In Mlle. Suzanne Lenglen and in M. Lacoste, who won their respective Single Championships at Wimbledon, they have geniuses far beyond anything that we can show, and in the case of Mlle. Lenglen, far beyond anything that the world can, or is likely to be able to, show. Lawn Tennis has become so much a social game that the comparative success of Miss Joan Fry raised very wide enthusiasm here, but, after all, the question remains: where are our young men champions? And in the sunless, airless, air of Wimbledon, the stifled echo came: Where? *Les neiges d'antan* are falling now on Continental and trans-Atlantic hills.

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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

170, *Strand, London, W.C.2,*
Tuesday Morning,

Conditions in Greece.

It is too early to speak with any certainty, of course, but there now seem to be grounds for hoping that the latest change in the political life of Greece will not have the adverse consequences that at first seemed probable. After all, it is no slight thing that a revolutionary change of Government should have been accomplished without any disturbances, and the London market was prompt to interpret this fact as a bull point, the Greek Refugee Loan making a quick recovery in price. If the position remains as it is at present, it will perhaps not be long before confidence in Greece is restored, for her economic development since the War in the most disadvantageous circumstances has been very notable, and when the refugees have settled down and are really able to make their influence felt in the economic sphere the country should go rapidly ahead. In this connection it is interesting to note that Sir Arthur Salter speaking at the Congress of the International Chamber of Commerce at Brussels last week, gave a most encouraging report of the enterprise and industry of the new immigrants. "From every side," he declared, "came the evidence of competent observers that the refugees are rapidly and unmistakably 'making good.'" This only confirms the reports that have been forthcoming from other quarters, and it is to be hoped that it will be found possible to negotiate the further loan that is required to complete the settlement at an early date.

Lake Copais Company.

A very satisfactory report is forthcoming from the Lake Copais Company for the year ended December 31 last, the net profit in Greece being £31,900 as compared with £23,600 for the previous year. The area cultivated was 31,107 acres, an increase of 4,424 acres, and the area from which crops were harvested was 29,690 acres, an increase of 5,022 acres. During the current season the company has broken up and sown with oats about 4,375 acres of land with promising results. Progress is being made with the new drainge works, the excavating operations being facilitated by the employment of steam dragline excavators. The capital expenditure during the year amounted to £36,735 13s. 4d., the principal items being work upon the drainage scheme, the purchase and erection of buildings, including grain stores and hay barns, the addition of nine caterpillar tractors and accessories, and the installation of two new drainage pumps.

Egyptian Promotion Association.

The definite recognition accorded to the Egyptian Promotion Association by the Egyptian Government, which has decided to grant the Association an annual subsidy, is a timely acknowledgement of the excellent work done by the Association in keeping Egypt's claims as a tourist resort to the fore. The Association has been handicapped by limited resources, and the action of the Government will enable it to render more effective aid in securing for Egypt her quota of tourists. One might think that the endless charms of Egypt, with the delightful trips on the Nile, and the many unique objects of interest that are to be seen would ensure to the country a leading claim on the traveller's attentions. But it is not so, and as with a business so with a country, publicity brings success.

Egyptian Hotels.

At the general meeting of the Egyptian Hotels, Sir William B. Peat was able to give a highly satisfactory review of the company's position. The past year was very successful, though the profits were not quite up to the level of the previous year. The available balance was £54, 704, and the ordinary dividend has been maintained at 35 per cent., £8,870 being carried forward. The proposals for the amalgamation of the company and the Société Grands Hôtels d'Egypte fell through, but an alternative arrangement has been made by which the Egyptian Hotels acquired the lease for 25 years as from May 1 last, of the four hotels of the Société Grands Hôtels d'Egypte, and also the furniture and effects of these hotels.

British or American Films.

The news that the authorities are considering what steps can be taken to assist the British film industry is very welcome. On all sides there is a general recognition that something must be done if this country is to have any share in the industry which is not only important in itself, but has a wider bearing from the national and Imperial point of view. It has in short now become a question whether American views and ideals are to predominate, whether the world is to be Americanised in sentiment. If anyone thinks this is too strong a way to put it, let him or her go to the nearest cinema, and note the origin of the films that are shown. It will then be seen what an unimportant part the British film plays. The fact is, of course, that in the face of foreign competition the British film industry is totally unable to hold its ground even in this country, while competition abroad is almost out of the question. It is a ridiculous and humiliating position. Apart from the political aspect of this American penetration the economic aspect alone would demand that some measures should be taken to redress the balance in favour of the British industry. At this time of all times we are least in a position to spend huge

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sums of money on foreign luxuries, but each year America draws from these shores a very large amount as a result of her domination in the industry. If ever there was a case for a substantial tax on imports surely it is here?

Ridiculous Films.

I have not dealt above with the actual subject matter of the average American film. It is difficult indeed to write calmly on this question. If one is to judge American films by those we see over here, then it would seem indeed that the film industry is at a low ebb. With the foolish presentation of scenes in America we are not concerned. If Americans choose to give the impression abroad that their country is peopled with the most curious inhabitants it is their business. But the enterprising American film makers are not content to confine their ingenuity to their own country. They also give "representations" of British scenes and British life of the most monstrously weird description, and while it may not matter so much in this country it cannot be a matter of indifference to us that these misrepresentations of British life are shown abroad, particularly in the Empire, where in some parts they may very easily give a quite erroneous view of conditions in this country, and of the general standard of conduct. It would not be impossible for the uneducated to gain the idea from the films that a large proportion of the inhabitants of this country are villains and an equally large proportion buffoons. It is the duty of the Government to see that this contingency is counteracted in the only possible way by the development of a strong British film industry which will give to the Empire and to foreign countries adequate representations of British ideals of life and conduct.

Commentator.

COMING NEAR EASTERN EXHIBITIONS.

A general and sample exhibition is to be held at Chisinau from August 15 to September 30. A special group is to be set apart for the exhibits of foreign industrials, and British firms having representatives in Roumania are invited to participate.

An International Fair is to be held under Government auspices at Salonika during October. A stand of four square metres may be rented for 1,200 drachmæ. Interested firms can obtain further information on application to the Department of Overseas Trade.

Parcels for India and Aden weighing up to 20 lb. will in future be accepted at Post Offices authorised to accept heavy parcels for abroad. The rate of postage will be 8s. 6d. Full particulars of the new service may be obtained at any Post Office.

COMMISSION FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGE SUFFERED IN TURKEY.

BRITISH DELEGATION.

NOTICE.

British claimants are reminded that the last date for the acceptance of claims by this Commission is the 5th of August, 1925, and those who have not already notified their claims and received an acknowledgment should communicate at once with the British Delegation at 66, Rue Boissiere, Paris (XVI)

H. E. Garle,

June 30th, 1925 *British Delegate.*

COMMERCIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

THE PORT OF SALONIKA.

To the Editor of The Near East and India.

Sir,—Some of your readers might, I think, be grateful if Mr. Mahoney Shea-Lawler would amplify a little the argument contained in his letter of June 27.

He says therein that "Southern Serbia is the natural hinterland of Salonika," which is, of course, incontestable, but he passes at once from that to the assertion that, "the granting to Yugoslavia of her demands would materially increase the volume of British shipping trade in those parts."

So far as I know, the only Yugoslavian demand which Greece has refused to accept is the demand that the Serb Government should be granted control over the working of the short section of the railway between Ghevgheli and the sea. Now the control of a railway line, however short, in the territory of one independent state by the government of another presents certain obvious disadvantages for the former and it is not difficult to understand the reluctance of the Greeks to accept it in the case in point.

What therefore we should like to have explained is why the increase in the railway traffic, which Mr. Shea-Lawler says would follow on acceptance of the Serb demand, should not be equally well obtainable by means of an ordinary commercial convention reposing on a less abnormal basis. I am, Sir, yours etc., Harry H. Lamb.

52, Morpeth Mansions, S.W.1., July 6.

EGYPT PROMOTION ASSOCIATION.

The report of the General Committee of the Egypt Promotion Association states that it has now definitely secured the official recognition of the Egyptian Government. Last year the committee rightly took its share of the credit for the success of the preceding season, which had been a record one for Egypt, at any rate from the point of view of the actual number of tourists visiting the country. At the beginning of the last season, the prospects were such that it was confidently anticipated that all previous records would be broken. Unhappily, however, the political events of last November had the effect of deterring a large number of people from visiting Egypt, and in spite of the Committee's efforts to restore confidence in the country's conditions, numerous cancellations were received by the hotels. It is fortunate that the large cruises were not affected to the same extent and the large quota of visitors brought by the steamers compensated in a measure for the disastrous effects on the independent tourist traffic.

It is very gratifying to be able to record that the Egyptian Government has decided to grant the association an annual subsidy not exceeding £5,000. This action of the Government, endorsing, as it does its approval of the work of the association, should act as a powerful incentive to firms to give the association more whole-hearted support than in the past. The Government having undertaken to grant a sum equal to the total amount of members' subscriptions during the year, the necessity for such increased support is made manifest. Already, it is satisfactory to note, several of the bigger subscribers have agreed to increase their subscription by fifty per cent., and it is hoped that this example will be generally followed.

In anticipation of the much larger funds that will be at its disposal during the coming season the Committee have prepared an elaborate scheme of publicity which, it is hoped, will do much to counteract the intensive campaign annually undertaken by rival resorts. Advertising, by means of newspapers, booklets, luminous signs, etc., is to be undertaken not only in England and America, but in Germany, Holland, France, and the Riviera.

The Committee have to record the retirement from the position of Chairman of the Executive Committee of Mr. H. W. Tite. His resignation was necessitated by his departure from this country, but Mr. Tite has placed his services at the disposal of the Committee in London. At a meeting of the Executive Committee held on November 12, 1924, H. E. Abdul Hamid Pasha Soliman, the Vice-President of the Association, was unanimously elected Chairman of the Committee.

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PROGRESS IN PALESTINE.

A Record of Achievement.

In the report of the High Commissioner on the administration of Palestine for 1920-25,* which has recently been issued and reference to which has already been made in these columns, we have a survey of the work that has been accomplished under Sir Herbert Samuel whose term of office has covered that period. Broadly speaking, the years have been a seed-time in which the ground has been prepared, so far as might be for the development that will, it is hoped, ultimately make the country not only a self-supporting but also a prosperous community. It is a process that was bound to take time, and if Sir Herbert Samuel has not been fated to see the work come to fruition he has at any rate the abiding satisfaction that during his period of office the advance that has been made leaves no shadow of doubt as to the future, given that all sections in Palestine work together for the common end—the economic progress of the country.

Finance is the keynote of a country's administration, and it is on the financial aspect that the British Mandate in Palestine has been subject to almost unceasing attacks until recently in a section of the Press. As it happens, on this question of finance the Palestine Administration now stands on firm ground. It was out of the question to expect immediate results considering the condition of the country when we assumed responsibility for its government. No one can make a Budget balance when it is a matter of restoring order out of chaos, of, in fact, building things up from the beginning. From the first it was obvious that time would be required before Palestine could justify the faith that was reposed in her, and it speaks volumes for the work that has been done that in what is relatively such a short space of time such excellent results have been achieved.

The report is most illuminating on the nature of the task that had to be undertaken. It was necessary to establish an efficient organisation for the collection of revenues and the control of expenditure, and to train the staffs. This has gradually been done, and the corruption among the officials, traditional in Turkish times, has "in the main" been stamped out. It has not been thought desirable to make rapid changes in the systems of administration, and the Turkish taxes have, in general, been continued, but those that were irritating or vexatious have been repealed or amended. The practice of farming out the collection of agricultural tithes has been abolished. As Palestine's revenue is mainly derived from customs and tithes on an *ad valorem* basis it follows that the financial situation has been greatly affected by the fluctuations in prices. The fall in agricultural prices in 1922 and 1923 meant a heavy loss of revenue, and because of this and of the economic depression there was a deficit for 1922-23 of £E.73,000, which, by improved administration coupled with the growth of prosperity in the country, was changed into a surplus for 1924-25 of approximately £E.263,000. This satisfactory development, which redounds to the credit of the authorities, has made it possible to reduce the rate of tithe from 12½ per cent. to 10 per cent.; in other words, to relieve the agriculturist of one-fifth of his taxation. Further it is interesting to note that the Budget has begun to provide for the annuity in respect of that part of the Ottoman Debt allocated to the country under the Treaty of Lausanne. The railway system showed a profit on 1924-25 of £E.168,000, on a revenue of £E.558,000. The Post Office also proved remunerative, the net profit on the year's working being £E.33,000. The main line of railway and certain other works were constructed by the British Army during the War. The report states that it will not be disputed that interest and sinking fund should be paid in respect of these works as soon as the financial situation of the country permits. Notable work has been done in the improvement and extension of roads. Since the establishment of the Civil Administration, 280 kilometres of main roads have been newly constructed or rebuilt, and 600 kilometres of secondary roads, serving 177 villages. The result has been a notable development of motor traffic. There was a single motor car in Palestine in 1914, while now there are more than 1,000, some of which ply for hire between the towns. This extension of the use of the motor indicates very plainly the great improvement that has taken place in conditions in Palestine, and suggests that British motor manufacturers would now do well to keep a very careful eye on this market, for as the country is gradually opened up and prosperity increases the tendency will be more and more to utilise the motor as a means of communication.

The most interesting section of the report is that devoted to future developments. Palestine's principal requirement at present, it is pointed out is the construction of a harbour. Consideration is now being given to plans for the construction of a deep water harbour at Haifa and for several minor works to improve the facilities at Jaffa. Railway improvements are also necessary. One project in view is to divert the main line from Haifa to the Syrian frontier, where it will join a line which the French authorities propose to construct from the frontier to Beyrout and onward to connect with the Turkish and European systems. Plans are also in train for the development of the country's natural resources. One scheme, reference to which was made in these columns last week, is for the exploitation of the minerals in the waters of the Dead Sea. Another plan is for the development of the use of the hot springs at Tiberias. Other schemes provide for the improvement of the water supplies and drainage systems of several of the towns, and for water conservation and irrigation in the agricultural districts. To enable the carrying out of various works of development and for the funding of the Administration's temporary borrowings a Government Loan is contemplated. It would have made its appearance long since but for unfavourable conditions, and no doubt its issue will not be very long delayed. So long as the country's revenue and expenditure failed to balance it was difficult to invite a further outlay of British capital, but the financial results of the past year have removed that obstacle to a Loan, and the way would now seem clear for a forward policy. In the record of the past five years Palestine may be said to have proved herself, and if the country lacks the natural resources of other regions such as oil and coal, it is now abundantly certain that she can attain a great measure of prosperity through the adequate development of agriculture and her growing industries.

* Report of the High Commissioner on the Administration of Palestine, 1920-1925. (H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway. 2s. net.)

The annual exhibition of the discoveries by the British School of Archæology in Egypt is being held at University College, Gower Street (admission free, without ticket), from July 6 to 25 (hours ten-five) and on July 15 and 25 (6.30-8.30). This season the remains of the earliest known civilisation are shown; this is dated, by the levels of the Nile, to about 12,000 B.C.

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THE FOREIGN TRADE OF YUGOSLAVIA.

In 1924 the commercial balance of Yugoslavia was as follows:—Imports, 578,588,568 gold dinars (Swiss francs); Exports, 671,271,951 gold dinars; excess of exports over imports, 92,683,383 gold dinars, or 16.02 per cent.

I. Exports and Imports during the first quarter in 1925.

During the first quarter of 1924 and 1925 Yugoslav exports and imports were as follows, value in gold dinars in brackets:—

	Imports in Tons.	Exports in Tons.
1924	219,680 (132.339.303 g.d.)	715,264 (142,359,551 g.d)
1925	305,763 (177.959 472 g.d.)	1,015.968 (189,816.626 g.d.)
Excess.	39.18% (33.46%)	42.18% (32 87%)

The chief articles of export during the first quarter were maize, wood (both timber and for fuel), eggs, raw copper, meat and meat products, flour and wheat; and then follow agricultural, forest and mining products, and, considerably less, industrial articles.

The chief countries to which export was directed were, with percentages:—Italy, 29.15; Austria, 18.59; Czecho-Slovakia, 11.01; Greece, 7.28; Germany, 6.23; Hungary, 6.09.

The chief articles of import and the countries from which they came, were as follows:—

	Dinars.	Percentage
Italy—	423,376.322	19.89
Cotton fabrics	150,749.090	
Cotton yarn	51,047,275	
Flour	34,512.592	
Woollen fabrics ...	27,434,015	
Czecho-Slovakia—	407,996,887	19.17
Cotton fabrics	172,940.026	
Woollen fabrics ...	48,428,880	
Hardware	13,654,964	
Sacks	11,621,665	
Austria—	380,823,033	17.89
Cotton fabrics	48,889.980	
Hardware ...	35,508 991	
Woollen fabrics ...	17,244.725	
Machinery and apparata	15,008,211	
England—	233,137.644	10.95
Raw Coffee	65,004,655	
Coal	48.936,936	
Cotton yarn	34.066,586	
Cotton fabrics	31,477,170	
Germany—	181,257,552	8.52
Machinery and apparatus	25,827,593	
Electro-technical articles	9,443,751	
Hardware...	19,355,893	
Gloves and hosiery ...	6,419,398	
Hungary—	86,512,234	4.07
Coal	10,759,632	
Electro-technical articles	9,443,751	
Sole Leather	4,717,335	
Copper sulphate ...	3,796,300	
United States America—	76,344,902	3 59
Petroleum	13,250,663	
Skins of domestic animals	9,007,360	
Lard	8,923,053	
Lubricating oil ...	4,322,557	
Roumania—	66,130,262	3,11
Petrol	22,372,722	
Rock Salt	15,874,250	
Benzine	9,130,665	
Wood for fuel	6,694,280	
Greece—	64,667,325	3.04
Cotton fabrics	8,417,230	
Vegetable oils	3,150,285	
Skins of domestic animals	3,097,400	
Woollen fabrics ...	2,217,510	
France—	57,847,342	2.72
Woollen fabrics ...	7,173,730	
Cotton Fabrics	4,914.790	
Skins of domestic animals	3,089,000	
Vegetable oils	2,560,850	

II. Exports during the first four months of 1925.

Exports from Yugoslavia during April, 1924 and 1925, were:—

	Tons	Gold dinars
April 1924 ...	60,920	51,099,012
April 1925	320,836	54,960,602
Excess in 1925 ...	59 916	3,861,590
	or	
	22.96%	7 55%

Exports during the period January to April of the same two years were as follows:—

	Tons	Gold dinars
Jan.—April 1924	976,184	193,958,563
Jan. - April 1925	1,337,804	244,777,228
Excess in 1925	361,620	50,818,665
	or	
	37 04%	26.20%

NEW COMPANY.

ESTATES AND AGENCY.

The Estates and Agency Company has been registered as a public company with a nominal capital of £500,000, in £1 shares, to acquire certain estates in India and Ceylon; to adopt agreements (1) with the Dunsinane Tea Company, (2) Seaforth Plantations, (3) Yemmegundi Estates Company, (4) J. B. Adkins and F. W. A. Pett, and (5) with J. B. Adkins, and to carry on the business of planters of tea, rubber, etc. The amount borrowed by the directors is not to exceed the nominal amount of the capital without the sanction of a general meeting. Registered office, 3, Throgmorton Avenue, E.C.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Zekkiai Bey, the new Turkish Ambassador to Soviet Russia, has arrived in Moscow.

On July 1 a drifting mine, believed to be Turkish, exploded on a breakwater at Alexandria, near the site of ancient Pharos. No damage was done. This is the third such incident within the past year.

Precautions aginst cholera have been imposed on arrivals at Italian ports from the ports of the Presidencies of Madras and Bengal, and from Burma. Precautions against plague have been imposed on arrivals from the Island of Syra (Greek Archipelago).

The "Commonwealth of India" Bill, which Mrs. Besant is bringing to England, has been drafted by forty Indian politicians, including Mr. Srinivasa Sastri, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, Shaukat Ali, and Mrs. Besant, all of whom have signed a memorandum urging the necessity of its being passed.

The manœuvres in Northern India will be held towards the end of November between Rawalpindi and Nowshera. General Sir Claud Jacob will direct them, and the two commanders of the opposing sides will be Major-Generals Sir Louis Vaughan and R. A. Cassels, commanding respectively at Rawalpindi and Peshawar.

According to the Meshed correspondent of the *Pioneer*, the aeroplane which had been sent to chastise the raiding Turkomans along the Teheran road, reported that they had taken to the hills. After the return of the aeroplane the Turkomans re-emerged, and the Meshed-Teheran road is now closed to traffic in the affected areas.

After a six months' search in the desert near Heluan, the Cairo police have discovered what are believed to be the remains of an ex-police officer, who was stated by Shafik Mansur, one of the prisoners in the Sirdar trial, to have blown out his brains in the desert while practising bomb-throwing.

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ENGINEERING TOPICS.

(By Our Engineering Representative.)

Cigarette Making Machinery.

I often wonder how many cigarette smokers give a thought to the mechanical marvels which render possible the mass production of their particular form of the "weed that soothes." Very few, I suppose. It is probably taken for granted that cigarettes simply appear in the shops by some providential dispensation and that they will always continue to be there, and so the subject is dismissed in the same way that one does not waste words about anything else which is quite definite. Actually, of course, but for the development of the machinery side of the tobacco trade the cigarette would be a comparatively rare luxury, and the practice of making one's own cigarettes would be universal instead of being the tedious function of the few. For the production of cigarettes by hand in adequate quantities to meet the requirements of even a small market would be quite impossible for any organisation. The smoker owes his supply of cigarettes, in fact, to the development of the marvellous machinery now in use, which not only enables the markets to be constantly supplied, but has made it possible for the cigarette to be sold at the relatively cheap price at which it can be obtained to-day.

It may be not without interest to give some account of the cigarette machinery that is in use to-day. Cigarette making by machinery commenced about fifty years ago at Lynchburg, Virginia, when the first machine which enabled the manufacture of cigarettes by machinery was introduced by the founders of what is now the United Cigarette Machine Co. The success of the innovation was so great that a number of cigarette machine factories were established by various concerns both in America and Europe. In the closing years of the last century the pioneer company was able to bring about an amalgamation with the leading rival concerns, and by the utilisation in its own models of the best features of the various designs it has been able to place on the market machines which have been unsurpassed in design and workmanship and have a remarkable output capacity consistent with the maintenance of the highest quality. At the present time, whether it be cigarette or tobacco machinery, the United Cigarette Machine Co. occupies the first place in the field.

In the half-century that has passed since the introduction of the first machine, developments have been little short of marvellous, and the machines in use to-day would compare very strangely with their ancestor. One of the best-known products of the firm is the Triumph Cigarette Machine, which embodies all the latest improvements. It has an automatic feed for automatically distributing the tobacco in a mechanical manner to ensure a regular feed. Other features are the printing apparatus for reproducing any trade mark on the cigarettes; the steel garniture or filler-forming device for making various shapes and sizes of cigarettes; the tipping device for automatically tipping the cigarettes with gold, silk, cork, or straw, with a special device for paraffin tipping; the latest type of cut off; the crimping device for making the crimped type of cigarettes; and finally an infinitely variable speed gear, enabling the production of cigarettes at rates between 300 and 800 per minute. It is quite an education to watch this machine in operation. With a quantity of loose tobacco placed in the hopper and with a roll of paper it will produce cigarettes perfectly made and printed with the name and device of the manufacturer at a simply incredible speed. And the wonder is not lessened by the number of processes that the tobacco undergoes before it emerges in the finished form.

In the hopper the tobacco is automatically spread at a uniform thickness, and is then carried along on an endless belt, to be placed on a travelling tape which takes it to the point at which it meets the paper. It is then transferred to the paper, and goes on through a former to emerge in the shape of a finished cigarette, the difference between it and the cigarettes we know being that it is then in the form of a long unbroken chain. On the way through the former the edge of the paper has deposited on it, by a small revolving wheel, a small line of gum or paste, and as it leaves the former the gummed edge is dried by an electric or gas heating device. The cigarette—if one may properly apply the word to the long chain—moves on to the cut off, which, as its name implies, cuts the cigarettes to the correct length, and they are then deposited on two moving bands. It should be added that the paper is printed with whatever devices are required before it comes into contact with the tobacco. Occasionally a few defective cigarettes come from the machine, and these are dealt with by the attendants who are collecting the produced cigarettes and are placed in an attachment of the machine. They fall into a chute, the paper is automatically stripped off the tobacco, and the tobacco is sifted into a special box and can be returned to the hopper for another journey. There are two or three other devices of this wonderful machine of which mention should be made. Before the tobacco reaches the paper it passes over powerful magnets, which extract any particles of metal that may be there, while powerful suction tubes draw off any dust there may be in the tobacco, while any superfluous gold dust on the paper is also dealt with by a suction tube.

The machine is operated by a mechanic, who sees to the running of the machine, and two girls who are known as "catchers," who take the finished cigarettes and stack them into trays, and also, as already indicated, look out for defective cigarettes, and in addition every now and then weigh the cigarettes to see that they are of the correct weight.

The products of the company are not confined to cigarette machines, but include cigarette and tobacco knife grinders, tobacco cutting machines, and box-making machines. Cigarette making machines are produced in a variety of types, ranging from the Piccolo Cigarette Machine, which can be worked either by power or hand and produces 180 cigarettes per minute, to the Triumph, which has been described in these notes.

OVERSEAS AGENTS FOR THE SALE OF "THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA."

EGYPT.
Alexandria: M. Nacamulli and Co., 12, Rue Sesostris.
Cairo: M. Avatis, 1, Faggala.
Express Book and Stationery Store, P.O. Box 1113.
Port Said: English Agency, P.O. Box 240.

SUDAN.
Khartoum: Victoria Book and Stationery Store, P.O. Box 51

PALESTINE.
Haifa: T. S. Boutagy.
Jerusalem: B. Y. and W. A. Said, 23-24, Jaffa Road.

SYRIA.
Beyrout: Sarrafian Bros.

IRAQ.
Baghdad: Government Bookshop, Serai.
Basrah: Utam Jashan and Co., Bridge Street, Ashar.

INDIA.
Calcutta: A. N. Wheeler and Co., 117-119 Park Street.
Bombay: A. N. Wheeler and Co., Hornby Road.
Karachi: Standard Bookstall, Elphinstone Street, Karachi.

BULGARIA.
Sofia: Librairie Francaise et Etrangere, 4a, Bvd. Tsar Ostvoboditel.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia: George and Sons, P.O. Box 6.

GREECE.
Athens: Th. Vafiadjs, 24, Rue du Stade.
Eleftheroudakis and Barth, Place de la Constitution.

ROUMANIA.
Bucharest: Librairie Universala, 37, Calea Victoriei.

TURKEY.
Constantinople: H. D. Marianopoulos, Librairie Internationale. Pera.

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Company Meetings.

EGYPTIAN HOTELS.

A Successful Year.

The twenty-eighth annual general meeting of the Egyptian Hotels, Ltd., was held on June 30 at the registered offices of the company, 11, Ironmonger Lane, E.C., Sir William B. Peat, C.V.O., presiding

The notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors having been read,

The Chairman said: The director's report and accounts for the year to April 30, 1925, have been circulated, and I presume you will agree to take them as read.

It is with very great regret that the directors have to announce the death of Lord Claud Hamilton, which occurred in January of this year. He occupied the position of Chairman from the incorporation of the company, and his colleagues deeply depore his loss. His services were of great value to the company, and he never failed to give ample consideration and the benefit of his wise judgment to all its interests.

The company has again enjoyed a successful year, although the profits are not quite so good as those recorded for the year ended April 30, 1924. The Semiramis Hotel also shows satisfactory results, although not quite so good as the preceding year.

After providing for all expenses in London and Cairo, and taking into account interest and dividends received, we are left with a profit of £54,784, which, after providing £5,000 for depreciation, is sufficient to enable us to pay the preference dividend for the year; to maintain the ordinary dividend of 35 per cent.; and to carry forward into the next year's accounts a sum of £8,867 15s. 6d., against £8,583 10s. 8d. brought in from last year.

The balance-sheet does not show any important changes as compared with last year. The item freehold land and buildings remains unaltered. Plant, fixtures, and furniture show a small decrease after taking into account additions during the year and depreciation written off. Our interest in the Societe Suisse Egyptienne des Hotels is higher at £8,181, as compared with £4,466 last year.

The market value of our investments in Egyptian Government securities at the date of the balance-sheet was £49,875, against a book value of £39,001 6s. 1d., an appreciation of £10,773 13s. 11d., which is in the nature of an additional reserve.

The cash at bankers and in hand stands at £122,702 19s. 2d.—£1,620 higher than last year. Our special reserve account now stands at £50,000, as compared with £35,000 in last year's accounts, the difference being due to the £15,000 carried to reserve out of last year's profits.

Societe Grands Hotels d'Egypte.

You will observe that in the directors' report, reference is made to the negotiations with the Societe Grands Hotels d'Egypte. When our annual meeting was held on June 30 last the Chairman told you that discussions were still proceeding between the Boards of the two companies. Ultimately, the proposals for amalgamation fell through and an alternative scheme was put forward which has now been carried into effect and approved by general meetings of both companies held in Egypt in April, 1925. Under this arrangement, Egyptian Hotels, Ltd., acquires the lease for 25 years of the four hotels of the Societe Grands Hotels d'Egypte—namely, Hotel Continental Savoy, Mena House Hotel, Grand Hotel, Helouan, and Bath Establishment and Hotel Cassino, San Stefano—and also acquires the furniture and effects of those hotels.

These arrangements operate as from May 1 and are not reflected in the accounts for the past year. The local Board, who negotiated these arrangements, are of opinion that the results should prove advantageous to your company.

The Board in Egypt state that they regard the prospects of the current season as satisfactory, if, as they hope, conditions in Egypt remain normal. We desire to express our appreciation of the actions of the Board in Egypt and especially of the admirable organisation and administration of our managing director Mr. Charles Baehler, whom we have the pleasure to welcome here to-day.

I now beg to move: "That the directors' report and accounts for the year ended April 30, 1925, as submitted to the shareholders, be received and adopted," and I will ask Mr. Baehler to second it.

Mr. Charles Baehler (managing director) seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The payment of a dividend of 5 per cent. per annum on the preference shares for the year to April 30, 1925, was approved, as also was the payment of a dividend on the ordinary shares of 35 per cent. for the year.

The retiring director (Mr. H. M. Snow, M.V.O.) was re-elected, and the auditors (Messrs. Turquand Youngs and Co.) were re-appointed.

Mr. Baehler said that he would like to propose a vote of thanks to Sir William Peat for taking the chair, and would like to take the opportunity of thanking him for all he had done for the company since its foundation. He had devoted a great deal of time to its welfare, and it was to him that they owed to-day the prosperity of the company.

The vote was unanimously accorded, and the Chairman having briefly acknowledged the compliment, the proceedings terminated

IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA.

Sir Hugh Barnes's Speech.

The thirty-sixth ordinary general meeting of the members of the Imperial Bank of Persia was held on July 7 at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C. Sir Hugh S. Barnes, K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O., the chairman, presided.

The Manager and Secretary (Mr. Sydney Rogers) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—As the report discussed at our last general meeting a year ago was for six months only, the accounts now before you should be compared with those dealt with at our meeting in December, 1923. You will probably have noticed already that the figures of the two years differ very little, and will have rightly concluded that so far as the bank is concerned the past year has been one of ordinary steady and progressive business, about which there is little to remark, except that our profits have been well maintained, that the financial position of the bank is strong, and that the final dividend we propose to pay makes the total dividend for the year the same as before, viz., 9s. per share, free of tax. This, I trust, you will consider satisfactory.

But while the business and progress of the bank have been comparatively uneventful, the year has been an interesting one for Persia, owing to the growing power and popularity of the Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief of the Army, Reza Khan Pehlevi, by whom, in the absence of H.M. the Shah, the Government has been carried on with increased strength and efficiency. You will remember that this remarkable officer became Minister of War in the summer of 1921, when the Ghavam-us-Saltaneh was Prime Minister, and that in spite of several changes of government he continued to hold this post undisturbed until he was also appointed Prime Minister in October, 1923. Since that date he has remained in power and has governed the country with a firm hand. During the past twelve months his great achievement has been his successful assertion of the authority of the Central Government over such semi-autonomous chiefs as the Sheikh of Mohammerah, the Wali of Pusht-i-Kuh, and the Bakhtiari and Luristan Khans. At one time it looked as if there might be serious fighting in Arabistan—or Khuzistan, as it is called by the Persians—but the determination displayed by the Commander-in-Chief and his prompt movement of troops to the South enabled him to overcome all opposition with little more than a show of force. He himself proceeded to Mohammerah and Ahwaz to arrange matters with the Sheikh, and he took the opportunity to pay a visit to the oilfields and the Anglo-Persian

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria	Piastre to £	97⅛	97⅜—9/16
Athens	Drachmæ to £	25 22½	295-298
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	277-282
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.41—20.43
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.04-25.05
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 3/32—18 5/32d
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	104.05
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	1,060—1,065
Budapest	Kronen to £	24 02	345-347,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 3/32—18 5/32d
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	898
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2 3	4.86 1/16—4.86⅛
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	103.15
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	164
Rome	Lire to £	25 22½	129½
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	675
Teheran	Krans to £	50	42.15
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	34.55-34 60
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	25.35-25.40

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Oil Company's refinery at Abadan, by which we are told he was very favourably impressed. One result of his operations has been the opening up of the direct route from Ahwaz to Khurumabad through Luristan. This road has been closed for years as unsafe for traffic, but last April for the first time we were able to send a caravan of specie from Ahwaz to Sultanabad by this route without mishap.

We continue to receive satisfactory reports of the trade of the country which, year by year, shows expansion. The latest figures are imports Ts. 77,000,000, exports Ts. 100,000,000, just received by telegram, as against the figures I mentioned last year of Ts. 69,400,000 and Ts. 76,700,000 respectively.

I think we may accept this as mainly the result of the improvement that has taken place in the government of the country and the safer conditions that exist for carrying on trade. It is needless to remind you that good trade has an important relation to the well-being of Persia and incidentally of the bank and, given security and the continuance of sound financial administration, the volume of trade can hardly fail to increase.

There is one branch of the administration which has hitherto been rather neglected—better communications are sorely needed, so that quick transport facilities may be at the disposal not only of merchants and traders, but also of the Government, for the preservation of peace by the necessary movement of troops to outlying districts, and for the prevention of famine by timely transfer of foodstuffs from a district where crops are good to one where famine conditions prevail, which is almost impossible to accomplish with the slow methods of the caravan—mule or camel. In this respect the Prime Minister is credited with a far-seeing policy; being a military man, he recognises the value of a mobile army, and as a good administrator he knows well the needs of his country and the good temper engendered by a well-fed population.

The question of railway construction stands well in the foreground of his views, and I understand that all the recent plans for pushing on the various schemes suggested for linking up the capital with the sea emanate from him. The main roads have of late years received attention, and with the advent of the motor-car, they are serving their purpose fairly well, but there is still much room for improvement, and I understand the Government is contemplating special taxation for this purpose. Persia is to-day seeking eagerly for avenues by which to progress, and it is strange that the country should possess motors and aeroplanes before a mile of railway track has been built. This state of affairs we confidently hope may now be changed, as a serious beginning has been made to provide means for railway construction.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

P. AND O. BANKING CORPORATION.

The net profit for the year to March 31, 1925, was £136,214 18s. 10d. (last year, £136,382 6s. 5d.). The directors have placed to reserve £25,000 (last year £20,000) and have written £5,000 off premises account as against nil last year. They propose to pay a dividend of 5 per cent. as against 5½ per cent. last year, carrying forward £17,584 os. 3d. as against £17,567 9s. 11d. The increases to reserve and premises account have no doubt been made as a matter of prudence in view of the unsettled conditions prevailing in the Far East. The annual general meeting will be held at the company's head office on July 10 at 3 p.m.

LAKE COPAIS.

The report of the Lake Copais Company states that the net profit for 1924 was £31,909, compared with £23,606 in the previous year. The revenue was aproximately the same in drachmæ, but the exchange remained more stable. The expenses were exceptionally heavy, due, among other causes, to the amount of development work carried out during the year. The balance of profit after adding interest and other receipts in London, deducting London expenses, making provision for taxation and transferring £2,000 to capital reserve, is £25,291. Of this balance £11,127 falls to be appropriated to the credit of "A" debenture stockholders' interest account, and £14,164 to the credit of "B" debenture stockholders' interest account, which added to balance of £135 brought forward makes £14,299 at the credit of the latter account. The directors recommend the distribution from the "A" debenture account of interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, less tax, on "A" debenture stock issued prior to July 31, 1924, in respect of the year 1924, and on the "A" debenture stock issued as at that date in respect of the half-year to December 31, 1924. The directors further recommend the distribution from "B" debenture account of interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less tax, on the "B" debenture stock in respect of 1924. The above interest will be payable in fully-paid Five per Cent. "A" debenture stock of the company at par. Meeting, Winchester House, July 16, 3 p.m.

DELHI, UMBALLA, KALKA RAILWAY.

The report for the year ended March 31 states that the net earnings were £188,308, gainst £172,282 for the previous year. The actual rates of exchange were above book rate, viz., 1s. 4d., and, after adding the gain in remittance, viz., £11,702, and making minor adjustments, the net earnings are £199,048. An ad interim dividend for the half-year ended September 20, 1924, of 6 per cent., plus a bonus of 1 per cent., on the ordinary stock, was paid on January 26. After bringing forward the balance from last year of £22,955, providing for corporation and income taxes, interest on debenture and preference stocks, the interim dividend and bonus, interest on capital advances, and making other adjustments, the amount to be dealt with is £98,537. The directors recommend a final dividend of £6 per cent., together with a bonus of 3 per cent., on the ordinary stock, subject to tax at 2s. 5d. in the £, absorbing £63,300, leaving £35,237 to be carried forward.

BENGAL-NAGPUR RAILWAY.

The actual returns for the year ended March 31, 1925, have not yet been received from India, but the company's share of the surplus profits Rs.5,77,220, has been paid to the company's credit by the Government of India. This has realised £43,215. An interim half-yearly dividend in respect of the year ended March 31, 1925, at the rate of 15s. per cent. has been declared, making, with the guaranteed interest, a distribution of £2 10s. per cent. The balance on the basis of existing market rates of the reserves (including accrued interest on investments) at the disposal of the company as on July 1 is estimated at £112,000 after providing for the present interim dividend.

TEA RESULTS.

The Craighead Tea Company has declared an interim dividend of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares, less tax.

The Anglo-Ceylon and General Estates Company recommends a final dividend of 10 per cent., less tax, making 15 per cent.

The report of the Derby Tea Company for the year ended December 31 states that the crop for 1924 was 518,986 lb., a decrease of 183,714 lb. as compared with preceding year. The revenue account shows a profit of £13,581, plus £16,386 brought in and income from investments £1,200, making £31,167. The directors recommend a final dividend of 15 per cent., less tax, making 35 per cent. for the year, carrying forward £15,062.

The profit of the Majuli Tea Company for 1924 was £49,538, subject to corporation tax. The amount available is £56,257, less income-tax account balance written off £2,512, and transfer to reserve £5,000. A final dividend of 20 per cent., less tax, is proposed, making 40 per cent., leaving to be carried forward, subject to corporation tax, £9,156.

The profit of the Attaree Khat Tea Company for 1924 was £18,080, subject to corporation tax. The amount available is £21,436, less interest on debenture stock £424 and income-tax written off £850. A final dividend of 2½ per cent., less tax, is proposed, making 10 per cent., leaving to be carried forward, subject to corporation tax, £8,042.

The report of the Dekhari Tea Company for the year ended December 31 states that the outturn for the year was 335,746 lb. The crop account shows a profit of £38,118, plus £42,144, bought in and £2,120 transferred from the hail insurance fund, which together with the additional profit on the 1923 crop, £204, makes £82,586, less corporation profits tax for 1923 £1,457, Indian income-tax £1,351, an appropriation to share capital in terms of a resolution passed on December 10, 1924, by the issue of 10,000 shares of £1 each as fully paid, £10,000. The directors recommend a final dividend of 55 per cent., less tax, on 50,000 shares, making 65 per cent. for the year, carrying forward, subject to corporation profit tax, £37,277.

The net profit of the Rajmai Tea Company for the year ended December 31, 1924, was £45,914, plus £4,244 brought in and £728 interest, making £50,886. The directors recommend a final dividend of 30 per cent., less tax, making 75 per cent. for the year, carrying forward, subject to corporation profits tax, £8,744.

The report of the Doloo Tea Company for the year to December 31, 1924, states that the net profit was £30,799, plus £958 brought in. The directors recommend a final dividend of 17½ per cent., less tax, making 25 per cent. for the year.

The report of the Jalinga Tea Company for the year to December 31, 1924, states that the revenue account shows a net profit of £8,381, plus £115 brought in, and difference in estimate in respect of rubber sales, season 1923, £267. The directors recommend a final dividend of 17½ per cent., less tax, making 25 per cent. for the year.

The Upper Assam Tea Company proposes a final dividend of 20 per cent., less tax at 3s. 8d. in the £, making 30 per cent. for 1924.

The report of the Assam Company for the past year states that the quantity of tea invoiced for 1924 amounted to 9,420,613 lb. The net profit amounted to £300,072.

National Insurance Companies.
"BALKAN FIRE AND MARINE"
(ESTABLISHED IN 1895
"BALKAN LIFE AND ACCIDENT" and
General Re-Insurance Company, "BALKAN."
Capital - Leva 5.000,000 each.
Total Guarantees: Leva 100,045,000
HEAD OFFICE: SOFIA, BULGARIA.

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The Lethenty Tea Estates Association announces an interim dividend of 2½ per cent., less tax, payable July 17.

The outturn of the Chandpore Tea Company for 1924 amounted to 845,600 lb. compared with 781,280 lb. in 1923. The revenue was £54,600 and profit £19,092. After providing for debenture interest, corporation tax and Indian tax, transferring £2,000 to machinery renewals account, £5,000 to general reserve and £2,000 to income-tax reserve, a balance of £14,110 remains. The directors recommend a final dividend of 10 per cent. and a bonus of 5 per cent., both less tax, making 22½ per cent., carrying forward £6,910.

The outturn of the Rungajaun Tea Company for 1924 was 1,028,935 lb., against an estimate of 1,072,000 lb. The profit amounted to £27,332. Adding £14,017 brought forward and £558 interest on investments, and deducting £9,190 debenture interest, income-tax, Indian super-tax, corporation tax, duty, etc., on increase of capital and directors' commission, there is £32,717. The directors recommend a final ordinary dividend of 20 per cent., less tax, making 40 per cent., bonus of 5 per cent., less tax, transfer to reserve £5,000, carrying forward £13,785.

The outturn of the Upper Assam Tea Company for 1924 was 2,929,230 lb., compared with 2,873,681 lb. in 1923. The average price obtained was 1s. 7.58d. per pound, compared with 1s. 6.42d. The profit on the crop was £81,079. Adding sundry receipts and deducting interest, there remains £78.684. The sum of £15,000 has been transferred to taxation reserve. The directors recommend a final dividend of 20 per cent. (4s. per share), less tax at 3s. 8d., making 30 per cent., leaving £38,529. The current season's crop is estimated at 3,088,000 lb. of fine quality tea. The directors propose to offer to existing shareholders 13,649 unissued shares of £1 each at £2 per share, and shareholders will be entitled to take up their proportion of one share for every 14 shares (or part thereof) now held. A circular to this effect will accompany the dividend warrants to be issued on July 18, and the list of applications will remain open until July 27. The proceeds of the above issue will be applied entirely to repayment of the present outstanding debentures.

The outturn of the Limbuguri Tea Company for 1924 was 545,741 lb., against an estimate of 504,000 lb. The total cost per pound was 11.91d., against 10.89d. The profit was £18,895, plus interest, etc., and additional profit on unsold stock £1,156, making £20,051, less corporation tax (1923) £610. A final dividend of 20 per cent., less tax, is proposed, making 40 per cent., leaving to be carried forward £13,600, against £11,760 brought in. The estimate for current season is 516,000 lb. of tea.

EGYPTIAN AGRICULTURAL.

The report of the Egyptian Agricultural Company for the year to March 31, 1925, states that there has been no opportunity during the year of selling Dekerness estate en bloc, but about 140 feddans of uncultivated land in Hod I. have been sold for about £2,800. Sales amounting to £4,137 have been made of "assets in suspense." "Assets in suspense" previous to this sale stood in the books at £1,857 only, and the directors have accordingly transferred £5,000 from "realised deficit" account to "assets in suspense," leaving the balance of the latter at £2,719, which they believe to be a fair estimate of the amount which the remainder of these assets may be expected to realise. Meeting, 36, New Broad Street, E.C.2, July 14, noon.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

EGYPT.

Steam Engines.—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, P.W.M., Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and erection of two 80 B.H.P. semi-fixed superheated condensing steam engines at Beni Saleh, Beni Suef Province. August 18.

Pumps.—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, P.W.M., Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and erection of two belt-driven centrifugal turbine, or screw pumps at Beni Saleh, Beni Suef Province. August 18.

Steel Index Cabinets.—The Survey of Egypt (Ministry of Finance) invites tenders for the supply of 18 steel card index cabinets. September 8. (D.O.T.)

Paper and Boards.—The Egyptian Government Press invites tenders for the supply of smooth surface writing paper, calendar printings for common forms, buff tinted paper, newsprint, millboard (thickness 1.1 mm. and 2.2 mm.), strawboard (1.1 mm. and 2.2 mm). July 25. (D.O.T.)

Paper.—The Superintendent, Government Press, Bulaq, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of paper, bristol board, and millboard. July 25.

Vessel for Coastguard Duties.—The Director-General, Coastguards and Fisheries Services, Alexandria, invites tenders for the construction of a sea-going vessel for Coastguard duties. August 1.

Nails and Shoes.—The War Department of the Egyptian Government invites tenders for shoes, horse and mule, about 5,400 pairs. Nails, horse and mule, about 150,000. July 21.

Timber, Etc.—The Director of Stores, Ministry of Education, Sharia Kasr el Aini, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of raw materials, i.e., timber, leather, iron bars, paints, tools, etc., for the year 1925-26. August 1.

MANCHESTER COTTON MARKET.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended July 4 states:—

The outstanding feature of the past week was the publication on Thursday morning of the American Agricultural Bureau's second report on the growing crop. This gave an estimated acreage of 46,348,000, a figure which compares with 42,641,000 acres last year. The condition of the crop on June 25 was given as 75.9 per cent., as against 76.6 per cent. on May 25. The prospective crop is estimated at 14,339,000 bales. This report was very much better than had been anticipated either in the United States or this country and resulted in a fairly sharp fall in prices. Reports will be issued from now onwards fortnightly, and doubtless there will be the fluctuations in price usual at this time of the year until the size of the crop is finally determined.

Yarn.—The result of the recent ballot of spinners of American cotton shows that over 84 per cent. voted in favour of continuing curtailment of production to the extent of 8¾ hours per week. Whilst there has been, perhaps, a slightly improved tone during the past week in this section, business is still only in a poor way, and it appears doubtful whether short time to the extent mentioned will be sufficient. As regards Egyptian spinnings there is nothing new to report and business continues to be very quiet.

Cloth.—Inquiry this week has been slightly larger and the tone is a little more cheerful. The fall in raw cotton prices above referred to enabled a number of transactions to be completed, but in view of the character of the Bureau Report it would not be surprising if buyers were to hold off as long as possible in anticipation of lower prices for raw cotton later. None of the foreign markets calls for special mention and, as usual at this time of the year, the Home Trade is stagnant.

Raw Cotton.—The Bureau Report has already been fully referred to. Saturday morning of last week brought a fairly substantial advance in prices; fluctuations on succeeding days were small, but the fall yesterday was nearly ½d. per lb., and on balance prices are therefore a little lower on the week. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows:—American Middling, 13.35; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 31.85.

SUDAN LIGHT AND POWER.

A trust deed, dated June 20, 1925, to secure £400,000 debenture stock and all sums paid by the guarantors thereof, charged on the benefit of two agreements dated January 10, 1925, with Lieut.-Colonel Schuster, M.C., and moneys payable thereunder and the Sudan Light and Power Company's undertaking and property, present and future, including uncalled capital, has been registered. The trustees are the Debenture Corporation, 4, Walbrook, E.C., and the guarantors the Commissioners of H.M. Treasury.

The export of bones from Roumania is prohibited.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal from June 13 to June 19 amounted to 2,980,000 francs, against 2,950,000 francs for the corresponding period of last year.

The Export Credits Department of the Department of Overseas Trade has been transferred from its premises at 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.2, to 30-31, King Street, Cheapside, E.C.2. The telephone number and telegraphic address remain unchanged.

The area under cultivation in Roumania as at May 25 is stated to be as follows (in hectares):—Wheat 3,065,781, rye 233,318, barley 1,407,037, rape 50,845, oats 884,146, sugar beet 51,356, potatoes 113,446, maize 2,286,148, beans 90,437; total, 8,182,514. The sowings of maize, oats, and barley were not finished, so the large diminution in the area under cultivation may be considerably reduced, if not entirely made good.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

CUNARD LINE ANNIVERSARY.

Saturday was the 85th birthday of the Cunard Line. The Mauretania, which left Southampton for New York on that day, is a vivid reminder of the great development in Transatlantic travel since 1840. The line's first steamer, the Britannia, of 1,154 tons, with her speed of 8½ knots took 14½ days for the passage, while the Mauretania, the fastest liner in the world, can do practically three trips in this time.

On July 4, 1840, there were 63 Cunard passengers at sea, all in the Britannia; to-day there are over 10,000 in Cunard ships crossing either to or from America. The luxurious passenger accommodation of the modern Cunarder is emphasised when Charles Dickens' preposterous box in the Britannia is compared with the suite of rooms with its flower-decked verandah occupied by the Prince of Wales in the Berengaria last summer. In 1840 the total Cunard tonnage was 4,616, and to-day, with its associate lines, it has reached a total of over a million.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

Anchor Line.—S.s. Tarantia for Bombay (Liverpool, July 23). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Matheran for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 11).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Gloucestershire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, July 15).

British India Line.—S.s. Malda for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 18); s.s. Nalgora for Bombay and Karachi (London, July 18).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Cypria for Oran, Algiers, Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, August 1).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Canton for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 20).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, July 11); m.v. Sycamore for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, August 8).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Nore for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 9); s.s. Morea for Bombay (London, July 24).

Roumania's imports in 1924 amounted to 802,539 tons, of a value of 26,291,000,000 lei, while the exports totalled 4,725,560 tons valued at 27,829,000,000 lei, there being thus a balance in Roumania's favour of about 1,500 million lei.

The amalgamation of the Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau with the Imperial Institute took effect as from July 1, and it will now be known as the Mineral Resources Department of the Imperial Institute. All inquiries and correspondence in connection with the work of the Bureau should be addressed to the Imperial Institute (Mineral Resources Department), South Kensington, London, S.W.7.

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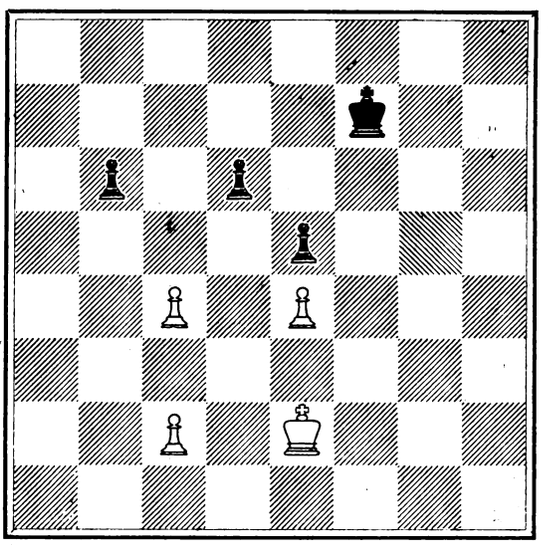

END GAME NO. 5.

White to play.—What result?

Solution to end game No. 4:—1, K—Q3, K—K3; 2, K—B4, K—Q3; 3, K—Kt5, K—Q4; 4, KxP, P—B5; 5, PxP, KxP; 6, K—Kt6, K—Q4; 7, K—B7, K—K5; 8, K—Q6, K—B6; 9, K—K6, KxP; 10, KxP (B5), K—B6 draws. It is interesting to note that Black would win with the first move by 1. . . P—B5 (!); 2, PxP, K—K3; 3, K—Q3, K—Q3; 4, K—Q4, K—B3; 5, P—B5, P—R5; 6, K—B4, P—R6; 7, K—Kt3, KxP; 8, KxP, K—Q5 and wins. The problem illustrates most aptly the resources of end game play.

It is in the nature of a new departure in chess columns to give end games instead of problems, and I should be glad if my readers will let me know their views on the subject. Personally, I feel strongly that not nearly enough attention is paid to end-game play, the main reason being, I suppose that even in the principal tournaments in this country the majority of the encounters terminate in the middle game, and when they are prolonged the position is not infrequently one where the result is a foregone conclusion. But every now and again positions do occur that give scope for brilliant end-game play, and it is surprising to see sometimes how indifferently the players rise to the occasion. It results simply from lack of practice of that branch of the game, and I have often thought it would be a good idea if the leading clubs now and again arranged end-game tournaments. Positions would be prepared by a committee for each game in the tournament, and if the players were of varying strengths the positions could be adjusted accordingly. Of course, it would entail a good deal of work, but the results would be worth it, and I think it would prove a very popular innovation.

The East Indian Coal Company recommends a dividend of 10 per cent., less tax, for the half-year ended April 30, 1925.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended June 10 amounted to £E7,450, making the total from April 1 £E50,571.

The traffic receipts of the South Indian Railway Company for the week ended June 6 amounted to Rs.10,71,412, making the total from April 1 Rs.99,78,251.

Mr. Arthur Law Mathewson, formerly manager of the business of Harrisons and Crosfield, Ltd., in Sumatra, has been appointed a director of the company.

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JUL 31 1925

The NEAR EAST AND INDIA

A Weekly Review of the Politics and Commerce of the Balkan Peninsula, Turkey, Egypt, and the Sudan, Syria, Palestine, Arabia, Iraq, Persia and India.

No. 740.—Vol. XXVIII. Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper. THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1925. Price 6d. Postage 1d.

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THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

No. 740.—VOL. XXVIII. THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1925.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	Page
NOTES OF THE WEEK	61
SPECIAL LETTERS—	
Greece	64
Roumania	65
Cyprus	66
CORRESPONDENCE	71
BOOK REVIEWS	74
SPECIAL ARTICLE—	
Some Footnotes to the History of the War in Asia.—III. ...	72
LEADING ARTICLE—	
Britain & Eastern Christendom	63
THE WEEK AT HOME	68
PERSONAL AND GENERAL ...	70
INDIAN AFFAIRS—	
Lord Birkenhead's Statement ...	75
Special Letter : Calcutta ...	76
The Indian Mail	77
Indian Commercial Notes ...	79
Indian Exchange	80
COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
Notes and News	81
The Telephone System in Persia	84
Commercial Correspondence ...	85
Company Meetings—	
(1) Bank of British West Africa	86
(2) P. & O. Banking Corporation	86
Company Notes and Reports ...	87
Chess	89

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

Conditions in Bulgaria.

In a letter published elsewhere in this issue the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Balkan Committee rightly emphasise the point repeatedly insisted upon in these columns, that the welfare of the Balkan Peninsula as a whole is bound up with the welfare of each individual State. It is for this reason that present conditions in Bulgaria have an interest both for her immediate neighbours and for Europe as a whole. Recent occurrences in the country, it would be thought, had served to bring home the significance of this fact to the exclusion of all other considerations; but there is a tendency in many quarters to devote attention to the question of responsibility in Bulgaria for existing conditions rather than to introduce remedial measures. Judged by Western standards, it is possible that the Tsankoff Government has laid undue stress on the virtue of the heavy hand, and in dealing with the antagonism of a few desperate characters has lost sight of the necessity for constructive legislation designed to promote the welfare of the country as a whole. Yet its argument that Bulgaria is the victim of circumstances imposed from without is endorsed by every shade of opinion in the country, and even if a new Government were to introduce conciliation as its internal policy, it would hold out no hopes of being able to bring about a radical improvement in Bulgaria's position until certain onerous burdens placed upon her had been removed. With the attempt to determine whether those burdens are as heavy as the Bulgarians make out we have no patience. In a matter of this nature relativity has little practical value. The danger from conditions as they are is a real one, and the one thing essential is to eliminate that danger. When a whole nation has worked itself into a certain attitude of mind, reasoning, however logical, has little effect on it. For the outside world there is only one of two courses to adopt: to remedy the conditions, if it stands to lose from things as they are, or to do nothing, if it can afford to be indifferent to the menace to peace.

The Root of the Trouble.

The Balkan Committee supports the view that responsibility for existing conditions in Bulgaria rests neither with the Government nor with its opponents, but that these conditions are primarily the outcome of the Treaty of Neuilly and the policy pursued by the Great Powers. It points out that nearly thirty per cent. of the Bulgarian Budget is spent in facing obligations directly derived from the Treaty. As a result, the cost of living is high, the salaries of all public officials are low, and discontent is thereby caused among those classes with fixed incomes among whom the Government would naturally look for support. Owing to the frontiers drawn at the Paris Conference refugees have poured into Bulgaria from Macedonia, Thrace and the Dobruja, and as the country has no means of satisfying them, they become the easy prey of disaffection. Other causes of discontent are the non-fulfilment of the promise of an economic outlet to the Aegean Sea and the failure on the part of the Allied Powers to secure protection of Bulgarian Minorities in neighbouring States. Each point urged is, no doubt, susceptible of argument tending to minimise its importance; but the cumulative effect remains, and it is certain that, until a genuine attempt has been made by the Powers to meet at least some of the Bulgarian contentions, there will be no permanent improvement in the situation in the Balkan Peninsula. There would seem to be a general consensus of opinion as to the accuracy of this point of view; but the months pass and nothing is done, for the reason, perhaps, that of the three Great Powers primarily concerned none wishes to incur the onus of admitting that a mistake was made in the Treaty of Neuilly. Here is a case for action on the part of the League of Nations, and it would be well if Belgium or a neutral State were

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to assume responsibility for calling upon the League to introduce remedial measures into a situation that constitutes a danger to European peace.

The Point of View.

The need for generosity in international relations is now being urged in Yugoslavia as the result of requests from the British and American Governments that definite arrangements should be made for the payment of Yugoslav debts. It is pointed out that, if Yugoslavia is to meet her foreign indebtedness at this stage, she must subject herself to a serious increase in taxation, with the consequent set-back to her economic development. The critics of Yugoslavia will, no doubt, at this stage get busy with an analysis of the current Budget and prove to their own satisfaction that a country which can spend a fifth of its income on its Army and can maintain seventeen different Ministries is quite well able to begin to pay its War Debts, particularly as it is receiving a share of German reparations. Here again is a line of argument, as specious as that applied to the case of Bulgaria, which ought not to be adopted until its has been subjected to critical and dispassionate examination. In the present state of trade stagnation throughout the world it is most necessary that a country with the potentialities of Yugoslavia should be given every possible encouragement to develop her resources and to increase her production and purchasing power. To penalise her at this point might in the long run prove less remunerative to the Powers now suggesting that she should pay her debts than to allow her a longer period of grace. In this matter, however, we should prefer to see the Balkan States treated as a whole instead of as separate units. Quite apart from any bearing that this plea for generosity urged by Yugoslavia should have on her own attitude towards her neighbour Bulgaria, who is meeting her debts even to the extent of one third of her Budget total, an impartial investigation, which would enquire into the relation between Yugoslavia's military expenditure and existing conditions in South-Eastern Europe, might suggest arrangements conducive to the amelioration of those conditions and to the reduction in the outlay in the different States on military services.

The New Greek Government.

Any respite that the Government of General Pangalos may obtain from the prorogation of the Greek Chamber will be more than counterbalanced by the multiplicity of problems awaiting early solution. The sudden visit of the Prime Minister to Salonika has given rise to rumours of dissatisfaction among his military supporters; but even if the reports have some foundation in fact, there is no reason at present to doubt General Pangalos's ability to deal with his critics. In the domain of foreign affairs no time has been lost in an attempt to reassure Yugoslavia of the pacific intentions of the new Cabinet, soundings for a better understanding with Italy are being inaugurated, and the publication of a Law passed by the late Government authorising the drafting of provisional agreements with France and Great Britain regarding the payment of War Debts suggests that no effort will be spared to keep Greece's credit abroad on the highest plane possible. In the sphere of home politics there is to be a drastic attempt to lower the cost of living by a reduction of duties, involving a loss of revenue estimated at forty million drachmae. This salutary measure, however, may render the task of balancing revenue and expenditure the more difficult, if the expectations of those who wish to see Greek's military prestige restored are to be realised in full. For the rest, the very clear indications that General Pangalos "means business" appear to receive wide approval in democratic Greece.

Excavations in Athens.

Further information contained in a telegram from Athens to *The Times* regarding the concession for archæological excavation in the centre of the Greek capital points out that no actual concession has yet been granted. The American School of Archæology has, however, the assurance of the Greek Ministry of Education that, provided that it can raise the necessary capital, it will be accorded permission to carry out the excavations. It is to be hoped that the scheme rests on a surer foundation than the announcement once made by an enthusiast that he had arranged with the Greek Government of the day for the statue of Hermes, now at Olympia, to undertake a lecture tour in America as a means of raising revenue for Greece. Public opinion on that occasion refused to countenance the suggestion and the Government denied that any such undertaking had been given. In the present instance it is satisfactory to learn that, whatever demolition of existing houses may be entailed by the proposed excavations, there will be no wholesale transfer of a section of the inhabitants of Athens. The work, it is now pointed out, will be undertaken very gradually and should entail the expropriation of not more than four or five houses at a time. The first step in the interesting enterprise is that the necessary funds should be forthcoming from the United States, where the only estimate of expenditure so far given mentions a sum of two hundred thousand pounds for compensation and an annual outlay of £10,000. The publicity given to the proposal has had the satisfactory result of enabling attention to be called to the pride of the Greeks in their archæological treasures and the steady work in connection with them that has been in progress for many years at the expense of the Greek Exchequer.

"ARSHIN-MAL-ALAN."

The Persian musical comedy known as "The Street-Hawker" was given its first performance in London on July 9, at the Philharmonic Hall. It was played by the Persian Operatic Company under the patronage of Prince Nadir Mirza Arasteh, Persian Chargé d'Affaires, and of Lord Lamington, and was under the personal supervision of M. Harout, of the National Theatre L'Odéon.

This amusing piece was played and sung entirely in Persian, to the accompaniment of Persian music, the only compromise with Western ideas being the occasional use of the pianoforte. On the Persian fiddle, M. Abgar was indefatigable, and played with remarkable skill. It was the music as much as anything, perhaps, which brought so forcibly to the Occidental mind the repetitions and ornamentations of Persia, its melancholy and its jollity, its longings and its ardours.

In this story, which, beginning with the simple yet necessary devices of which four pairs of lovers make such excellent use, ends in a blissful consummation of four weddings, all the eight actors did worthy work. As those who employed the truest and most unaffected art one might pick out Mlle. Badal (an Armenian born in Teheran) as Gulchora, Mlle. George as Assia, Mlle. Ankine as Telli, and M. N. Gulessarian as Sultan Beg, and M. Kessedjian as Velli. But the whole of the acting was greatly to the liking of the audience, which, incidentally, appeared to include most of the Persian colony in London. Especially was the dancing (said, curiously enough, on the programme to be Caucasian) of Mlle. George and Mlle. Badal to the satisfaction of the audience.

A word should be said on the courage of the promoters of this play in putting on to an English stage something really and not pseudo-Oriental. The whole setting, from the costumes of the ladies to the rugs and carpets (the men, of course, on occasions adopted the frock coat) was correctly in keeping with the spirit of the comedy, and it is something that in a capital whose ideas of the East are largely and falsely derived from such monstrosities as "Chu Chin Chow" and "Cairo," the reception of "Arshin-Mal Alan" should have been so hearty.

The Palestine Pavilion was honoured by a visit of the Queen on July 3. Her Majesty was received by Major R. T. Little, the Commissioner, and Mr. A. Sefi, and was presented by Mrs. Little with a sheaf of lilies of the valley. In the course of the tour of the building the Queen had occasion to admire the interior decoration, and was much interested in the various exhibits, particularly in the model in mother-of-pearl of the Dome of the Rock and in the work of the Yemenite craftsman, from whom Her Majesty purchased a Menorah.

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THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1925.

BRITAIN AND EASTERN CHRISTENDOM.

It is more, we suppose, as a recognition of the present political strength of Great Britain, and particularly of the position in the East that she has won as a result of the world-War, than as an acknowledgement of this country's religious situation between the Roman Catholic and the Orthodox Churches, that the visit of the Orthodox Patriarchs in celebration of the sixteen hundredth anniversary of the Council of Nicaea has been arranged. Certainly it is possible to extract from this visit, so well staged and worthily conducted, a religious significance; with that, however, we are not for the moment concerned. Equally it is possible to discover a political importance in the sojourning here of ecclesiastical prelates from lands directly or indirectly under Britain's charge. But the one large question which this visit provokes is: What is Great Britain's attitude towards the Christians of the East? Are these eminent holders of ancient offices here on a definite errand; or is their long journey prompted only by fraternal feelings for a Church whose Orders they are prepared to recognise? If their recollection of the unhappy lot of other Christians in the East—Armenians, Assyrians, Greeks, and so on—has not yet dimmed, they would, we think, be wise to confine their thoughts and words here to spiritual and social converse. There was a time, it must be admitted, during and after the War, when the Eastern Christians were promised (or at least were led to believe in) support from Great Britain against Moslem enemies mainly because they were Christians; but it was an exceedingly dangerous promise, the falsification of which caused the deaths of thousands and the misery of more, and one not likely to be repeated in our generation. In the long consideration, Great Britain's attitude towards that part of Christendom which lies in the East is exactly the same as towards Islam: it is governed by material, or, as one says, practical, reasons alone. Disraeli's dicta may not still be held in their entirety, but neither do Gladstone's convictions yet command general consent. If the Patriarchs are given any other interpretation of our official attitude than this, disillusionment will surely follow in Eastern Europe and Western Asia. Sympathy with Orthodox Christians this country may have in abundance, but, although sympathy may cause battles, it never yet won one. The more readily the student of Near Eastern history accords honour to those who are striving for the reunion of Christendom, the more suspiciously should he look on all purely political manifestations of this worthiest of objects.

Just as assessment is impossible of the water that has flowed down the Jordan and the Nile—to take the homes of the highest of the dignitaries now in England—since that Council was assembled which was to consider and to expose the heresy of Arianism, so no one can measure the gulf which divides a Christendom upon which could be imposed a universal and unescapable doctrine from one in which the three great rifts of Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant Churches obscure the vision of all but the dreamer who yet hopes for a re-domination of "the pale Galilaean." But there are, perhaps, one or two points of resemblance. And of these the capital, from our present point of view, is the fact that, broadly speaking, where Rome stood now Britain stands. Whether the Church in our modern times goes more or less in awe of the temporal power than it did in the earlier centuries of our era may be a matter of opinion, but perhaps it is not wholly an accident that, whereas the Patriarchs of Jerusalem and of Alexandria and the Archbishop of Transjordan (together, of course, with many other prelates of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe whose friendship with the Anglican Church dates from long before the War,) come with evident interest to see the people under whose political aegis they now are, the Patriarch from mandated Syria was unable to visit Great Britain. It is true, of course, that France's primary interest in Eastern Christendom is rather with the Roman Catholic communities there than with the Orthodox, but the impression that this commemoration of the Council of Nicaea is, not designed to show, indeed, but at least indicative of, Great Britain's dominant power in the East is difficult to avoid. All those hungry Russians, deprived for eight years now of spiritual sustenance by rulers who pride themselves upon their non-Christian race or beliefs, those menaced Assyrians, those wilted Armenians, those disappointed Greeks, look now more than, or as much as, ever to London for the restoration or the establishment of their desires. It is to be feared, however, that in this matter Whitehall is of more account than Canterbury, and that in a material age it is the temporal which is more visibly important than the spiritual power.

Is there, then, no hope that this unique visitation—no Patriarchs have ever before sojourned purposefully in our land—will produce something worthy of its cause? Have the glories of a united Christendom decayed, indeed, never to revive? Shall the Cross no more equally encompass a man's life, whether he be in Birmingham or Beyrout, Alexandria or Athens, Odessa or Otranto? We cannot tell. But at least it is folly to suppose that our present separations are inevitably permanent. The Church, after all, was united for at least as long as it has been divided into East and West; and Protestantism is, of course, of comparatively recent growth. In a certain section of the Anglican Church, moreover, signs are not wanting of a desire for a grand reunion—signs, which, by a happy coincidence, the Orthodox prelates were last week enabled to witness. At an anniversary meeting of the Anglo-Catholic Congress at the Albert Hall, these prelates could see the sincerity with which men in the Church of England are striving for a closer union, both with their own Church and with that of Rome. What they thought of such attempts at re-union we have no means of knowing: it is possible, of course, that new difficulties were thereby created. But in all probability their estimate of the Anglican Church has determined them still more vigorously to press for the union of our Church with that of the East. In all probability, too, it is wiser to take the smaller step before the greater. The greater question—the reunion of East and West—is perhaps outside the immediate subject of the Patriarch's visit to Great Britain, however much and continually it may exercise their minds. It is enough for the moment that they will return to their charges refreshed by the sympathy with which they have everywhere met and the knowledge which they have gained. One can but trust that in due time their visit will produce some result worthy of the ringing faith of Christendom, and that in this producing the British Empire may have played a mediatory and directing part. At no time in the history of the British Nation has there before been the privilege of a personal greeting from the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the sacred spot of Calvary, and, surely, in the recollection thus prompted by the Patriarch of Jerusalem of that "lorn Syrian town," the impulses of Christians here will be quickened in a resolve to forget the accretions and the local differences that have, sometimes justifiably, sometimes accidentally, grown, in an attempt to concentrate upon the essential unity of the members of the Christian Faith.

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From Our Own Correspondents.

GREECE.

Athens, July 8.

The Greeks and Constitutionalism.

Though the internal politics of other countries, and especially of small countries, are not always of interest to British readers, the present movement in Greece and the methods by which it is being carried out deserve description in some detail for the light they throw on the mentality of the Greek people. The unconstitutional character of these movements does not count for much with the Greeks; in fact, *praxikopemata*, as such, command their sympathy. Their attitude is that, though the late Government was doing well, and there was no necessity for a change, still—who knows?—the new Government may do better—or it may do worse. In this spirit they accept it, and will be quite ready for the next change—when it comes. The strongest point in favour of the new Director (he can hardly be called Prime Minister) is, that he is known to be a man of his word—a rare type here and not always appreciated— and that, as long as he is in power he will carry out his programme, of which the outlines are simple and straightforward. i.e., to create an efficient Army, to restore order and security (there has been a bad spell of brigandage lately in Greece), and to economise. The Greeks no doubt feel that, though the late Government was right to break off the negotiatrons with Yugoslavia, the Yugoslav demands would never have been made had Greece been more respected. The prospect of a strong Army, therefore, appeals to them, and that every effort will be made to create one is guaranteed by the appointment of General Neider, Greece's most brilliant staff-officer, as Under-Secretary for War. They also feel that their prestige has been injured by the frequent cases of brigandage that have occurred lately, e.g., that in Epirus, when an American student was killed, that in the Mt. Olympus district, when two prominent Athenians were attacked, and the recent *coup* of the Yayades brothers in Samos, all of which have so far gone unpunished. Here again, the name of Pangalos is a guarantee that this kind of thing, the recrudescence of which is always, in Greece, the mark of a Government internally weak, will be checked, for it was by him that the numerous brigands in the district round Salonika two years ago were brought to justice. Finally, he earned a great reputation, when Minister of Law and Order, for repressing profiteering and reducing prices. The measures which he then passed have already been revived, and economies in many directions have also been put into force. The effect of the Pangalos régime will, in fact, be that of a moral tonic, and, although Greece may for the moment suffer a loss of credit abroad, and her commercial interests may be temporarily retarded, internal government will be improved and she will gain in independence and self-respect. It is indisputable that under the revolutionary government of Plastiras, unrecognised as it was by the Great Powers, Greece enjoyed better internal government than ever before. These considerations explain why thoughtful Greeks do not regard the abrupt overthrow of the Michalokopoulos Government as an unmitigated disaster.

The Government's Access to Power.

The steps by which that overthrow was completed are instructive: the initial stages were described in my last letter. The day following the *coup d'état*, General Pangalos with the members of his Cabinet took the oath, and announced that he would meet the National Assembly on the following Tuesday. For the next few days there were much excitement and speculation on the attitude of the various party-leaders and their followers. However, the ground had been carefully prepared, for everything passed off according to plan, and the Government received the confidence of the Assembly by 185 votes to 14. The late Prime Minister and his party abstained from all part in the proceedings, and M. Sophoulis, another ex-Prime Minister, refused his support in a dignified speech. The others were more accommodating, and M. Papanastasiou, leader of the Republican Union and first Prime Minister of the Republic, and General Kondylis, leader of the Republican Nationalists and Minister under the late Government, agreed to sacrifice their principles and support the new régime. They were followed by the Independent Refugee Party and the Royalists. Most of the speakers paid a tribute to the honest motives of General Pangalos.

The Government's Plans.

The National Assembly will not meet again till November 1, when it will be dissolved, and resume the character of a Chamber of Deputies. It may, however, be prorogued for another three months.

In the interval, Government will be carried on by the Cabinet, assisted by Parliamentary Committees, of which one consisting of thirty members will immediately draw up and publish a Constitution Chart, which will have the force of law, but will be submitted to Parliament at the next session, during which General Elections will take place. On other questions the Government will pass decrees, after taking the advice of another Parliamentary Committee consisting of twenty-five members, appointed by the President of the Chamber. On questions affecting refugees the existing *ad hoc* Committee will advise the Government. In case of urgent necessity, e.g., questions affecting the Army or the Fleet, suppression of brigandage, and so on, the consent of all the members of the Cabinet is sufficient, without resort to the Parliamentary Committees.

Proportional Representation, approved in principle by the late Government, will become law, and be adopted at the General Elections.

It is clear from the above provision that a Directorate with a mildly constitutional flavour has been established.

Macedonia.

Meanwhile, the most urgent necessity for Greece is that the Vardar drainage scheme should not be interfered with, and of this, happily, there is no danger.

Some interesting statistics, lately published by M. Pallis, show that 88 per cent. of the population in Greek Macedonia and Western Thrace is now Greek. The significance of this is immense. With a population homogeneous and prosperous (as it will be when the drainage is completed)

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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in Macedonia, the position of Greece in the Balkans will be enormously strengthened.

Racing in Athens.

Political events have absorbed all other interests in Athens of late, and there is little else to report. The last races of the season took place on Sunday, June 28. These race-meetings have been an unqualified success.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, July 7.

The Opposition Leaders and the King.

At the end of the Parliamentary session the leaders of the Opposition obtained in turn of H.M. the King private audiences, which have been the subject of much discussion in the Opposition Press. The Opposition leaders had a double object in view in taking this step. They wished on the one hand to lay before the King their views on the present situation in the country, which in their opinion is critical, and on the other to throw light on the question of the succession to the Government. The views they wished to set forth, the merits of which need not be discussed here, were the following:—

After three and a half years of Liberal Government, they maintained, the economic situation appeared to have gone from bad to worse; successive moderate or bad harvests, under various export régimes all based upon too heavy taxation, had tended to discourage agricultural production, and the total sowings had actually declined. As regards petroleum, they said, that in spite of brilliant successes from the point of view of production, the companies were handicapped on the one hand by exorbitant taxation imposed by both State and Communes under various headings amounting, they understood, to as much as 80 per cent. of the gross profits, and on the other by the restrictive Government measures which have made it impossible or at least an exceedingly delicate matter to obtain the necessary foreign capital for the prospecting and development even of the most promising areas. This young industry they represented as struggling against the money crisis, reducing production, finding selling markets more and more precariously, and capitalists more and more reluctant to risk their money under the prevailing conditions, and finally the value of the currency was daily depreciating and the demand declining.

From the Constitutional point of view, the Parliament, they averred, was elected by irregular methods, and the National Assembly irregularly constituted; legislation, a complex of laws calculated to benefit one party only, a parliamentary order having suppressed debates.

From the point of view of internal administration they maintained that the police régime was derogatory to private interests and personal liberty, members of the Opposition having been molested and even struck (i.e. the Halippa case.) The Opposition leaders laid these grievances before the King. They appear to have gone to these audiences with their minds very decidedly made up to alter the state of affairs in their own favour, and even in a menacing mood. The King, however, received them very cordially and with careful diplomacy succeeded in satisfying them without committing himself on fundamentals. The impression left by the above interviews is that the Liberal Government will probably come to an end before long, the Opposition leaders apparently hoping that the change of Government will come before the vote is taken on the next Budget. The Liberals, however have circulated the report that they will call an extraordinary session for the customary date for the purpose of passing several measures not yet dealt with, in order to complete definitely their legislative programme, and possibly to pass the 1926 Budget.

But the Opposition will have none of this and will use all the means in its power, to take the vote on the Budget into their own hands. Should they come into power, they will adopt the system of budgetary 12ths according to the French precedent, and during the financial year 1925-26 a Budget will be presented conforming with the financial and economic programme of the party actually in power.

The Next Government.

It is very difficult to hazard any prognostication as to the Government which is likely to suceed to power. It would appear, however, that the new National Party stands the best chance. Should it come into power in the autumn, it is generally believed that it will give several portfolios to the Tsaranists.

The Kishineff Election.

At Kishineff last Sunday a by-election took place for a seat in the Senate, which had become vacant through the death of M. Sanielevici. Two candidates came forward, a Tsaranist (Peasant Party) and a member of General Averescu's Party, who was backed by the Liberal Government with all its administrative machinery. Nevertheless the Tsaranist was elected by a good majority of votes, i.e., 12,000 against 6,000. This by-election would appear to be significant.

The Navigability of the Danube.

Maritime agents and exporters are complaining bitterly of the inability of the European Commission of the Danube to maintain a sufficient depth of water in the Sulina mouth. Although the Commission, they say, is strict in the collection of the gold taxes levied on the tonnage entering the river it appears to be unable to maintain a constant depth in the navigable channel. According to recent soundings this depth was stated to be less than 19 ft., so that certain ships were unable to enter without unloading or trans-shipping, for which no provision was made in their documents. This deplorable situation is stated by interested parties, and notably by the Galatz Chamber of Commerce, to be entirely due to the incapacity of the European Commission, and protestations have recently been growing louder owing to the approach of the busy shipping season. A complaint has even been addressed to Major Somerweld of the League of Nations.

It will be remembered that the European Commission includes Roumania as a riverain State, and representatives of three of the other States through whose territories the river flows. The suppression of the European Commission has long been urged by the Roumanians who consider that its attributes should either be transferred to them, as the people directly interested in free traffic at the river mouths, or to the International Danube Commission, Roumania being asked to undertake the upkeep of the channels and mouths. This important question ought soon to be settled on account of the very considerable interests at stake and the damage involved to Roumania in particular.

International Chemistry Congress.

On June 22, the Sixth International Chemistry Congress was opened at Bucharest. The opening ceremony

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was held under the Chairmanship of H.R.H. Prince Carol and over 150 foreign delegates were present, including some of the most illustrious representatives of the science of chemistry.

The work of the Congress was pleasantly varied by banquets in the various scientific institutions, and after the conference the delegates were taken to visit various factories and the oilfields.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, June 30.

Ex-King Hussein in Cyprus.

The ex-King of the Hejaz, with his harem, including two daughters, and General Jemil Pasha—altogether over 30 persons—arrived in Cyprus on June 22, and have gone temporarily to the "Palace Hotel" at Nicosia. This must not be imagined to resemble in luxury similarly named hotels in some other cities. He has received visitors of both the Turkish, Greek, and other communities, amongst others the proprietor and Editor of the *Phoné tes Kyprou*, which publishes an acount of the interview. The first impression of King Hussein respecting the climate of Nicosia is a favourable one. His long residence in Mecca, together with the troubles and worries of late years, has injured his health, but he hopes that a sojourn in the island will soon restore him.

Replying to a question regarding the Caliphate, he said that, after the late Turkish crises, various competent chiefs in Arabia, Syria, and Palestine proclaimed him as Caliph. Personally he was disinclined to assume the title, but finally he yielded to strong persuasion on the part of the chiefs and others, and consented. Consequently he could not at present do otherwise than consider himself as Caliph. The ex-King said that he was glad to be in a country which contained the tomb of a saintly person of the Mussulman faith. (This is the Um Haram, wife of a general of the Caliph Othman, who broke her neck from a fall from a mule near Larnaca, and was buried there. There are other Moslem tombs and mosques, much revered, at Nicosia.)

The Question of Tithe.

The plight of the agricultural classes, who are to a large extent in straits, again brings the problem of relief into discussion. Many properties of debtors are sold at much less than their fair value. It is fortunate that the mines—asbestos and copper—of Mt. Troödos, and Skouriatissa, in the north of the island, give employment to some thousands of villagers, but there is a good deal of unemployment, and no dole, in Cyprus! Emigration now offers comparatively few attractions, as contrasted with the past. Hopes are again expressed that means may be devised for bringing about abrogation of the system of tithes on cereal produce. The British Government very soon set itself to rectify the abuses of the old system, which for countless centuries had been an iniquitous cause of abuses and oppression. The farming out of tithes to the highest, or at any rate to successful, bidders, was abolished, and the assessment and collection of tithes were entrusted to separate and distinct bodies of officials. Tithe is taken by the Government, and stored and sold by them under proper supervision. Nevertheless, the peasantry have come to regard the system as a grievance, and unsuited to modern times. The chief complaint is that there is often too much delay on the part of the assessing official (too few subordinate employés being taken on, with a view to economy), and that the grain therefore remains too long on the threshing floors, exposed to vicissitudes of climate. The question of abolishing tithes has often been on the *tapis*, but so far no satisfactory solution has offered itself of substituting other taxes for this important item of revenue. It is hoped that the subject will come up again for serious consideration, and that it may perhaps be discussed by H.E. the Governor —now on his way to England—in London.

The Elections.

The elections to the new Legislative Council, which is to have an increase of six members, will probably not take place until October. Although active canvassing is not yet taking place, several Greeks of influence are touring some of the districts, enlightening villagers as to the outlook and their duties. When the elections take place, there should be some keen competition. Leading Greeks are not likely to repeat the folly of abstention from the polls. Greek papers continue to make severe remarks on the present members, whom they regard as incompetent to represent island interests, stigmatizing the present Council as a sham.

General News.

Measures are being taken for a stricter observance of the law as to the covering of wells, reservoirs, etc., with a view to checking an increase of malarial complaints.

An Imperial Service Medal has been bestowed by H. M. the King on M. Passardes, Overseer of the Government Printing Press, after 44 years of service.

THE JAGHABUB OASIS.

[We publish here extracts from a paper written by Captain Dixon-Johnson and read before the Near and Middle East Association at a meeting on "Egypt," held at the Hyde Park Hotel, on July 3. After sketching the history of the Senussi and of Jaghabub until recent times, Captain Dixon-Johnson proceeded as follows.—ED.]

Up till now no agreement has been arrived at between Italy and Egypt regarding Jaghabub. The only progress that has been made is a very recent arrangement between Italy and Egypt to send a joint commission to examine the ground and report. It is very doubtful whether this will lead to any practical result in view of the determination of Egypt to retain and Italy to obtain this coveted Oasis.

The reason why Italy is said to be so particularly desirous of obtaining possession of Jaghabub is because the Fascista Government, having in 1923 denounced the Regima Convention with Sayed Idris, is anxious to block the Senussi caravan connections with Egypt and the inflow of foodstuffs into Cyrenaica.

Egypt's reply to this is: Abandon your claim: we will garrison the oasis ourselves and will stop the traffic to which you object. We shall be glad to do this because we shall then be in a position to stop smuggling into Egypt. As all caravans entering Egypt, except through Sollum, must stop for water at Jaghabub, this is the ideal place to collect the customs; if we do not carry out our undertaking you will then be justified in raising the question again.

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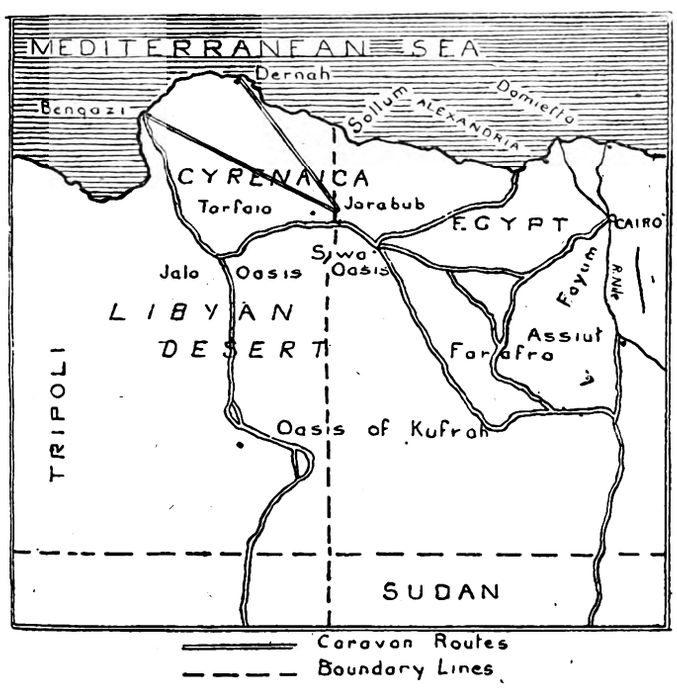
Some of the reasons why Egypt is unwilling to put Italy in possession of Jaghabub are:—

1. If she gives up Jaghabub to Italy she would lose her connections with Kufara, Jalo and the Libyan Oases.

2. She is anxious to retain control of the caravan route which passing along the border of Egyptian territory connects her with Kufara, where all the great caravan routes in the interior of Africa converge. By this route from Kufara caravans bring gold dust, ivory, ostrich feathers and other valuable merchandise. If Jaghabub were in possession of Italy instead of passing into Egypt, these caravans would most certainly be diverted into Cyrenaican ports and instead of returning with Egyptian goods would return laden with Italian.

The commercial potentialities of this route, which was the one so laboriously followed by Mrs. McGrath and her companion Hassanein Bey on their return journey from Kufara, are immense. The requirements are the goodwill of the Senussi, the construction of beacons, tanks of water at regular intervals, the opening out of existing and new wells and ordinary precautions to prevent these being silted up with sand. The journey from Jaghabub to Kufara, which is roughly about 400 miles, would then, with motor cars, take only 2 or 3 days at the most instead of the 17 days it took Mrs. McGrath with her camels.

3. Egypt feels that any such surrender at the very commencement of her career as an Independent State would



seriously prejudice her prestige in Africa and in the Islamic world, especially amongst the Senussi sect, which would greatly resent the surrender to a Christian Power of the home and burial place of its founder.

4. Her greatest objection of all is a military one. There are only two routes by which Egypt can be attacked by land from the West. The one is along the Coast through Sollum. The other is through Jaghabub. Everywhere else the waterless desert forms an impassable barrier.

Italy in return for Jaghabub has offered to present Egypt with some 10 miles of territory to the West of Sollum. A correspondent, writing in *The Times*, has insisted that this is a most valuable concession as the ground in question commands the town of Sollum and makes it indefensible. He therefore urges that Egypt would be well advised to agree to the cession of Jaghabub. This correspondent apparently forgets that Great Britain guarantees the security of Egypt, and that it would be quite impossible for any Italian force to pass through Sollum under the guns of a British fleet. What it therefore amounts to is that Italy offers to permit Egypt to bolt a door which is already barred provided she (Egypt) agrees to leave the back door, the only other entrance, open. It may be argued, as *The Times'* correspondent in fact does, that the strategical defence of Egypt and the Suez Canal centres in the Siwa Oasis, and not along the valley of the Nile. This is in itself an invincible argument against his own proposal to present Italy with an offensive base at Jaghabub hundreds of miles nearer to Siwa than any other available point.

There are four main caravan routes converging on Jaghabub; three lead from Benghazi, Derna and the coast and one from Jalo. By attention to the water supply and the formation of depots of petrol and supplies at regular intervals Italy could make these routes available for the rapid transport of a considerable army. It would not be necessary for Italy to maintain permanently any large garrison at Jaghabub. What she might do would be to increase the already ample supply of water and organise the Oasis as a thoroughly up-to-date military depot with large stocks of petrol, stores, munitions and supplies of all sorts.

Jaghabub would thus be prepared in case of hostilities with Egypt to receive the fleets of aeroplanes which would fly the coast while large bodies of troops were being brought up by motors. Although the possibility of such an untoward event as hostilities between Egypt and Italy seems remote it is an unfortunate fact, as a Cabinet Minister recently emphasised, that war often arises where least expected, and that, therefore, no nation can afford to trust its security entirely to the goodwill of another.

While the Italian troops pushed forward to the attack of the Siwa and El Quattara Oases her aeroplanes could be bombing Alexandria, Cairo, Fayum and the Valley of the Nile, all well within range of the heavy bombing machines of the Italian air force. To guard against a danger of this kind, Egypt would have to spend millions of pounds in counter measures of defence. If a few thousand Senussi were able to invade Western Egyptian Oases and compel the British authorities in Egypt to spend, even after the recapture of Sollum, several millions of pounds in fortifying the Valley of the Nile, it is easy to understand why Egypt objects to surrender a strategical position like Jaghabub to a first-class European military Power provided with aeroplanes and motors and all the paraphernalia of modern warfare which the Senussi were without.

5. Egypt further objects that Jaghabub is essentially a part of Egypt. There are records showing that a Mosque was built there in 1820 by the El Azhar University of Cairo and that the Oasis was visited by the Khedive of Egypt. She further objects that Jaghabub geographically belongs to the group of Western Egyptian Oases. That its nearest port is the Egyptian port of Sollum and the nearest Oasis is Siwa, on which it is dependent for supplies.

In the face of these objections, it seems difficult to understand how such a sincere and devoted friend of Egypt as Lord Milner could, in the negotiations with Signor Scialoja, have agreed to the proposed cession of Jaghabub to Italy. But it must be remembered that by the Treaty of London, Great Britain definitely promised Italy a rectification of the Libyan frontier. Although this inadequately considered promise ignored the essential factor, the consent of the Egyptian Government, which had never been consulted, it placed Lord Milner as a negotiator in a most difficult position.

He could not repudiate the written word of the British Government. All that he could do, and that was what it seems that he did, was to insist that the sanction and approval of the Egyptian Government was necessary to legalise internationally the proposed agreement.

The advantages of a friendly and prompt solution of any question outstanding between Egypt and Italy is obvious.

Egypt cannot afford to quarrel with such a powerful neighbour as Italy, with whom she has hitherto maintained the most friendly relations, nor can Italy ignore the existence of a large Italian Colony and important commercial interests in Egypt.

But having once left the settlement of the boundary to the Egyptian and Italian Governments it is earnestly to be hoped that the Foreign Office will abstain from pressing Ziwar Pasha to act contrary to his own judgment and the wishes of the Egyptian people. But as Great Britain is responsible for the security of Egypt, she would be more than justified in urging upon the principals, should they fail to agree, the advisability of accepting the arbitration of the League of Nations.

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THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

Church Affairs.

Ecclesiastical affairs occupied an unusual amount of attention during the past week, owing mainly to two things: the Anglo-Catholic Congress at the Albert Hall, and the suggestion, made at the Advertising Conference at Harrogate, that the Church should advertise itself.

It would appear that those who, having exposed what they called the "excesses" of the Anglo-Catholics, thought that the movement would decline as soon as the element in it of novelty had worn off, were badly mistaken. The Conference was a crowded one, and the speakers, including, notably, Viscount Halifax and the Duke of Argyll, showed no very obvious symptoms of decay. Lord Halifax went to the extreme length of urging the advantage of incorporation of the Anglican Church within Rome—a course which he said would not involve any interference with the status and prerogative of the See of Canterbury, nor with the government of our Church. Reconciliation with Rome, he said, did not involve anything but the union of the two Churches under the primacy of the successor of St. Peter.

The Duke of Argyll seems, according to the reports, to have been content with attacking those (notably, the Bishop of Birmingham) who have attacked the Anglo-Catholic movement. He appears to have claimed that members of the Broad Church of England were more interested in such things as Birth-Control than in purely religious matters: a pretty shrewd hit, this.

Whither things are now moving in the Church may be a matter of doubt, but it seems certain that it is the Anglo-Catholics more than anyone else who have caused the move. When tolerant and moderate men such as Dr. Gore come boldly out in advocacy of such reforms as the restoration of public prayers for the dead and for the removal of the Thirty-Nine Articles from the position of authoritative standards of belief or practice, it is obvious that something must be done quickly and thoroughly by those who oppose the "modernising" or "Romanising" tendencies of their fellow Churchmen. To give but one instance of the necessity of consolidating their ground as soon as possible: only last week so "broad" a man as the Bishop of London declared that "the Anglo-Catholics were the best type of Churchmen."

The Protestant Alliance.

In this connection a memorandum that I have received from a body called "The Protestant Alliance" formulates a proposal that the Evangelical Clergymen should act as one body, and should at the same time seek union with the Noncomformists. And if this is insufficient, influence should be brought to bear upon Members of Parliament to "throw out the Anglo-Romanish proposal to Romanise the Church of England."

It is possible that such action as the Protestant Alliance envisages will be sufficient to stem the Anglo-Catholic tide, but there still seems to be a certain reluctance on the part of Evangelicals to admit Nonconformists upon an equal footing, and in any case its proposals are, broadly speaking, negative. There is no question, however, that his action will help to draw public attention on the movement for reunion with Rome.

Advertising the Church.

That there is something amiss with the Church at the present time may not be a novel complaint, but it is demonstrably true. The two main features of our time are undoubtedly the progress of the Anglo-Catholic movement and the general decline in Church going. Now towards this second feature application for assistance is being made to the last men in the world whom one would reasonably expect to find within a Church—the "publicity men." These wiseacres do not shrink from testing their sapience on the institutions with Ambrose Bierce's definition of which they would doubtless agree—"a building with a steeple and a mortgage on it." Advertising, they say, is the lesson and the drift of the period, which churches, no more than hospitals and governments, can resist. Do not, they passionately exclaim, be content merely with the familiar announcement of Matins and Evensong—which is merely a reminder to the converted. Shout your goods in the highways and byways, and compel the multitudes to come in to fill your dusty pews.

To think that we have come to this! Some artists, we know, are ready to sell their talents to the highest-bidding railway company or touring car, all in the sacred cause of advertisement. The commercialisation of art has surely gone far enough in our generation: is it now to be extended to a thing that is far greater than art?

If only those ecclesiastics who already have spoken in favour of advertising the Christian religion would reflect how, without the allotment of a single penny on "space," the Church was built up! In any case, it will be money wasted; for you can advertise no more the beauty of the story of the Cross than the loveliness of the heart of a rose.

The truth is that advertising in its own sphere—the selling of tangible and perishable goods in the interest of the advertiser—is an extremely valuable, and, indeed, essential factor in modern "civilisation": the untruth is that advertising knows no boundaries, that it can without looking ridiculous, even monstrous, soar beyond the commercial confines of our time.

National Playing Fields.

It is one of the signs of true democracy that, in the interests of the vast masses of our sporting population which have no access to open spaces, our leading sportsmen should be devoting themselves, in the meetings organised by the National Playing Fields Association, to the acquisition of more grounds for sport.

This question of grounds is really a serious, and, as some think who believe that the love of sport in the British character is its most important asset, a vital matter. To realise how ingrained is the young Briton's love of sport one need but visit a public park on a Saturday afternoon, and try to count the number of games in progress! At Oxford and Cambridge already much has been done in the way of lending grounds to the youngsters, but it is in the more crowded towns that open spaces are so urgently needed.

Nor are the young sons of the poor the only ones in present difficulty. Many clubs, generally of many years' standing, are now in great danger of losing their grounds, which are wanted for the purposes of building. The financier is not often a man who cares for the retention of a sporting centre, and there are literally hundreds of cricketers now who do not know where their home ground next year will be.

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Jams in the Traffic.

One of the most charming pleasantries that have befallen the official world of late was the presentation the other day of a very fashionable companion, the tortoise, to the Ministry of Transport, in recognition of the heroically consistent work which has been done under its ægis on London bridges and in the Strand. Somebody even went to the length of suggesting a race between the tortoise and a motor-bus up the Strand, but the G.O.C. has lost too much money already for there to be much probability of its stable being represented.

It was rather pathetic to see the Minister of Transport (to whom, generally, one has very sincere regard) attempting to justify the actions of his conspirators. But at least he is bringing one good thing to our London streets, or, rather, ridding them of a bad one: I mean the sandwich-man. In three months time, it is said, the sandwich-man, together with the purely advertising vehicle, will be a memory.

Cricket.

Last week should have been brimful of interest to cricketers, for it included the 'Varsity match, Eton v. Harrow, and the Gentlemen v. Players. The first two, however, were dull; they lacked in woeful degree the spirit of enterprise. No great reputations were made, those of Duleepsinghi and Holmes and, possibly, of Enthoven being but confirmed. The match at the Oval, on the other hand, was a glorious affair, ending, after two very good declarations by Hobbs, in a magnificent four wickets victory for the Amateurs. There was real cricket, and up to the last but one minute of the match. For the two men, Allen and Haig, who were picked as bowlers, both to have averaged over a hundred for the match, suggests that we are not quite so badly off for all-rounders as the croakers would suppose.

Pure Water Colours.

Nothing has been sadder, I suppose, in the history of British painting than the blight which descended on us after the principles which directed the work of men like Cox, Turner, and de Wint had been abandoned—a time when water-colours were put to uses for which only oils are meet, and when water-colour lost more and more its true character of a drawing relieved by washes of colour.

Of. late, however, we have, in spite of an enormous body of work as evidence to the contrary, begun to mend, and there are now artists, such as Walcot, Ackermann, Harry Morley, Ethelbert White, Wyndham Tryon, Talmage, and Brangwyn who can take their place beside the older masters. How worthily they stand in relation to acknowledged masterpieces may be very interestingly seen at the exhibition which has been arranged at the Beaux Arts Gallery, Bruton Street, Bond Street, in which most of the men whom I have mentioned are included. Everyone will find something different particularly to admire, but nothing impressed me more than Walcot's magnificent conception of Hamilcar's Palace at Carthage, Vulliamy's East Anglian sketches, and Harry Morley's open air drawings. And for those who wish further to acknowledge the acknowledged, there are such grand things as Brangwyn's "Ypres Cloth Hall," and Orpen's "Chelsea Old Church."

The Pursuit of Morbidness.

I have not seen Galsworthy's "The Show," which has just been produced in London, so that I can but record the discussion that is taking place on it. The play itself is apparently an attempt, by accurate representation, to expose the cult of prurience, morbidness, or sordidness—I leave the psychologists to determine exactly what it is that prompts journalists to report and readers to read the disgusting cases in the Courts which have since the War occupied so much space in the Press. Galsworthy shows up—or, as some critics say, merely shows—the whole story: how detectives wring wholly irrelevant and extremely distressing details from relatives of the centre of the piece, how the Court refuses, and later, the Press, to suppress such details. And behind the whole thing is the public's desire to have as many sordid details as possible.

It has been explained that the playwright's intention is to castigate neither the law nor the Press, but only the public. And the dispute that has arisen is: how far is the author justified in trying to expose a deplorable state of affairs? In other words, how far is the photographic method (and, of course, as in most of Galsworthy's plays, no solution, but only the problem itself, is set out) adapted to the purpose of the righteous propagandists? The majority of the newspaper critics seem to make out "The Show" to be rather a sooterkin. But theirs is not the final word.

Cezanne.

It is a curious fact that no public exhibition of Cézanne, the Provencal artist who died nineteen years ago and who has had, probably, as much influence on art as has anyone in the last fifty years, should have been held until the present time. And no more conclusive evidence that Cézanne has been misrepresented, both by those who adore and those who revile him, could be supplied than the exhibition now being held at the Leicester Galleries, Leicester Square. In this there is nothing of the wild, the bizárre, the flaunting. Instead, we have an industrious artist, preoccupied with form and colour, sincere sometimes to the point of dullness, though never of mediocrity. Cézanne, as Mr. R. R. Tatlock (who is one of the very few art critics who is readable) says in his Introduction to the catalogue, was great rather than clever: he was a sort of Busoni technically. There are, however, only a few pictures—mostly landscapes—in this small exhibition that redole at once and continually their beauty; and of these, "Les Grands Arbres," with the interplay of light among the leaves, is the simplest and best. Some other works—lent by Prince Antoine Bibesco—which are very highly accounted, were not on view when I was at the exhibition; but without any question at all the man who could paint "L'Estaque" and "L'Amour en Plâtre" could hold an exhibition of but a dozen works and yet be worth long study. Cézanne, for all that has been said about him, was a master who attained almost to perfect serenity.

The Hudson Memorial.

Controversy over the Epstein panel in Hyde Park has overflowed the railway carriages and the correspondence columns of the newspapers, but the tide of public opinion cannot yet be canalised. One finds support of and antagonism to it in the most unexpected places—*The Times* is against the *Morning Post*, for instance, in this furious matter, the *Manchester Guardian* against the *Observer* (that is, Mr. J. L. Garvin, not, of course, Mr. P. G. Konody).

Recently some enthusiastic opponent of Epstein's work poured out torrid words in the torrid air for twelve long hours—about which form of protest all one can say is that he obviously felt strongly on the matter. But it would be wholly wrong to disparage the opposition, which includes, indeed, many people whose opinions on most artistic subjects are profoundly respected. The "anti-Rima-ites" do not consist entirely of people whose method of judging sculpture is the foot rule. Nor, on the other hand, are those impressed with the individuality of Epstein's interpretation all afflicted with a desire to be more advanced than their compeers.

A Fine Journalist.

Journalists who are also good all-round men by no means abound, but the story of their lives would make one think that journalism is the best of all professions. Of this small band, Mr. E. F Knight, who died the other day, was certainly one. Not only had he been everywhere, done everything, but he had a large, keen, and ripe personality. There are few who do not know of his experiences as a war-correspondent on land and sea; there is no amateur sailor who does not know by heart his little book on sailing, published about thirty years ago. It was *the* text-book of all amateur sailors, in open boats, whether half-deckers or cruising yachts. He lived to see his strenuously opposed advocacy of the ketch rig for cruising yachts universally adopted. His death will be really mourned by all cruising yachtsmen.

ALTER EGO.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

July 16, 1925 (New Style).
July 3, 1925 (Old Style).
Dulheggia 24, 1343, A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Tammuz 24, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir Anton and Lady Bertram have arrived in London from Port Said.

Lady Muir has left London for Scotland, and will be away for some weeks.

King George of Greece visited their Majesties at Buckingham Palace on July 10.

Lord and Lady Cable left Grosvenor Square last Saturday for Lyndridge, Devonshire.

Captain Papalexis, the Greek Naval Attaché in Paris, arrived in London last week for a few days.

Princess Mohamed Ali Hassan, the daughter of the Egyptian Minister, left London last Sunday for Zurich.

The Queen of Roumania honoured Viscount Astor and Viscountess Astor, M.P., with her presence at luncheon on July 9, at 4 St. James's Square.

Sir Geoffrey Archer was received in audience by His Majesty at Buckingham Palace on July 7, upon his appointment as Governor-General of the Sudan.

The Viceroy of India and the Countess of Reading will be present at the Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps Ball to-morrow (July 17) in Inner Temple Hall.

The Greek Minister in London recently invested Mr. Bowring-Hanbury with the Cross of the Order of the Saviour, conferred on him by the Greek Government.

Monsieur N. Mishu, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, has been appointed by his Holiness the Patriarch of Jerusalem, a Grand Officer of the Order "Holy Sepulchre."

The Viceroy of India and the Countess of Reading will join the ss. Narkunda on July 24 at Marseilles for India. Field-Marshal Sir William Birdwood will also be a passenger.

Viscount and Viscountess Willingdon have returned from Switzerland, and are staying at Ball's Park, Hertford, as their house in Lygon Place is let until the end of the month.

Miss M. A. Broadhurst and Miss Farquharson, are holding a "Middle East" reception at the Hyde Park Hotel this evening at 8.30 on behalf of the National Political League.

Prince and Princess Nicholas of Greece, with Princess Elizabeth and Princess Mariana, visited their Majesties the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace last Sunday and remained to luncheon.

Last Thursday at Buckingham Palace, the Right Hon. Leopold Amery, M.P., received from the King the Seals of Office, and kissed hands upon his appointment as Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs.

Nawab Amir-ud-Din Sir Ahmad Khan of Loharu, has left for Bombay, in order to reach Simla for the session of the Council of State, of which he is a member representing the N.W. Frontier Province.

The Central Council and members of the Overseas League are entertaining Sir George Lloyd, the new High Commissioner for Egypt, and Lady Lloyd at a luncheon at the Criterion Restaurant next Friday (the 24th inst), at one o'clock. The chair will be taken by Sir Ernest Birch. Members of the public desiring to be present should apply to the Secretary at Vernon House, Park Place, St. James', S.W.1.

Sir Charles Alban Young, Bt. (upon relinquishing his appointment as His Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Belgrade), had an audience of the King at Buckingham Palace last Saturday.

Sir Henry Wheeler left London on July 9 to embark on the mail steamer Chitral at Marseilles on return from his four months' leave as Governor of Bihar and Orissa. Lady Wheeler will remain in England until the winter.

Princess Nicholas of Greece organised a special Gala performance of the Cossacks at Olympia last Monday. The performance was in aid of the Highway Clubs in East London and a Home for Russian destitute children. The Queen of Roumania, the Crown Princess of Roumania, and the Duke and Duchess of York were present.

The engagement is announced, and the marriage will shortly take place, between James Abbey Henderson, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc. (P.H.), Principal Medical Officer, Jerusalem, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Henderson, 7, Dudley Gardens, Edinburgh, and Beatrice Ellen, youngest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Brutton, of Parkholme, Eastbourne.

The marriage arranged between Mr. Edward Stanley Mawer, of Abadan, Persia, elder son of the late Mr. Edward Mawer, of High Wycombe, and of Mrs. Mawer, of Folkestone, and Joan Clare, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Fenwick, of 161, Sutherland Avenue, W.9, and Aldeburgh, Suffolk, will take place on July 25, at St. Saviour's, Paddington.

OBITUARY.

The death occurred in Constantinople, on July 7, of Mr. Forbes Adam, First Secretary at the Embassy. Born in Bombay in 1888, Mr. Adam appeared to be destined for a brilliant diplomatic career. He performed valuable work in the Conferences after the War at Paris, London, San Remo, and Lausanne.

Mr. E. F. Knight, traveller, yachtsman, and war correspondent, whose death is announced at the age of 73, represented *The Times* as special correspondent in many campaigns: the Hunza-Nagar (in which he served as an officer and was mentioned in despatches), Matabeleland, Madagascar, Sudan, Greece, Cuba, and Spain, and later was *Morning Post* correspondent, going through the Russo-Japanese War with Kuroki's Army, and the Turkish campaigns of 1908.

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CORRESPONDENCE

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CONDITIONS IN BULGARIA.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—Recent occurrences in Bulgaria have drawn the attention of the public throughout the world to the conditions at present obtaining in that country, and the question of the responsibility for those conditions has been the subject of considerable controversy. The responsibility, in the opinion of the Balkan Committee, rests primarily neither with the present Bulgarian Government, nor with its opponents, but is largely the outcome of the Treaty of Neuilly and policy pursued by the Great Powers.

1. The request put forward by the Bulgarian Government to allow the temporary increase in the Bulgarian Army to continue for some weeks longer has been refused by the Great Powers. In the opinion of the Bulgarian Government, this continuance was essential if they are to deal effectively with propaganda which is directed against the very existence of the State. In this matter the responsibility for what may happen in Bulgaria rests obviously with the Great Powers.

2. The financial burdens arising from the Treaty (pre-War public debts included) amount to 1,900,000,000 levas, about £2,836,000, taking 670 levas to the £. Thus nearly 30 per cent. of the Budget of 6,875,000,000 levas is spent in facing obligations directly derived from the Treaty. As a result, the cost of living is high, the salaries of all public officials are miserably low, and this causes discontent among those classes with fixed incomes among whom the Government would naturally look for support.

3. From Macedonia, from Thrace, and from the Dobruja refugees continue to pour in owing to the frontiers fixed at Paris. Bulgaria has no means with which to satisfy them, and they, again, owing to the miserable plight in which they find themselves, tend to become centres of disaffection. The refugee question concerns the whole Peninsula. In the opinion of this committee arrangements will have to be made at an early date for the granting of a loan to Bulgaria, raised under the auspices of the League of Nations, for dealing with this problem.

4. Bulgaria was promised an economic outlet to the Ægean Sea by the Treaty of Neuilly. This promise remains unfulfilled. The chances of economic development are curtailed, confidence in the good faith of the Great Powers has been lost, and this again is a source of discontent.

5. Protection of Bulgarian minorities in Serbia, Greece, and Turkey was promised, but again the promise under the Treaties has been unfulfilled. The terrible developments as between the Macedonians, on the one hand, and the Bulgarian Government, on the other, are in a great measure due to the non-fulfilment of the promises held out in the Treaties.

This committee for some 25 years past has consistently drawn attention to the fact that condition in the Balkans must be regarded as a whole, and that the welfare of each individual State is bound up with the welfare of its neighbours. The recent terrible occurrence in Bulgaria may, it is hoped, serve to bring home to the public conscience the responsibility which lies on the people of the Allied Powers for the intolerable position in which Bulgaria finds herself.

A generous and understanding attitude towards Bulgaria in her difficulties will go far to promote the internal tranquillity and economic well-being not of Bulgaria alone, but of all the States of South-Eastern Europe.—We are, etc.,

EDWARD BOYLE, Chairman.
H. W. NEVINSON, Vice-Chairman.

The Balkan Committee, 30D, Pembridge Villas, W.11.

YUGOSLAV ARTS AND CRAFTS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—Referring to the account in your issue of July 2, of M. Plichta's exhibition of Yugoslav embroideries and weaving, may I crave space for a few remarks? The notice ends with the sad conclusion that the industries are fast dying out, and that little can be done to arrest the process. I venture to think, given some artist idealists willing to devote themselves to the cause, this need not be the case.

I happen to be trying an experiment of the same kind, which, so far, is full of life and hope. It is developing the inborn artistic tendency of the Serb, by teaching him the finest workmanship in cabinet making. I believe there are wonderful possibilities in the case of the existing weaving and embroidery industries. The peasants could produce, besides embroideries for clothes, material suitable for upholstery. At present I contrive to make up the peasant aprons as seats and backs for my handmade chairs, and I find them much admired. With the high wages of to-day, I see a time coming when hand work may compete with the machine-made article.—I am, etc.,

Travnik, Bosnia. A. J. DICKINSON.

[We are glad to publish Miss Dickinson's optimistic modification of our notice upon the embroideries of Yugoslavia. A short account of her own very valuable work in Bosnia was, it may be recalled, given in our issue of June 11.—ED.]

RUSSIA AND THE EAST.

Before the Central Asian Society, at the Royal United Service Institution on July 9, Miss Ursula Blackwood delivered a lecture entitled "A Pen Picture of Asia," General Sir Raleigh Egerton being in the chair. Miss Blackwood, whose address was based on the recent work of an Italian author upon Bolshevism and the East, sought to prove that the policy of the Soviets in the East was exactly what the Tsarist policy had been; it was grounded, that is, on antagonism to the British Empire and to Japan. Since Japan and Britain represented capitalism *par excellence*, Russia would attack them in China, India, and in the Middle East. It was a curious fact that, whereas in Europe Russia preached the gospel of internationalism, in Asia she preached, in her endeavours to upset the powers that be, the gospel of nationalism. The complication arose ultimately from ignorance whether Russia was really an eastern or western nation—now she was eastern, now western. But with the appearance at the head of things in Russia of Jews and Mongols, it seemed probable that the call to the East were the stronger. How far Russia's attempt to synthesise her Oriental and Western natures—at attempt which if realised might enable her to lead the world—would succeed, it was difficult to guess. It might be that where the Slavs were concerned our imagination was at fault.

In the subsequent discussion Miss Blackwood replied to a question whether the Government of the Soviet could be dissociated from the mass of the Russian peasantry in the negative: for the purposes of expansion into the East the idea of penetration into places like Persia, Afghanistan, and China was welcomed by all Russians. Major Blacker developed at considerable length the lecturer's reference to the division between Mongols and Nordics, illustrating the swing of the pendulum which swung now in favour of the lethargic, communistic Mongols, now in favour of the vigorous, individualistic Nordics. And Mr. Archibald Rose supplied interesting suggestions of how Russian influence was at work in the present disturbances in China.

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SOME FOOTNOTES TO THE HISTORY OF THE WAR IN ASIA.

By LEONARD STEIN.

III.

ITALIAN CLAIMS IN ASIATIC TURKEY.

The further selection of diplomatic correspondence recently published by the Soviet Government includes a number of documents dealing with the claims of Italy to partnership with the other Allies in the partition of Asiatic Turkey. This subject becomes a prominent feature of the correspondence in the summer of 1916, when Italy began to press for admission to the secrets of the understandings arrived at between Great Britain, France, and Russia.

The following is an extract from a telegram dated 10/23 Sept., 1916, in which Count Benckendorff reports to M. Sturmer on the negotiations in London between Sir Edward Grey and the Marquis Imperiali:—

". . . . He (Sir Edward Grey) answered Imperiali that the three Powers could not reconsider between themselves the decision adopted in respect of Asia Minor, but that, on the other hand, he would not ask the Italian Government to confirm and to recognise the British zone before the Italian zone is determined. Grey considers it necessary to propose the formula to the French Government, the interests of which are especially affected by this question. Grey told Imperiali that when concluding the above agreement, the three Powers did not intend to set about the partition of European *(sic)* Turkey; that the negotiations which took place in the period preceding Italy's declaration of war on Germany arose from the desire of the Sheikh of Mecca to create an independent Government; that with this object the Sheikh applied to Britain, whereupon negotiations with him took place and caused in a natural sequence negotiations with France and Russia, at a time when Italy was still in a special position; now, however, things stood differently, and Italy would be placed in the possession of the documents in question. He told me that so far as Asia was concerned he had no objection to the conversion of the three-Power agreement into a four-Power one, so as to avoid difficulties at the conclusion of peace. . . ."

On November 5, 1916, Sir Edward Grey appears to have communicated all the material documents to the Marquis Imperiali, and on Nov. 19 the Italian Ambassador in Petrograd transmitted to M. Sturmer a long memorandum, in which the Italian Government formally set forth its demands. The opening paragraphs are as follows:—

"Italy has entered into the War of her own free will, without compulsion, and not under the influence of threats. The considerable importance of the services she has rendered to the cause of the Allies by the force of her arms, as well as by the declaration of neutrality at the beginning of the European War, is indisputable.

"Italy thus finds herself in a position which allows her to demand of her Allies, on a legitimate basis, an unreserved equality of status in the discussion of questions pertaining to the balance of power in the Eastern part of the Mediterranean. Italy is essentially and exclusively a Mediterranean Power, and an equilibrium in the Eastern section of the Mediterranean constitutes the fundamental basis of her policy."

After referring to Paragraph 9 of the London Agreement of April 26, 1915, the memorandum develops the Italian claim both to the Vilayet of Konia and to that of Adana, and insists that the Italian zone must have an outlet to the sea at Mersina as well as at Adalia. The memorandum then proceeds:—

"A just and proportionate partition of Asiatic Turkey between the Allies implies also the recognition of Italian claims to the Vilayet of Aidin. Only on this condition can the zone of Adalia acquire some value or an economic future, and not merely mean a financial burden for Italy. The zone of Adalia, as represented by the Anglo-Italian convention of May, 1914, constitutes a part of the Vilayets of Aidin and Konia, but it has no organic connection with the latter. All its future is bound up with the Vilayet of Aidin.

"His Majesty's Government is prepared to enter into an exchange of views with the French and British Governments with regard to their respective railway interests in this region.

"In the matter of the city of Smyrna, His Majesty's Government deems it to be its duty to draw the special attention of the Allies to the numerous and prosperous Italian colony and the Italian educational and religious interests which will receive new vitality as a result of the trade connections already existing between Smyrna and Trieste, which will be maintained and extended.

"The little island of Castelorizzo, temporarily occupied by France for military reasons and lying along the coast, naturally enters into our zone.

"In conclusion, His Majesty's Government deems it its duty to make a few remarks with reference to the declaration accompanying the communications of the text of agreements exchanged between the Allies.

"This declaration is couched in the following terms:

"'The boundaries of the zones of influence of the three Powers have been determined by their agreements, but the Powers do not require Italy either to recognise these agreements, or to support their realisation before the latter Power receives the compensation which we are prepared to grant it in the sphere indicated in the London agreement of April 26, 1915.'

"His Majesty's Government cannot consider itself satisfied with a declaration of such a kind, for it admits the possibility that the agreements entered into by the Allies may be realised, while Italy, on her own part, not having achieved the fulfilment of her legitimate aspirations and rights, will, in the last resort, remain in a purely negative position, giving no recognition to the agreements of others and no support to their realisation.

"His Majesty's Government has no doubt that the Allies will fully recognise that the agreements which they had concluded between themselves without Italy's knowledge, are incapable of realisation so long as Italian interests have not received their recognition and realisation. It therefore devotes its efforts to ensuring that all agreements between the four Allies should be considered on the basis of complete equality, both as regards aim and fulfilment, without regard to circum-

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stance of time or place, and also that this should be formally confirmed.

This was supplemented by a voluminous memorandum dated Nov. 20, 1916. The Italian Government declares that the Three-Power agreements, which it has now had an opportunity of studying,

". . . . Refer to a number of questions affecting Italian interests. His Majesty's Government, being rightly imbued with a feeling of confidence and friendship in relation to the Allies, of whose reciprocal sympathy it has no doubt, will not dwell on the fact that these agreements were, contrary to all its expectations, concluded without its knowledge. His Majesty's Government wish to draw the attention of the Allied Governments, with a view to achieving the formulation of the agreements in question on a basis of complete equality of rights with the other contracting Governments, which object appears to be of essential importance to His Majesty's Government.

"The question of Constantinople and the Straits has always been a matter engaging the close attention of Italian policy in the Mediterranean, so that His Majesty's Government fully realises the importance and significance of the new state of things which will be established in that area, as soon as Russia achieves her secular goal. His Majesty's Government would be happy to give its consent to the wish of the Imperial Government in the sense of the circular Russian telegram of March 4, 1915, on the condition that the War be brought to a victorious end, and that Italy will realise her aspirations both in the East and elsewhere. Freedom of transit through the Straits and the establishment of a free harbour in Constantinople, as well as all kinds of privileges enjoyed by the other Allies with regard to institutions, administrations, religious, educational and medical estabishments, etc., will be equally assured to Italy. The Italian Government will also give its consent, if the above conditions be observed, to the territorial delimitations contained in §§1 and 2 of the memorandum of the Russian Government of March 17, 1916, and in §§ 1 and 2 of the Franco-Russian agreement of April 26, 1916. On its own part, it expects the Imperial Government to extend also to Italy, in so far as concerns the regions of Adana, the principle of disinterestedness which is spoken of in §1 of the memorandum referred to.

"His Majesty's Government, likewise, willingly endorses the agreements concluded between Britain and France (document No. 4) with regard to the Blue and Red and the (A) and (B) zones, with a special reservation regarding the recognition of its claims to the territory and Vilayet of Adana, Konia, and Aidin, as explained in Memorandum No. 1, and with a general reservation, that the War be brought to a victorious end and that Italy will realise her aspirations both in the East and elsewhere.

"The preservation of concessions, the rights and privileges of Italian religious, educational and medical institutions in the British and French zones must be assured. The first Anglo-French agreement regarding Asia Minor provides in §3 for the establishment in a part of Palestine of an international régime, 'the form of which will be decided upon after consultation with Russia, as well as in agreement with the other Allies and the representatives of the Sherif of Mecca.' For quite obvious reasons, which must, at the time, have escaped the attention of the authors, His Majesty's Government can in no way accept this formula. His Majesty's Government has no doubt that the Allied Governments will consent to such wording of the clause as will take account of Italy's status as a Mediterranean Power, directly interested in the régime to be established for the Holy Places. On its own part, His Majesty's Government will willingly agree to the establishment of an international régime in Palestine, with the necessary proviso as to the maintenance and guarantee of its interests, as well as its legal and historical privileges in that region. His Majesty's Government reserves for itself the right to formulate claims with reference to Italian commercial interests in the ports of Haifa and Acre.

"As an Allied Power, as well as a Mediterranean Power, His Majesty's Government solicits from the British Government a pledge—already given by it to the Government of the Republic—not to enter in any case into negotiations with a view to ceding Cyprus to another Power, without the previous consent of the Italian Government.

"The Italian Government reserves itself the right to negotiate with the Allies an agreement regarding a custom régime in the respective zones."

The Memorandum then proceeds to ask for the text of the agreements concluded with the Sherif of Mecca, and states that, while Italy is prepared in principle to assent to the establishment of an independent Arab State,

". . . . yet there are points to which His Majesty's Government considers it its duty to draw the serious attention of the British and French Governments.

"In view of the agreement of His Majesty's Government with the delimitation proposed to the South of the Zone (B), there ought to be a guarantee that below this boundary France, Italy and Britain will honestly maintain a complete equality towards the independent Arab State, and that all privileges acquired by any one of them will be enjoyed by the others as of full right. Italy is a Moslem Power to the same extent as her Allies. The régime of the Moslem Holy Places has a direct repercussion in her nearest colonies, Eritrea and Somaliland, as well as among the population of Libya.

"In view of these considerations, the great significance of which the Allies will not fail to appreciate, His Majesty's Government begs to be admitted to participation, on a footing of equality, in the obligations, negotiations and agreements provided for by §§10, 11, and 12 of the Anglo-French agreement.

"As regards § 11, the French and British Governments will agree to the necessity of immediately making the Italian Government a partner with equal rights in the negotiations with the Arabs. The continuance of the present situation, provided for by this clause, is regarded by His Majesty's Government as detrimental to its prestige and status as a Moslem Power."

Italian sensitiveness is further illustrated by the following telegram, dated Feb. 26/March 11, 1917, from the Russian Ambassador in Rome to the Foreign Minister, M. Pokrovsky:—

"N. 141.

Copies to Paris and London.

Reference my tel. 944.

Sonnino has informed me that according to rumours that had reached him, the English and the French are supposed to be preparing a landing of an Anglo-French detachment of troops in Palestine. He fears that such a landing would further irritate public opinion in Italy by stressing the fact that Italy is being kept out of the affairs of Asia Minor. The French Embassy in Rome knows nothing about this landing."

The following is an extract from a telegram sent on the following day by M. Izvolsky to M. Pokrovsky:—

"The Italian Ambassador declared to-day to Cambon the wish of his Government to participate in the present expedition by sending an Italian detachment. Cambon replied that he would transmit this to Briand, who is now completely absorbed by the ferment in the parliamentary lobbies and the probability of new attempts to overthrow the Cabinet. In his conversation with me Cambon referred, not without annoyance, to Italy, which aims at participating in all Anglo-French operations in the East, except those, e.g., in Salonika, where her participation is desirable and useful to the Allies."

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Book Reviews and Notes.

AE2.

"Straws in the Wind." By Commander G. Stoker, R.N., D.S.O. (London: Herbert Jenkins, 10s. 6d.)

We greatly prefer our heading as a title of this book to the somewhat stagey one chosen by the author. Had he shared our preference, we might have been spared an irritating succession of little moral remarks on straws in the wind which we could well have done without. Further, stringent cutting of all spreading of himself in annoying platitudinous little sermons on any and every little matter would have improved his work.

Having said so much in the way of blame, we have nothing but praise for this book left. The author writes well, has a thrilling tale to tell, and, with the exceptions mentioned above, tells it both modestly and vividly. Appointed as the first commander of the Australian Submarine AE2, he began by undertaking the perilous task of navigating her to Sydney. He took part in the expeditions to Rabaul and the Fiji Islands, and then brought her, lent to the British Government, to the Dardanelles. This in itself was an achievement, though the author, while describing it picturesquely and humorously, makes very little of the constant strain and peril involved. Arrived, Commander Stoker seems at once to have conceived the idea of reaching the Sea of Marmora under the Straits, and set himself to study how this could best be done. After a series of misfortunes to his ship, he was at last able to put his plan before the Admiral and had it accepted. He carried out his design with brilliant success, and the best chapters of the book are those devoted to this marvellous adventure. But the Submarine of those days was both fragile and untrustworthy, and it was the ship, not its commander, which brought the attack to a close. Throughout the account is wonderfully vivid, and the reader is made to share every thrill with the gallant sailors.

Most of the rest of the book is taken up with an account of prison existence in Turkey. Though enlivened by the indomitable pluck and irrepressible humour of the unfortunate prisoners, these chapters are full of tragedy. They include the account of two attempts at escape, one of which came near to success when liberty seemed assured after terrible sufferings.

Commander Stoker richly deserved the D.S.O. which was his reward. One cannot indeed avoid thinking savagely of the very different circumstances in which some others won this decoration. Fortunately he has avoided, unlike many other gallant fellows, being left unemployed. He had discovered considerable histrionic abilities in theatricals devised to break a little the tedium of captivity, and is now assured of a good future on the stage. We wish him all good luck, but we beg him, in his next book, to stick to his own admirable style and to keep off the theatrical. C. S.-W.

Just Published.

'IRAQ. Report by His Britannic Majesty's Government on the administration of 'Iraq, April 1923-December 1924. 7s. net. Post Free 7s. 3d.

Report of the Financial Mission appointed by the Secretary of the Colonies to enquire tnto the Financial Position and Prospects of the Government of 'Iraq. 1925. 1s. net. Post Free 1s. 1d.

PALESTINE and Transjordan. Report on the Admistration for the year 1924. Price 2s. 3d. net. Post Free 2s. 4d.

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AN ALL-ROUND MAN.

THE WANDERING SCHOLAR." By David G. Hogarth. (London: Humphrey Milford, 8s. 6d. net).

It is nearly thirty years since Dr. Hogarth published "A Wandering Scholar in the Levant," and fifteen since "Accidents of an Antiquary's Life" appeared. Those who possess these works know the delight of their contents. But it has long been impossible to procure them, and we trust that multitudes will avail themselves of the chance now given them of buying the main contents of the two books in a very pleasant form. The result is a volume of very singular charm, a classic of "digging" and *antica* hunting just as Wallace's "Travels on the Amazon," and Hooker's "Himalayan Journals" are classics of the naturalist. It is indeed well worthy of being ranked with them. The author has a very unusual gift of vivid description of the curious things and places he saw in the queer, practically unknown parts of the Near East dealt with in this book. He paints easily and clearly the pains and pleasures incident to his work. And his study of the ways of life and of the thoughts and feelings of the inhabitants has yielded many pages of the greatest value both to the politician and to the student. This remark applies specially to his very able chapter on the Anatolian Turks. The whole is seasoned by quiet humour and a rare power of projecting himself into the minds of others.

The Ashmolean Museum has, for the last sixteen years, been privileged to use his unrivalled knowledge of the antiquities of the Near East as its keeper. It is a pleasure to record now that another side of his learning has been rewarded by election to the coveted post of President of the Royal Geographical Society. C. S.-W.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"By Car to India." By Major Forbes-Leith, F.R.G.S. With 8 Illustrations. (London: Hutchinson and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem." By Ernest Tatham Richmond. (Oxford: Clarendon Press. £6 6s.)

"Caravans by Night." By Harry Hervey. (London: Thornton Butterworth, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"My Brother's Face." By Dhan Ghopal Mukerji. (London: Thornton Butterworth, Ltd. 10s. 6d. net.)

"My Wanderings in the Balkans." By Dudley Heathcote. With 32 Illustrations. (London: Hutchinson and Co. 21s. net.)

"Indian Currency and Exchange." By H. L. Chablani, M.A. (London: Humphrey Milford. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Bonds of Egypt." By Patrick Rushden (London: Hutchinson and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The Justice of the White Sahib." By Helen M. Fairley. (London: Hutchinson and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The Treasure of Ali Mubarak." By Raymund M. Clark. (London: Hutchinson and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Trade Stability and How to Obtain it." By Sir Charles Macara, Bart. (Manchester: Sherratt and Hughes.)

"A History of the Pharoahs." By Arthur Weigall. Vol. 1. The first 11 Dynasties. (London: Thornton Butterworth, Ltd. 21s. net.)

"Two South Arabian Inscriptions." Edited from Rubbings in the Possession of Major-General Sir Neill Malcolm, K.C.B. Edited by D. S. Margoliouth, D.Litt. (London: Humphrey Milford. 2s. net.)

"The Question of King Milinda." Translated from the Pali by T. W. Rhys Davids. Sacred Books of the East Series. Edited by F. Max Muller. (London: Humphrey Milford. 15s. net.)

"British Government in India." By The Marquis Curzon of Kedleston, K. G. 2 volumes, illustrated. (London: Cassell and Co., Lt. £3 3s. net the set.)

"Through Inner Deserts to Medina." By the Countess Malmignati. Illustrated. (London: Philip Allan and Co. 10s. 6d. net.)

"Jerusalem." The Seatonian Prize Poem for 1924. By the Rev. Telford Varley. (London: Cambridge University Press. 2s. 6d. net.)

"My Pilgrimage to Ajauta and Bagh." By Sri Mukul Chandra Dey. Introduction by Laurence Binyon. Illustrated. (London: Thornton Butterworth, Ltd. 21s. net.)

"Wanderings in the Middle East." By A. Sloan. With a Map and 19 Illustrations. (London: Hutchinson and Co. 18s. net.)

"Hajji Baba in England." By James Morier. (London: Oxford University Press. Cloth 2s.; Leather 3s. 6d. net.)

"India as I Knew it, 1885-1925." By Sir Michael O'Dwyer, G.C.I.E. (London: Constable and Co. 18s. net.)

"The Moslem World in Revolution." By W. Wilson Cash. (London: Edinburgh House Press. 2s. net.)

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Indian Affairs.

LORD BIRKENHEAD'S STATEMENT.

To judge by the cabled reports from India, the Secretary of State's speech in the House of Lords on Tuesday has not been well received there. This would cause no surprise if the unfavourable criticism were confined to the extremist papers, which voice the views of those whom Lord Birkenhead described as the "elements in India which are determined to remain dissatisfied" and which are responsible for that "unfair and captious criticism of their actions" for which, as his Lordship truly said, public servants in India, both English and Indian, are never free. But it certainly seems surprising that important organs of British opinion in Calcutta should join in the chorus of disapproval—that the *Englishman* should complain of the absence of definite decisions, and the *Statesman* should characterise the speech as "a bitter disappointment." For on one point, and that a most important one, the Secretary of State spoke with no uncertain voice. As regards a further instalment of Reform, he said that "the condition was clear and precise. There could be no reconsideration until they saw everywhere among the responsible leaders of Indian thought evidence of a sincere and genuine desire to co-operate with them in making the best of the existing Constitution": and, as regards the Indianisation of the Army, he said that, while the Government would do everything in its power to make the experiment a success within its limits, "until it had been shown to be a success within those limits, it was not our purpose to go beyond them." And, in concluding his speech, Lord Birkenhead said, "I am not able in any foreseeable future to discern a moment when we may safely, either to ourselves or India, abandon our trust. There is no "lost Dominion," and there will be no "lost Dominion" until that moment, if ever it comes, when the whole British Empire, with all that it means for civilisation, is splintered in doom. It is our purpose resolutely, tirelessly and whole-heartedly to labour for the well-being of India as our ancestors have laboured throughout the generations. For that purpose we desire, and we request, good will; nor shall we be niggardly bargainers if we meet with the generous friendship which is near and dear to our hearts." The keynote of the speech is, in fact, to be found in the appeal to the people of India to offer good will and co-operation. The new constitution, said Lord Birkenhead, was freely conceived and generously offered: and had that which had been given been used with cheerful good will to justify the gift of that which was still sought, the task of acceleration would have been easy indeed. Here, then, we have a definite statement of policy and one that might reasonably have been expected to command the approval of responsible opinion in India. The Indian politician has not yet justified the measure of responsibility that has already been bestowed upon him, and has thereby, of his own act, made it impossible to offer him more; but the door is still open and he is still invited to prove his fitness to wield the power that is his for the taking. He has chosen to waste more than half of the period of probation, first in futile aloofness, next in futile obstruction; there is still time for him to prove himself worthy of better things; but, until he chooses to do so within the limits already assigned to him, "it is not our purpose to go beyond them."

Lord Birkenhead spoke of "certain indispensable antecedent steps" that must be taken before any conclusions could be formulated, or any decision taken, as the result of the conversations between Lord Reading and himself. Among these, he specified the formal advice of the Government of India and the considered opinion of the Legislative Assembly. In effect, he said that these were the antecedent steps that the Government would have to take; but he indicated, no less clearly, the antecedent steps that the Indian leaders would have to take before they could expect any move on the part of Government. At the same time, he gave a pretty clear indication of his personal views about the success of Diarchy: "it had neither altogether succeeded nor altogether failed; but it must further be noted, by way of additional qualification, that where it had succeeded the price of success had been, at some stages and in some districts, a considerable inroad upon the diarchical principle." He had not thought it proper to discourage such tendencies, holding the view that the whole matter was experimental and afforded an opportunity to each Province to work out its constitutional salvation in its own way. In this connection, while declaring that "the problems of provincial autonomy had not been adequately thought out by those who were now pressing it so strongly upon the attention of the Government," he referred to the Swarajist contention that no Constitution framed in the West could be suitable for, or acceptable to, the peoples of India, and said that any alternative Constitution, which might be produced by Indians and which "carried behind it a fair measure of general agreement among the great peoples of India," would be assured of the most careful consideration. This, no doubt was a reference to Mrs. Besant's "Commonwealth of India Bill"; since Lord Birkenhead went on to say how gladly he recognised that the so-called Liberal Party in India had refused to associate itself with the ill-starred course of non-co-operation, and that "it was still possible that that party might play a great part in the Constitution fashioning of the future"; while it is noteworthy that, in the debate on India that took place in the House of Commons on Thursday, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald paid a direct compliment to "those Liberal Indian politicians who had drafted the Commonwealth of India Bill," for they had the interests of India at heart, and to them "all those who wished to make India happy, contented and free, and who felt that this was the best aim to pursue, were under great obligations." It is also worth noting that Lord Birkenhead, in quoting from the preamble to the Government of India Act, included the paragraph that declares it to be expedient to give to the various Provinces of India, in provincial matters, "the largest measure of independence of the Government of India which is compatible with the due discharge by the latter of its own responsibilities." It is not perhaps a very far-fetched guess that Lord Birkenhead's personal preference may be in the direction of the solution of the Indian problem through the medium of Provincial autonomy; which, as he said, had not been adequately thought out by those who recommended it: and that he would welcome a more adequate attempt to do so.

The Secretary of State's speech contained one other indication of special interest; when, in referring to the sound financial position, and prosperous trade, of India, he "ventured with dogmatic certainty" upon the statement that an immense increase was attainable in the yield, and therefore in the prosperity, of agricultural India. Agriculture was a transferred subject, and this did not make "a correlated and rational attempt to deal with it" more easy; but it had been closely discussed by Lord Reading and himself: and he "was not without hope that, during his tenure of office, it might be in their power to contribute a powerful impetus to its further development." In its comments on the speech, *The Times* says that the need for a rational and scientific plan of agricultural development in India has frequently been insisted on in its columns: and expresses the hope that Lord Birkenhead's words mean that there is to be a serious inquiry into the problem, perhaps by the appointment of a special and authoritative commission for the purpose. "In any case, the possibility is growing that the realities of economic progress in India may leave the acute discussions of political theory far behind, and that an India interlocked and actually co-ordinated by modern economic processes, stimulated and guided by British rule, may begin to ask persistent and practical questions of politicians who still linger in abstractions." In the Indian debate in the Commons on Thursday, the importance of the economic factor and the necessity for the development of agriculture were specially urged, particularly by the "expert" speakers: the latter point being described as "the one constructive feature in Lord Birkhenhead's programme." When referring to the development of agriculture, Lord Winterton said that as a preliminary to any

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wider survey, they must await the report of the Economic Inquiry Committee recently set up by the Government of India, which "would probably show the need for a wider and more specialist inquiry." THE NEAR EAST has always upheld the vital importance of the agricultural development of India as the chief factor on which the progress, not only economic but political, of the peasant, and therefore of the whole of India, depends: and THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA welcomes as a good omen, so soon after its appearance under its new title, these indications that the problem is at last likely to receive serious attention.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, June 25.

A Nation's Tribute.

Unprecedented crowds followed the body of Mr. C. R. Das along the route around the city on the way from the railway terminus to the burning ghat. Even more stood about the streets and watched the procession pass, and a Press estimate of two hundred thousand is probably below the mark. Even allowing for a large proportion of sightseers the manifestations of grief and respect were convincing evidence of the hold which Mr. Das had obtained upon the imagination of Bengal, and all Indian business was practically suspended for the remainder of the week. The tributes to the personality of the dead leader and to his self-sacrifice and sincerity came from all sides; an appeal has been issued over the names of Indians of all sections of political opinion asking for a memorial fund of ten lakhs of rupees, and the signatures include the names of Lord Sinha and Sir R. N. Mookerjee. It will be interesting to see how far pride in their first Nationalist, to whom the term "great" may be applied by posterity, will overcome the usual lethargy of the Bengali in such matters.

The New Leaders.

Who will take his place? For the moment Mr. Gandhi has announced his intention of remaining in Calcutta, but he has also stated that he would not accept the leadership if it were offered to him. It is not likely to be, and his name has not even been suggested in any Indian paper. A Swarajist party meeting takes place next Sunday to consider the matter, but the only signs of agreement at present are the cutting down of the possibilities for the political leadership to about four, and for the Mayoralty to three, which leaves a round dozen people amazed at the blindness and ingratitude of their political associates. There is little chance of the new Mayor being chosen by reason of his fitness for the post and his ability to give his whole time to the heavy demands it makes; even if he were to introduce the practice of leaving the executive to do its own work, he would have his time fully occupied. The party leadership can only be a nominal one for some time to come, as it is certain that there is no one capable of holding together the turbulent elements among the extremists. Mr. Das is said to have been more than the Mayor; he was the Corporation itself. It is beginning to be realised that he was also the Swarajist Party itself; his achievements, which would have been remarkable as the work of a much longer period than five years, were only possible in the post-War atmosphere; the War itself, idealism, discontent, and the false industrial boom with its almost immediate collapse, all combined to produce a revulsion against the West, and the representative of the revolt has passed with the circumstances that made his career possible. It is the opening of a new chapter in the political life of the country: Mr. Das's last message was his "gesture" for co-operation; his lieutenant, Mr. J. Sen Gupta, responds by a call to all "patriots" to unite in fighting Government if it does not respond to the refusal to work the Reforms with an immediate further grant of self-Government.

The Reforms.

The forecast in the local European papers of the result of the conversations between Lord Birkenhead and Lord Reading has been quickly followed by guarded official disclaimers both from the India Office and from Simla. The *Statesman* responds with a strongly expressed insistence upon the substantial accuracy of the forecast and states that it is quite content to await the event in order to show the reliability of its correspondent. Signs are not wanting that it is being realised by the Extremists that they have made a tactical error in thinking that they could rush the Home Parliament by frightening it; they may be forgiven for thinking that, at a time when the embarrassments of Government were many and there was a tendency to quieten clamour by concessions, there was some hope that a combination of agitation and terrorism would secure an increase in the power of the new political classes whose very existences began with the Reforms Scheme. Common sense has prevailed, and it is coming home to the most intemperate minds that the first principle of government is the observance of law and order. Few Europeans on this side of India would object to any form of Government which is reasonably efficient, and on the other hand there are hopeful signs of an appreciation of realities and a return to earth of some of the most heady of the extremist elements.

The Money Market.

The feature of the money market this week has been a sharp rise in the price of Government Paper, largely stimulated by demands from Bombay. The price has risen from Rs. 68/6/- to Rs. 70/4/- and there are still buyers. There is ample short money about and this should have an effect before long in the bazaar, where there is still a lack of cash. Before the War one of the principal securities of the Indian banking houses and traders was real property, but one of the effects of the industrial boom has been to tie up much of the money, which ordinarily would have been invested in land, in temporary advances at high rates of interest to cover the risks. In the meantime the situation has resolved itself into an *impasse* as between property owners and mortgagers, but sooner or later growing balances will demand an outlet and the market will become more normal.

Markets.

There is no change in piece-goods and the general feeling is one of depression. The Jute market has become slightly easier and sales are opening at rather lower figures than those anticipated. A statement appears in this morning's papers that the crop is expected to be smaller than the unofficial forecast, but the fact appears to be that, while this is the case in some districts, there is likely to be a counterbalancing effect in others. The cloth market is quiet but steady; there is no inclination on the part of sellers to give way and in these circumstances the market appears likely to firm up. Exchange remains high and telegraphic transfers this morning are 1/6-3/32; indications are that the market will continue firm. In spite of signs of a slight drop in prices in London, the local tea market gives signs of a slight improvement which may be due to a certain amount of Russian buying.

CURRENT TOPICS.

A Manchester Address.

Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy addressed the Manchester Chamber of Commerce on June 10, on the political and commercial relations between England and India. The speaker pleaded for the abolition of the excise duty on Indian cotton goods which would, he said, help the Indian

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cotton industry in the present period of unprecedented stagnation, and would not in any way injure the English industry; for India was incapable of producing the finer kinds of cloth and was not, therefore, really in competition with England at all. The really dangerous competitor was Japan, whom the excise duty assisted to achieve the truly remarkable result that she did achieve—she bought India's raw cotton, paid heavy duties in the shape of freight, insurance, and other charges both ways, and yet sold her cloth in India twenty per cent. cheaper than the cloth manufactured in India. He referred to the non-co-operators' suggestion to boycott British goods, but said that wiser counsels had prevailed and that British trade was now gradually finding a firmer and firmer footing in India. As regards Imperial preference, while admitting that the Fiscal Commission—of which he himself was a member—had found against it, he thought that the time was coming when India, if granted full fiscal freedom, would welcome it. He thought that the general duty of 11½ per cent. against all imported manufactures might safely be increased to 20 or 25 per cent. against all other nations, and reduced to, say, five per cent. in the case of England.

Indian Cotton Industry.

A telegram from Bombay says that, in accordance with the promise recently given by Sir Basil Blackett on his way through Bombay to Simla, Mr. Chadwick, the Secretary of the Commerce Department, met the Bombay Millowners' Association on July 6. The meeting was private, and the millowners are understood to have indulged in much plain and strong speaking about the alleged sweating system obtaining in the Japanese mills, where the hours worked (in two shifts) amounted to 22 hours a day. The Association formulated two demands—the imposition of a higher import duty on yarn and cloth below thirty counts, and an export duty on raw cotton exported from India. Although the report does not say so, it may be assumed that they also pressed for the removal of the excise duty: as to which, it may be noted that Lord Winterton, speaking in the House of Commons on Thursday, said that "if and when the Government of India were in a position, from a revenue point of view, to abolish the cotton excise, they would do so." Mr. Chadwick promised to convey to the Government of India the views of the Association.

Training of Indian Officers.

The Government of India announced on July 6 the personnel and terms of reference of the Committee which, under the chairmanship of General Skeen, Chief of the General Staff, will inquire into the means of attracting qualified Indian youths to a military career and giving them suitable military education. The Committee consists of nine Indian members and one English member, and includes Mr. Jinnah, the leader of the Independent Party in the Legislative Assembly; Pandit Motilat Nehru, the Swarajist leader, has agreed to become a member if the Swaraj Party agree. The Committee will inquire by what means it may be possible to improve upon the present supply of Indian candidates for the King's Commission, both as regards number and quality: whether it is desirable and practicable to establish a military college in India to train Indians for the commissioned ranks of an Indian Army: if so, how soon should the scheme be originated, what steps should be taken to carry it out and whether the military college should supersede or be supplemented by Sandhurst and Woolwich, so far as the training of Indians for the commissioned rank is concerned.

An interesting point in the above message—if correctly transmitted—is the inclusion of Woolwich as well as Sandhurst. A grievance frequently expressed by Indian politicians—generally, it may be supposed, without proper knowledge of the facts—has been that Indians, though eligible for King's commissions in the Indian Army, are not eligible for commissions in the Royal Artillery (or the Royal Air Force) in India: oblivious of the fact that the latter is a distinct service and that the Indian batteries are officered, not by officers of the Indian Army, but by officers of the Royal Artillery seconded for duty with them.

Sikh Shrines Bill.

Telegraphic information states that the Sikh "Gurdwara" Bill was passed unanimously by the Punjab Legislative Council on July 7. The final passage of the Bill was marked by a series of congratulatory speeches, in which gratitude was expressed to the Government, the assurance was given by the Sikh members that the result would be the resumption of full and friendly relations between the Sikhs and Government, and friendly warnings were addressed to the Sikhs that they should use with discretion and judgment the wide powers now being placed in their hands, and should assure liberal treatment to the minority sects. On July 9 the Governor addressed the Council, and announced the decision of Government regarding the Sikh prisoners, at present in jail on account of the lawless part played by them in the troubles that have now been, it is hoped, finally, composed by the passage of the Bill. While unable to assent to a general or complete amnesty, the Governor said that he was prepared to release or withdraw the prosecution of all those who had been convicted or were under trial except those guilty or accused of crimes of violence or incitement to such crimes, provided that they would undertake to abide by the provisions of the Bill and not to seek, by force, by the show of force, or by criminal trespass, to gain control and possession of shrines or property. He declared that, though he could not admit that all the prisoners had been actuated by purely religious motives, it was nevertheless true that large numbers of them had been impelled to mistaken and dangerous courses by the idea that offences had been committed against their religion: and expressed the hope that those to whom a pardon would be offered would accept the offer in the spirit in which it was made. The Hindu and Moslem members of the Council expressed the opinion that the terms are unexpectedly generous; but the Sikh members, who had hoped for an unconditional general amnesty, were reticent.

The Imperial Bank.

The Governor of the Imperial Bank has addressed a memorandum to the Committee of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, setting forth the progress of Indianisation of the Imperial Bank staff.

At the time of the amalgamation of the Banks of Bengal, Bombay, and Madras, to form the Imperial Bank of India, there were 64 offices, which have now been increased to 157. Prior to the amalgamation there were no Indian officers in the Banks of Bengal and Bombay, and only one in the Bank of Madras: of the 93 new branches of the Bank that have been opened since the amalgamation, 38 have been put in charge of Europeans and 55 in charge of Indians. The Bank is also training 212 Indians, to fill up vacancies in its higher appointments in due course; of whom few, if any, had any real knowledge of banking at the time they were appointed, and the Bank has deliberately undertaken the task of training them in order to fit them for higher grade appointments. On the other hand, there is no scheme for training Europeans, and the Bank has on many occasions rejected applications from Europeans in India on the ground that they did not fulfil the Banks' requirements in regard to previous training in an English bank, although in other respects quite suitable for service.

THE INDIAN MAIL.

The Public Services Commission.

A leading article in the *Times of India* refers to the statement—which appears to have been unofficial—that the constitution and personnel of the Public Services Commission will shortly be announced. It is now more than six years since the Government of India Act provided for the establishment of such a Commission; but, until the Lee Report drew attention to the matter, nothing had been done. Lord Lee and his colleagues were unanimous in pressing the urgency of the question, and made a series of detailed recommendations that should have facilitated

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an early and reasonable decision. They specified two categories of duties for the Public Services Commission: the first being the recruitment of personnel for the Public Services and the establishment and maintenance of proper standards of qualification for admission to them, and the second comprising quasi-judicial functions connected with the disciplinary control and protection of the Services: and recommended an All-India body of five members, two of whom should possess high legal qualifications, while all should, as far as possible, be detached from political associations. All the members should be men of the highest public standing who will appreciate the vital and intimate relationship which should exist between the State and its servants." Here, says the *Times of India*, are three obvious special qualifications—intimate knowledge of what is required of a public servant in the performance of his duties in India, judicial impartiality and ability, and freedom from political party feeling: and one equally obvious disqualification—unacquaintance with India, which should, in the opinion of the paper, be an absolute bar. If the delay in announcing the constitution of the Commission is due to controversy over its personnel, this ought not to be the case, since the essential points are so few and so obvious that there can be little room for reasonable dispute over them. The paper says it will be agreeably surprised if the Simla statement turns out to be accurate, for it is difficult to believe that matters have really advanced so far; but agrees that an early settlement of the question is urgently necessary, "for there is general acquiescence in the soundness of the policy involved, and the actual establishment of the Commission would have a settling effect in directions where the cessation of controversy and the production of contentment are in the highest interest of the State."

The *Bombay Chronicle* expresses the fear that the Public Services Commission "will function as an asylum for odd men out," and that the Chairmanship of the Commission will go to the present President of the Legislative Assembly, Sir Frederick Whyte: whose claims are supported by the *Times of India*. The *Bombay Chronicle* prophesies that the two Indians "favoured as reliable henchmen" will be Sir B. N. Sarma, whose appointment on the Governor-General's Council has recently been extended, and Sir Abdur Rahim, as a sop for being "passed over" for the acting Governorship of Bengal. "They will make good stable companions, for they are equally bureaucratised and superannuated. We have no idea who will be put up from the I.C.S. ranks to represent the oppressed members of the European Cadre;" but, on whomsoever the "succulent selection" falls, the members are sure to form "a fossil combination, like the Secretary of State's Council, quite worthy of their cosy functions."

It is interesting to note that Lord Winterton, in his speech in the House of Commons on Thursday, said that "progress had been made toward the establishment of a Public Services Commission, and he hoped that it would be possible to make an announcement within a short time."

Political Developments in Bengal.

The *Bombay Chronicle*, commenting on the resumption by the Governor-in-Council of the transferred subjects in Bengal, puts forward its view of what should be the Swaraj Party's next move. The Government's decision is likely to cause depression among "flagged spirits" and to bring joy to reactionaries, who blindly mistake it for "the first episode in the reconquest of India for the Services;" but, to true Indian patriots, it "involves a challenge worth accepting." Lord Reading has "led Lord Birkenhead by the nose" towards reaction, and the sum of their joint efforts proves to be recruitment propaganda, the establishment of a Public Services Commission "over the cringing head of the Government of India" (in this particular respect, it would appear that Lord Reading has led Lord Birkenhead by the nose over his own cringing head—an acrobatic stunt that must have been painful to both) and the imposition of "a policy of stiff government for the emasculation of contentious parties." The attitude of the Government of India in suspending the Reforms in Bengal "seems to be one of tranquil ease and unblemished conscience;" but a rude awakening awaits them. Autocracy having been restored in its stark nakedness, the Swarajists of Bengal have entered on their second phase of trial. They have got rid of "sycophant ministers" and must now follow up their success by work outside the Council. They must cease to neglect the masses, and begin on "the village programme. If they recline in the arm chair all (will) be lost." They must "counter the loyalist propaganda" that the refusal to retain subservient ministers has deprived the villages of "soaking benefits" in the improvement of their health and wealth: they must organise the boycott of foreign cloth: and they must take advantage of the "compelling opportunity" to carry out the constructive programme of the National Congress. Bengal will have to look forward to "a spell of vindictive autocracy"; but the "effrontery of Government" will bring about "revived agitation and combined procedure," and they will require "continuous exercise in repression" to keep peace not only in Bengal, but in the other Provinces of India which, with the example of Bengal before their eyes, may be expected to abandon their "slogging policy of Council manœuvres" in favour of more drastic forms of agitation.

The Indian Central Cotton Committee.

It is estimated, says the *Pioneer*, that the work of the Indian Agricultural Department, on the improvement of crops, has added about 3¾ million pounds to the income of the Indian cultivator; but the All-India Research Institute at Pusa is not located in a cotton growing area and has, therefore, been unable to do for cotton what it has done for many other crops. The Indian Central Cotton Committee, which forms a common meeting ground for all sections of the cotton industry—growers, spinners, merchants, traders and agricultural officers concerned with the improvement of cotton growing and manufacture—has a great field of usefulness before it. It has already established a Technological Research Laboratory which, among other valuable functions, provides the Agricultural Department with facilities for having new cottons tested at an early stage of the experimental work. By means of its research grants, it has made possible the provision of a Central Research Institute at Indore, and has provided for the investigation of a number of special problems on agricultural experimental stations in the various cotton growing tracts. One of these problems is an inquiry into the pink boll worm, which is a dangerous pest in a large part of Northern India, that has been undertaken at Cawnpore. Useful legislation has also followed on the establishment of the Committee—notably the Cotton Transport Act, which is in operation in the most important staple cotton tracts of the Bombay Presidency, and has to a large extent prevented the introduction of inferior varieties and cotton waste into districts where the superior varieties are grown, for the purpose of dishonest mixing of the bad with the good. Another legislative enactment which will come into force from the beginning of the next cotton season is the Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Act, whose main object is to place the cotton trade in a position to protect itself against malpractices by providing for the marking of bales and for a record of ownership, so that the complaint, that Indian cotton is frequently adulterated or badly handled after leaving the grower, may be removed.

There are indications that the American cotton crop has been permanently reduced by an annual average of two million bales, owing to the ravages of the boll weevil: and it was recently stated that the strenuous efforts, that are being made to extend the area under cotton throughout the British Empire, had resulted in an Empire production, excluding India, of 350,000 bales. Practically all this cotton is of the American type, and more than half of it is grown in Uganda. Last year, the output of cotton of the American variety, from the Punjab alone, was 360,000 bales: and, taking cotton production in India as a whole, the output has grown from 3¾ million bales in 1915-16 to six million bales in 1924-25. During this period, the aggregate production of long staple cotton in India has risen by over 81 per cent., the output for 1924-25 being estimated at 2,107,000 bales. The new canal projects in the Punjab and Sind should materially increase the area

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under the better varieties of cotton—in Sind, the Lloyd Barrage canals alone will eventually admit of the cultivation of some 750,000 acres of cotton of good staple, representing a crop of 300,000 bales. But experts consider that, apart from new canal schemes, it is doubtful whether the actual area under cotton in India is capable of great expansion, so that enhanced production and lower relative cost must come through increased efficiency in cultivation and improved methods of handling and marketing the crop. It is here that the Indian Central Cotton Committee has vast opportunities for continuing the excellent work that it has already accomplished.

The Haj.

In last week's issue, the detention of the pilgrim steamer at Port Sudan was mentioned, as well as the demands that the British Government should assert its mastery of the seas and make use of the British Navy to ensure that King Ali's blockade and bombardment of Rabegh did not prevent the disembarkation of pilgrims. Last week's Indian Mail brought the news that a British warship had been ordered to Rabegh, in order that the situation might be examined on the spot and all possibilities explored for a compromise, in the matter of the pilgrimage, between King Ali and Ibn Saud.

On June 10 a meeting of Musulmans at the Jama Masjid, Delhi, under the presidency of Mahomed Ali (Shaukat Ali's younger brother) passed a resolution expressing their "utter detestation and abhorrence of the iniquitous act of King Ali," declared it to be the duty of Great Britain to arrange for the safe disembarkation of the pilgrims, and resolved that, if Great Britain failed in this, she would be "involved in the same sentiments of detestation and abhorrence that have been roused among Musulmans by King Ali's iniquity, and the inaction of the Government will turn the various suspicions that have been created at present into certainty and assurance." Mahomed Ali, in explaining the meaning of the sentence last quoted, said that no military operations were taking place at or near Rabegh until the Indian pilgrim ship was about to approach it, and that the declaration of the British Consul at Jeddah that Rabegh was within the area of hostilities appeared to the speaker to be a direct invitation to King Ali to attack it. If King Ali did not desist from preventing the safe landing of the pilgrims, Indian Musulmans would know full well "who was at the back of that monster of iniquity." Government had done its best to prevent pilgrims from proceeding to the Hedjaz and, when the persistence of Khilafat workers had compelled them to issue permits to pilgrim ships, Government continued, by the issue of alarmist communiqués, to confuse and frighten intending pilgrims. This action had reduced the number of pilgrims from scores of thousands to about three thousand, but even that number was a triumph for those who would not allow a most important duty to be left unperformed at the bidding of "the enemies of Islam."

On June 13 the Bombay pilgrimage committee invited a ruling from the *Jamiat-ul-Ulema*—the Convocation of Doctors of Moslem law—as to whether, since war conditions were prevailing and danger to the pilgrims was certain, and it would be impossible for them to proceed further (than Port Sudan) without British help, it was lawful that pilgrimage should be carried out with Christian aid.

It was at this juncture that the despatch of the British vessel to Rabegh was announced: whereupon the Jamiat-ul-Ulema declared that "no Moslem in any part of the world will tolerate the interference of any non-Moslem Power" in the Moslem Holy Land: so that the action of the British Government in despatching a warship to Rabegh, particularly when it became known that medical aid for the pilgrims was also being sent, "has caused doubts and fears in the minds of Moslems": and explained that all that the British Government had been asked to do was that, while preserving neutrality in the dispute between King Ali and Ibn Saud, they should "discharge the responsibility of landing pilgrims at Rabegh, or some other port, safely in accordance with international law." One of the leading members of the Jamiat also telegraphed to Simla strongly protesting against the despatch of the warship, since "the presence of any non-Moslem Power at any port of the Hedjaz at the present juncture, for whatever purpose it may be, will be a cause of great distress": and declaring his opinion that the taking of any action in the Hedjaz by any non-Moslem Power would be a greater breach of Islamic law than that the pilgrims should return without performing the Haj.

A Government communiqué issued from Simla on June 18 says that the Commander of the British warship at Rabegh reported that one of King Ali's ships was patrolling the entrance to the port and occasionally firing at the shore: but had not received any orders to prevent ships from entering the harbour. No operations were actually in progress at Rabegh, but King Ali's troops were expected to arrive there shortly. The pilgrim ship that had been detained at Port Sudan left that place for Rabegh on June 17, and the second pilgrim ship was reported to be making for Rabegh direct.

Whatever the upshot, it is a safe assumption that Government will be blamed. If the pilgrims get through safely, credit will be claimed by the Indian Khilafat Committee as against Government obstruction: if they do not, the failure will be described as due to Government inaction—or, indeed, connivance: accompanied, in both cases, by the "sacrilege" of Christian interference in the Moslem Holy Land.

Military Schools.

It is announced that the King George's Royal Indian Military schools for the sons of Indian officers and men will be opened, in September next, at Jhelum and Jullundur. The schools will accommodate boys of the classes enlisted in the Indian Army whose homes are situated in the Punjab and Frontier Province: the Jhelum school being intended for Mohammedans, and the Jullundur school for Sikhs, Dogras and Hindus. The cost of building the schools has been met from the King-Emperor's Patriotic Fund. Orphans and sons of disabled soldiers on small pensions will be educated free: a small charge being made in the case of other boys. If these two schools prove a success, the expansion of the scheme, so as to provide for other classes and for the sons of residents of other parts of India, will be considered later.

Bombay Murder Case.

The mail of May 30 brought the result of the sensational case that has caused such a stir all over India. A dancing girl named Mumtaz fled from the State of Indore, where she had been a court favourite, and accepted the protection of a wealthy Bombay merchant named Bawla. One evening, while Bawla and Mumtaz were driving in Bombay in a motor car, another car came up beside them, and a number of men disembarked and attacked Bawla's car, from which they attempted to abduct Mumtaz. They would probably have succeeded but for the fact that some British officers, attracted by the noise, came up and intervened in the struggle: in the course of which Bawla was shot dead, one of the British officers severely wounded, and Mumtaz hurt. Nine persons were eventually arrested and charged with the murder of Bawla, conspiracy to kidnap Mumtaz, and abetment of both these offences: the jury acquitted two and convicted the other seven: three of whom were sentenced to death and four to transportation for life. All the accused were subjects of the Indore State, and some of them held high official positions in the State. Among those sentenced to death was an officer of the Indore Mounted Police and the "Captain of the Indore Air Forces": among those sentenced to transportation was the Adjutant General of the Indore State Forces.

INDIAN COMMERCIAL NOTES.

East Indian cotton is making considerable headway with Lancashire spinners. It is true that the deliveries of this class of cotton to mills have fallen from 250,000 bales last season to approximately 200,000 bales this season. On the other hand, the lower figure represents a steady off-take by mills which have experimented with Indian cottons, and find they can use them to advantage.

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It must be admitted that if, in the course of the next few years, there is a large increase in the American crop, accompanied by a fall in prices, there may be some reversion from Indian to American cotton unless the prices of Indian cotton fall in proportion; but it does not seem likely that the American crop will expand appreciably, and it is, therefore, a fairly safe conclusion that Indian cotton has come to stay.

It should be remembered that Indian cotton is of shorter staple than American. For example, the distinction between short and long staple is drawn in India at only $\frac{7}{8}$ths of an inch, as contrasted with a determining point of over one inch for American. Lancashire is, however, specialising on the better grades of Indian cotton, which occasionally exceed one-inch staple. The fact is that India is making strenuous efforts to increase her output of good staple cotton. Irrigation has brought into cultivation during the past few years millions of acres of land in India which have hitherto borne nothing; and of this increase a fair proportion is now under cotton, thanks to the high prices obtained for that crop. A committee has been organised in India which receives its funds from a cess of 4 annas a bale on all Indian cotton exported from the country or consumed by the local mills. From this source it obtained a revenue last year of £80,000. The money is actively employed in financing research in the cultivation of cotton with a view to improvement of staple and quality. Moreover, legislation has been passed in order to suppress adulteration and encourage better methods of handling and marketing the crop. As a result of these efforts, while the output of short staple cotton in India has, during the past ten years, increased by only 29 per cent., from 3 million to nearly 4 million bales, the output of long staple cotton has increased by 81 per cent., from 1,161,000 to 2,107,000 bales. There is no doubt whatever that the Indian cultivator has secured a high proportion of the profit due to these improvements and to the increased price of cotton. The Punjab Government estimate that during the season ending June 30, 1924, cotton growers in that province secured an additional profit of over £1½ millions in growing American cotton, as compared with the ordinary indigenous varieties.

In general, India has benefited considerably by the appreciation of the prices paid in western markets for her produce. This appreciation has occurred as a result of the working of the ordinary laws of demand and supply—in spite of the handicap to India's exports involved in the rise of the rupee from 1s. 4d. to its present value of over 1s. 6d. The following statement compares the prices of India's staple export commodities in the London market, first in August 1923, when the rupee was quoted at 1s. 4d.; secondly in October 1924, when it reached 1s. 6d.; and thirdly in July 1925, when the quotation was 1s. 6⅛d.:—

	Mid Aug., 1923	Mid October, 1924	1st July, 1925
Rice	13 6	18 -	15 6
Wheat	40 -	63 6	53 -
Castor Seed	£18 10 0	£30 10 0	£22 17 6
Linseed	£18 10 0	£25 0 0	£20 12 6
Ground Nuts	£20 10 0	£28 10 0	£25 5 0
Copra	£27 5 0	£33 0 0	£31 10 0
Cotton Seed Oil	£34 0 0	£44 0 0	£39 0 0
Ground Nut Cake	£11 10 0	£13 10 0	£13 5 0
Jute	£22 5 0	£42 10 0	£44 15 0
Cotton	11-20d.	12-30d.	12-10d.
Wool	12d.-14¼d.	19d.-26d.	17¼d.-19½d.
Hemp	£20-£35	£38-£55	£37-42 10 0
Hides	1 9	2 1	2 1
Skins	5 9	6 10	7 8
Manganese	1 9	1 10	1 10
Tea	1 6	2 -	1 3¾
Coffee	126 -	190 -	165 -
Shellac	260 -	330 -	245 -

So far, reports of the advance of the monsoon are fairly satisfactory. There has been some irregularity in its distribution, and it cannot be denied that Indian bazaar opinion, conscious of having enjoyed four successive good monsoons, is nervous as to the prospects of the fifth. A deficiency of rain in some parts of the country has to be set off against an excess in others; and it is a steady fall which counts in the long run. However, there is plenty of time yet for an improvement.

INDIAN EXCHANGE.

July 13.

This market was comparatively featureless all last week with steady rates of 1/6-3/32 to 1/6⅛.

These were also the best rates available in Bombay and Calcutta, and a fair amount of buying was done by Government at the higher figure. It has been reported that their total purchases from Banks and others during the month of June amounted to no less than £7,500,000.

Forward rates have kept wonderfully steady and delivery between November and January has been available in India at 1/6-7/32. The firmness may be attributed to the continued activity in exports, and we understand that a fair amount of Sugar imports have been contracted for from Java, for which Exchange has been settled at 1/6⅛ to 1/6-5/32 for September.

The beginning of this week brings little change except that 1/6⅛ for spot has vanished and no better than 1/6-7/64 is offering.

The Imperial Bank of India's last Return shows a further increase in silver rupees against which the notes in circulation have expanded to a similar extent. Their profits for the half year to 30 June show a shrinkage, but the dividend declared is maintained at 16 per cent. per annum, free of tax.

The Monsoon news continues favourable and the outlook at the moment is satisfactory.

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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

170, *Strand, London, W.C.2.*
Tuesday Morning.

Progress in the Sudan.

I have had most promising accounts given to me of conditions in the Sudan by one who is just back from that country. The Sudan is only now, of course, entering on its career as a producer of cotton on a large scale, and I was very interested to learn that great though the output of cotton from the irrigated areas will be, it is anticipated that in the future it will be surpassed by rain-grown cotton. At present the native as a rule is very careless over the rain-grown product. He picks the cotton at his leisure and as he thinks fit, with the result that the yield is nothing like what it might be with adequate care. I was told of a case in which the amount of cotton left lying on the ground was equal to the amount that was picked, which was relatively a large production. As regards irrigated cotton, the hope is entertained that research will enable a great improvement in the present yield per acre. One factor which is an enormous asset to cotton growing in the Sudan is the freedom from cotton pests, but the fear is always present all the same that serious difficulties of this nature may arise. We must hope that nothing of the kind will happen, for the Sudan may not inaptly be described as the bulwark of cotton production within the Empire.

The Rubber Position.

My anticipations with regard to the rubber outlook are in process of being borne out to the letter. At the time of writing the price of the raw commodity stands at 4s. 4d., following a meteoric rise, and it may very well go considerably higher yet before the turn comes, for even if the restriction scheme should be modified it would take time for supplies to be increased. London stocks are now down to under 4,500 tons, and with the demand by manufacturers on a large scale it is not surprising that the upward movement should have been so rapid, and that in America the dollar per lb. rubber should have been realised. Of course, an agitation is now developing against the restriction scheme, but it must be pointed out that the fact that at the moment the production is limited to 65 per cent. is due solely to the lack of buying in the past. It has been possible until recently to buy rubber very cheaply, and it is because America has bought as sparingly as possible that the production was gradually reduced, and when the restriction scheme at length began to have results that the first increase was no more than 5 per cent. It is quite conceivable in view of developments that August 1 will see the introduction of some modification in the scheme, but if it does it can make no difference for some time. The plantation companies have based their plans on the operation of the scheme to schedule, and the consequence of the unexpectedly large demand for rubber is that there is now a real shortage which, in my opinion, will take some months to overcome.

Empire Cotton "Futures."

An important development during the past week, and one which will give unbounded satisfaction among all who are concerned in the production of cotton within the Empire, is the adoption of the Liverpool Cotton Association of a new form of futures contract which will be known as "The Empire and Miscellaneous Cotton Delivery Contract." Against this contract all growths of cotton not lower than the grade and value of strict low middling American cotton may be tendered, the contract only excepting certain grades of Egyptian cotton tenderable on the present Egyptian future contracts. The effect of the development is that henceforward Empire grown cotton will enjoy the same facilities as American, and it is undoubted that the change will tend to further the use of Empire cotton by spinners and manufacturers. It is the hope of the association that the provision of a "hedge" in the futures market for growers and importers of Empire cotton will greatly benefit Empire cotton growing.

Furness Withy Results.

Slightly smaller net profits are shown in the report of Furness Withy and Co. for the past year, the figures being £528,742 as against £572,443 for the previous year and £552,511 for 1923. Unfortunately, as the directors point out, the depression in the shipping industry has been accentuated during the year, and the shipowning branch of the business has contributed only a comparatively small proportion of the profits shown. It is proposed to maintain the distribution at 7½ per cent., tax free, which the shareholders will doubtless regard as an eminently satrsfactory result in present conditions.

Bank Amalgamations.

The statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in reply to a question in the House of Commons last week that further amalgamations with the larger banks would not in principle be regarded with favour by the Government is interesting as showing that in this matter the Government are following the policy of the late Administration. It is extremely unlikely, even if official approval were forthcoming, that there would be any further amalgamations with the "Big Five," as they are called, for

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these banks have so developed the scope of their business that they are now able to give the most ample facilities to customers and it would seem, therefore, that they would have little or nothing to gain by any fresh alliance.

The Cotton Position.

At the moment the cotton outlook is quite promising. At any rate it appears probable that once again there will be enough cotton this season to keep the price of the commodity at a reasonable level. All depends, however, on the development of the demand for cotton goods. It is only the fact that the world's purchasing capacity has been so reduced since the war that has prevented the development of a real shortage of the raw material, and if conditions should be such as to enable a revival of trade it is quite within the bounds of possibility that a very difficult situation may arise. From the early reports it appears probable that the American crop will be in the neighbourhood of 15,000,000 bales, and as there will this year be a substantial increase in the production within the Empire, the position would appear to be fairly satisfactory. It is essential for Lancashire not only to have adequate supplies of cotton, but also to have cheap cotton, since it is only by this means that trade can be developed, and it would be little short of disastrous once trade begin to revive if it were to be checked by a sharp rise in the price of cotton. With the great developments now in progress within the Empire, each year that passes makes the position safer for Lancashire, though it must unfortunately be a long time before we can reach the ideal of being totally independent of sources outside the Empire for our cotton supplies. Still that will come in time.

IMPORTS & EXPORTS

The financing of the world's commerce has become one of the most intricate of machines ever constructed, and under the banker's hands lie all the cogs and controls necessary for its efficient running. It is of the utmost importance that the merchant should clearly understand the working of its mechanism in order that he may make the fullest use of the bank's facilities, not only for his personal benefit, but also for the increased commercial prosperity of the country. To assist its customers, the Westminster Bank has now prepared a booklet explaining the many ways in which the commercial man may use the bank for the furtherance of his business, and how he should proceed so as to take the utmost advantage of interest, rebate, discount, rates of exchange, etc., and combine with progress and enterprise the necessary security and caution.

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Empire Cotton Production and Prices.

The efforts now being made in the Sudan, Uganda, South Africa, Australia, Iraq, and elsewhere to develop cotton growing may possiby give rise to the fear that the ultimate result will be that the great increase in production will make the price of cotton decline to such an extent that some of these regions will be saddled for a year or two, until conditions alter, with an unprofitable crop. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that there is nothing in this view. The tendency over a long period of years has been for America to utilise an increasingly large proportion of her crop herself, leaving less and less for export. It is the function of Empire grown cotton to fill the gap thus created and also to provide for the world's future consumption, which is bound steadily to go on increasing and may quite conceivably develop in a few years out of all proportion to what it is at present. In developing cotton growing in the Empire on a large scale we are not merely attempting to safeguard the present—by which I mean the next few years—but are taking an option on future requirements. It would never do to wait for the development of the demand for cotton goods and then endeavour to meet it. It has been well said that the addition of one shirt to the average African wardrobe would create a cotton shortage. Will anyone venture to say that an increase in the standard of living of the peoples in question that would bring about a demand for cotton goods which could not be met is an impossible development? We have to see to it that any such happening shall not take us unawares, and the present price of cotton, were no other factors to be taken into account, affords the fullest justification for pushing on to the utmost with production within the Empire.

Phœnix Oil Profits.

It had been hoped that the Phœnix Oil and Transport Company would make its initial distribution on account of 1924, but while the shareholders will be disappointed that that has not happened, they will find compensation in the fact that the company has entered the ranks of dividend payers, an interim dividend being recommended in respect of 1925. The company made a net profit on the year of £225,610 as against £77,861 for the previous year, and with the amount brought in the available balance is £331,264. It is proposed to write off the whole of the balance of preliminary expenses, duty on increase of capital, new issue expenses, underwriting commission and brokerage, absorbing £80,709, creating a reserve against sundry assets of £29,000, leaving £221,554 to be carried forward. Including the above-mentioned amounts of £80,709 and £29,000, and various sums received by certain of the allied companies in respect of compensation, the sum of £300,166 has been written off for depreciation. The output last year was 187,904 tons, against 105,259 tons in 1923; for the first six months of 1925 the output amounted to 135,960 tons. No doubt the figures for the whole of the year will show a further marked advance. It has all along been foreseen that the strength of the company's position assured it a prosperous future under nomal conditions, and it may be expected henceforward to go rapidly ahead. The figures of this company incidentally throw a most interesting light on the outlook for Roumania. The Roumanian exchange still stands at a figure which ill accords with the country's potentialities, but it is obvious that now that the country's oil industry is really beginning to progress it cannot be long before the exchange is affected, for the recovery of the oil industry must ultimately mean a great increase in Roumania's exports, giving the country a large favourable trade balance, and, given ordinary conditions, no country with a favourable trade balance can long have an extremely depreciated exchange.

Progress in Persia.

At the meeting of the Imperial Bank of Persia the chairman, Sir Hugh Barnes, was able to give a most encouraging review of conditions in Persia. He referred to the growing power and popularity of the Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief of the Army, Reza Khan Pehlevi,

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by whom, he pointed out, the Government has been carried on with increasing strength and efficiency. The result of his work has been that the direct route from Ahwaz to Khurumabad through Luristan which has been closed for years as unsafe for traffic has been reopened and last April a caravan of specie was sent from Ahwaz to Sultanabad by this route without mishap. The trade of the country, it is satisfactory to note, is continuing to expand, and Persia has a substantial balance of trade in its favour. The great need of Persia to-day is for improved communication, and Sir Hugh Barnes indicated that this aspect was fully appreciated by the Prime Minister. "The question of railway construction," he added, "stands well in the foreground of his views, and I understand that all the recent plans for pushing on the various schemes suggested for linking up the capital with the sea emanate from him. The main roads have of late years received attention, and with the advent of the motor-car, they are serving their purpose fairly well, but there is still much room for improvement, and I understand the Government is contemplating special taxation for this purpose. Persia is to-day seeking eagerly for avenues by which to progress, and it is strange that the country should possess motors and aeroplanes before a mile of railway track has been built. This state of affairs we confidently hope may now be changed, as a serious beginning has been made to provide means for railway construction."

Cotton Growing in Syria.

While we are pre-occupied with cotton growing in the Empire France is doing her utmost to develop cotton growing in Syria, and by all accounts with a very great measure of success. The available statistics are at any rate significant, and the fact that the yield of cotton has risen in 1924 to five times what it was in 1922, speaks for itself. The painstaking work carried out in the Sudan Uganda and elsewhere has no doubt been studied closely by the French authorities who are evidently determined to proceed on the right lines by the establishment of experimental stations and other similar measures.

Cotton Research.

I have just received a copy of a summary of a report by Professor J. B. Farmer, F.R.S., and Mr. L. G. Killby, Secretary to the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation, on Trinidad as a possible site for a Central Research Station for cotton growing. The report is preceded by a Foreword by Dr. W. L. Balls, F.R.S., written after the decision of the Corporation to accept the recommendations made in the report and to establish a research station in Trinidad. The creation of a research station marks a new departure in the activities of the Corporation, and the development is one which has aroused the keenest interest in cotton circles for it is widely recognised that it is only through such a medium that it will be possible fully to utilise the great cotton growing potentialities of the Empire. It is pointed out in an introduction to the report that it is intended that the work of the station shall be to investigate the cotton plant in all phases of its growth and under rigorously controlled conditions, so that it may be possible to ascertain the importance of the various factors that contribute to the final result. It is not intended to provide strains of pure lint seed for large scale distribution to the cotton fields of the Empire. The effect of the acclimatisation factor makes it essential that the production of seed for this purpose must be carried out in the various countries concerned, and it is pointed out that the utmost that a central station can do in this direction is to breed out pure lines for special characteristics. These lines will have to be locally tested to find out whether they are satisfactory in any particular country and so to serve in that country as a starting point from which it can raise its own seed. The investigations that it is intended to conduct at the station include the study of the mechanism of the growth and behaviour of the cotton plant, its reaction to its environment and the connection between the characteristics of the lint and its spinning qualities.

COMMENTATOR.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Zinovieff arrived at Tiflis last week.

Four Russian aeroplanes arrived at Kabul on July 4.

A heat wave is reported from Meshed, Persia, a temperature of 104 deg. having been registered.

Ziwar Pasha, Prime Minister of Egypt, left Cairo, for England on July 10, and arrived in London yesterday.

The Meshed correspondent of the *Pioneer* reports that the Turkomans have again retired to the hills after carrying off two women from two caravans.

According to the *Pioneer*, the Afghan authorities do not like the idea of Russian prospecting for oil in Herat and Afghan Turkestan. Failing Afghan prospectors they would prefer that the enterprise should be undertaken by the nationals of a country not adjacent to Afghanistan.

The Times Cairo correspondent reports that the Egyptian Government has appointed the Jarabub Commission, with Ismail Pasha Sidky as chairman, and has asked the Italian Government to agree that the first meeting of the Commission shall be in Cairo in October.

The mystery of the disease now ravaging the Bakharz district of Persia is still unsolved. Over 3,000 deaths have occurred from it during the past year in the 35 villages affected. Colonel Heron, Indian Medical Service, and Dr. Hoffman have gone to Meshed to investigate the disease.

The brother and sister of Lieutenant Mustapha Hamdy, who is alleged by Dr. Shafik Mansur—one of the accused in the Sirdar murder trial—to have accidentally killed himself while practising bomb-throwing in the desert, have identified a skeleton found at Helouan by the Egyptian police as that of their brother.

Negotiations for the concordat between Yugoslavia and the Vatican are said to be now at an end. The Yugoslav delegates have left Rome for Belgrade in order to submit the result of their mission to the Government. The negotiations were conducted on behalf of the Vatican by Cardinal Gasparri and M. Borgoncini.

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THE TELEPHONE SYSTEM OF PERSIA.

A telephone concession covering all Persia, except the Province of Gilan on the Caspian, was granted to a group of Persians in 1903 for a term of 60 years. This concession gives the right to construct and operate telephone exchanges in every city or town in Persia and includes permission to erect lines along all roads and streets, on roofs, and in the yards of all houses.

By its terms, telephone buildings are exempted from all Government taxes, and all telephone equipment consigned to the company is free from customs duties. After deducting expenses and interest from the income, 10 per cent. of the remainder is to be paid to the Government, but no such payment is to be made for the first five years after the installation of the Teheran exchange nor for the first 10 after the installation of any other exchanges.

The General Telephone Co., or Société Générale Des Telephones de Perse, with headquarters at Teheran, is the present holder of this concession. The owners of two-thirds of the shares must be Persian subjects. After the payment of all expenses, and 10 per cent. of the remainder of the receipts to the Government, 5 per cent. of the profits is set aside as a reserve and 10 per cent. is divided among the members of the administrative council. The rest is divided among the shareholders. It was recently decided that 10 per cent. of the annual income should be set aside for improvements, repairs, and maintenance.

Under this concession, says an American Consular report, 24 telephone exchanges, all of which use the magneto system, have been established in Persian cities and serve a total of 2,639 subscribers.

The rates charged are about 10s. to 15s. per month, but the subscriber must furnish his own instrument, which may be purchased in the bazaars at a price ranging from £3 to £12 each. Most of the instruments now used are of Swedish manufacture, but there are also many Russian and a considerable number of German makes in service. A few American and English instruments are on sale, but they are not in general demand.

Besides the exchanges belonging to or licensed by the telephone monopoly, there are exchanges in Gilan Province, Resht, Ispahan, and a number of private exchanges bordering the Persian Gulf. The latter are, as a rule, operated by the British military authorities.

The central office equipment in Teheran consists of a local battery magneto system of Russian manufacture which has been in service about 20 years. There are five branch exchanges besides the central office. The total capacity of the system is 1,600 lines, and there are at present 1,350 subscribers.

The main central operates 24 hours a day, but the branches are closed four hours after sunset. The operators are both Mohammedan and Zoroastrian. They are required to speak only Persian, and their average wage is £3 12s. per month. The average number of calls is 414 per day.

A general reconstruction of the Teheran plant is now under way, and all of the equipment for this purpose has been purchased in Germany. The magneto equipment will be discarded and a common battery system installed. The outside plant has hitherto consisted of bare iron wire run on buildings and poles, but this is now being replaced in part by an underground cable system. The company is itself purchasing the new instruments; hereafter subscribers will not be required to furnish their own.

The new system is laid out for 3,000 subscribers, and it is estimated that the improvements will cost somewhat over £66,600. As there is at present a greater demand for the service than can be supplied, it is expected that the extension being made will bring in sufficient income to warrant the additional investment. Eleven exchanges, other than Teheran, average 66 subscribers each.

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NEW GREEK REFUGEE LOAN.

The question of a further Greek Refugee Loan is the subject of the following reference in the current number of the fortnightly *Market Report* of Messrs. Hambros Bank, Ltd.

"Owing to the continued influx of refugees into Greece, far in excess of the number contemplated at the time of the issue of the Greek Refugee Loan in 1924, it is found that the moneys raised by this loan will not be sufficient to meet the requirements of these additional refugees, who are already said to number 300,000 people beyond the numbers budgeted for originally, and it is anticipated that very shortly even these numbers will be further augmented by 7,000 to 8,000 families expected from Turkey and Bulgaria. It is, however, not expected that any funds, other than those already available, will be required before 1926, when the Greek Government have in contemplation the issue of a further loan. No loan can, of course, be issued ranking pari passu with the Refugee Loan of 1924, and any further funds raised must be—in so far as any of the present hypothecated revenues are concerned—of inferior rank. At present, however, no definite steps have been taken in this direction, as the Council of the League of Nations will first have to investigate the situation before their sanction is obtained. The magnificent reports of the improved conditions in Greece since the advent and settlement of the refugees make it clear that Greece, by encouraging the settlement of these people who, formerly, were the great producing power of Asia Minor and Turkey, will benefit more and more each year."

SIR FLINDERS PETRIE.

Prince Arthur of Connaught, at University College, on July 7, handed to Sir W. M. Flinders Petrie the first Petrie medal for distinguished work in archæology. The medal, which will probably be awarded every three years by the Board of Studies in Archæology at London University, has been designed to commemorate Sir Flinders' services to archæological research. It represents the head of the famous Egyptologist, and on the reverse an Egyptian ibis—the symbol of research—combined with the heads of Keops, Petrie's most interesting find.

Sir Flinders Petrie said there was an enormous amount of work still to be done, and even in the records they already had there was enough to keep him busy for the next ten years.

TRAVELLING STUDENTSHIP TO MESOPOTAMIA.

To assist the archæological work which has been undertaken by Mr. Leonard Woolley at Ur in Mesopotamia, the Royal Society of British Architects has opened a fund to provide the sum of £400 for a "R.I.B.A. Travelling Studentship" to enable a young architect to accompany Mr. Woolley on his excavations. The sum of 40 guineas has already been received by the Institute from Mr. F. Halstead Best, and the secretary will be glad to receive any further contributions.

Detailed plans for the building of the Jebel Aulia dam (on the White Nile above Khartum) have been approved by the Egyptian Cabinet.

In view of the favourable provisional crop returns a decree has been issued abolishing the restrictions on the export of grain from Bulgaria.

A commercial agreement between Germany and Turkey has been reached on the basis of the Most Favoured Nation treatment. It will come into force immediately.

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COMMERCIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

THE PORT OF SALONIKA.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—With regard to Sir Harry H. Lamb's comment, in your issue of July 9, upon my letter in your issue of July 2, Sir Harry requests that I explain why an increase in the traffic on the Salonika-Ghevgheli line, such as would be ensured by Yugoslav control, should not be equally well attainable by means of an ordinary commercial convention, etc.

The question is not difficult to answer. Practical experience to date has demonstrated that ordinary commercial conventions have proved inadequate with Greek railway administration.

The installation of a competent administration, such as Yugoslavia is asking for, capable of making the line in question adequately serve the export traffic from the Serbian hinterland, would logically increase the volume of British shipping in those ports.—I am, etc.,

London, July 13. T. MAHONEY SHEA-LAWLER.

SPECIAL MARKET REPORTS.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank:—

Teheran, June 13.—The bazaar is very quiet, indeed almost stagnant. The price of sugar continues to fall on account of the large stocks which have been accumulated. It is stated that the Government have already collected 6,000,000 krans from the new sugar tax. The present prices are:—Belgian 22 krs. per batman, Russian 20 krs. per batman. The prices of tea are unchanged. There is only a small demand for coffee and prices are unchanged. An increased demand is to be noted for opium, with a consequent rise in prices. Quotations are:—Shireh 330 krs. per batman, Tchouneh 410 krs. per batman.

Cyprus, June 13.—The wheat and barley crops are 30 per cent. superior to last year's and of a better quality. Opinions are divided as to the yield of carobs. The crops appear to be slightly inferior to last year's.

Haifa, June 13.—The grain market remains firm, and orders for Syria have resulted in a rise in prices of 5 per cent. Stocks show a marked decrease, and new sales are quoted at 4 to 5 per cent. over the prices of the previous week.

IMPORTANCE OF YUGOSLAV MARKET.

The Journal of the British Chamber of Commerce at Marseilles recommends British manufacturers and exporters to establish closer contact with the Yugoslavian market, where, in the future, there is likely to be an increasing outlet for British products and adds that statistics furnished by a correspondent serve to emphasise that those manufactures in which Britain specialises take the most prominent place in the import trade of Yugoslavia. During last year the total import trade of Yugoslavia amounted to 1,127,680 tons valued at 578,588,568 gold dinars, and exports totalled no less than 3,915,700 tons valued at 671,271,951 gold dinars, thus leaving a large balance in favour of Yugoslavia, which would undoubtedly have been increased still further had there been a sufficient number of goods-vans to carry the surplus produce available. The following were the principal articles imported by Yugoslavia: Cotton goods (18.30 per cent.); woollen goods (7.10 per cent.); cotton yarns for weaving (5.05 per cent.); and machinery and instruments (3.25 per cent.). Other less important items were sugar, coffee, coal, cotton in grey state, and raw skins. The most important commodity, supplied by Great Britain, was coffee, followed by yarns, for weaving, and coal.

At the present time Great Britain is fourth on the list of supplying countries, being preceded by Italy, which last year furnished 20.52 per cent. of the total imports.

THE EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended July 1, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has been rather dull for the old crop and active and firm for the new crop; the net changes on the week are the following:—Sakellaridis, 3.05 dollars up for July, 1.57 dollars up for November, 1.59 dollars up for January, 1.60 dollars up for March. Ashmouni, 1.22 dollars up for August, 0.95 dollars up for October, 1 dollar up for December.

July Sakel and August Ashmouni have been very little dealt in; interest is lacking as business with spinners for prompt shipment is almost nil and speculators do not care to operate in so narrow a market, where the bull and bear factors more or less counterbalance. Operations in new crop options have been heavy but again very speculative. We think that spinners so far have bought little new crop cotton; they consider the prices too high in view of the big acreage put under cotton both in America and Egypt, and the fairly normal condition of the growing crops at the present moment. The week's receipts amount to Crs. 1,069, against exports to Crs. 76,204; the stock stands at Crs. 572,044.

Spot: Minet el Bassal has been very quiet indeed this week and demand from spinners has fallen away considerably. The market has only been open four days and sales amount to about 2,500 B/s, of which we estimate 550 B/s Sakel and 1,950 B/s Uppers with a few bales of White.

Sakellarides: Has been in poor demand. The medium and lower grades have attracted most attention. Spot differences are rather easier with the exception of Good Fair, and Fully Good Fair, which are unchanged and maintain their parities with contracts.

Ashmouni and Zagora: Continue in fair request and all styles have been dealt in. Spot differences are unchanged from last week except for Fully Fair and below, which are inclined to ease.

Brown, Pilion and White: Are neglected and only a few bales of White have changed hands. Spot differences for Brown and Pilion are quoted unchanged except for Fully Fair and below, which are rather easier. Those of White are considerably easier all round.

Crop 1925: Climatic conditions have this week been quite favourable to the growing crop. In Upper Egypt and the South and Central Delta, the general condition of the plant is about normal. In the north Delta the condition is not yet what one would desire. The leaf worm attack is now in its most acute stage, but it is well controlled and no serious damage is expected. The pink boll worm has made its appearance but it is yet too early to express an opinion as to its future expansion. The irrigation rotations now at work in the great majority of the districts consist of 6 working days alternating with 18 days' stoppage; these rotations are of the longest type, and if the weather during July and August is exceptionally hot might adversely affect the final results of the crop.

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Company Meetings.

BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA.

Improvement in West African Trade.

The thirty-first annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Bank of British West Africa, Ltd., was held on July 9 at the offices, 37, Gracechurch Street, London. The Rt. Hon. the Earl of Selborne, K.G., K.C.M.G. (chairman of the company), presided.

The Secretary (Mr. G. B. Bennett) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman first referred with great regret to the loss the bank had sustained by the death of his predecessor, Lord Milner. Dealing with the accounts, he said:—Our profits amount to £112,352, or some £16,000 more than a year ago, and while I am not disposed to be too optimistic as to the future, I think we can congratulate ourselves upon this definite evidence of an improvement in West African trade. Our main interests now and always are, of course, in British West Africa, but before touching on these I may say a few words as to our other fields of operation. Let me refer first of all to Egypt.

Our first branch in that country was established in 1918, and, as you will remember, we came to an arrangement with Lloyds Bank Limited early in 1919 under which that bank acquired a large holding of our shares. Lloyds Bank Limited in February, 1923, found themselves, by the acquisition of Cox's Bank, the proprietors of an existing business in Egypt. The operations of the two Egyptian businesses continued, but it became more and more clear that competition in Egypt between Lloyds Bank Limited—our largest shareholders—and our branches in that country was increasing, as indeed was inevitable. Various schemes were discussed between us in London, in that friendly spirit which characterises all our relations with Lloyds Bank, and ultimately it was decided that we should close our two branches and terminate our business in Egypt, transferring it, so far as we possibly could, to Lloyds Bank Limited.

We retain a substantial interest in the results of this amalgamated Egyptian business carried on by Lloyds Bank; we have two of our directors on their Egyptian committee, a representative concerned in the administration, and several members of our Egyptian staff and our local adviser in Alexandria, Mr. Ismalun, have been taken over by Lloyds Bank Limited. With the saving in overhead expenses which will result, the goodwill which each side to the bargain brings in, and the local experience now united, we look forward with confidence to increasing profits from the combined business.

Our business in Morocco continues to be carried on under the disadvantages of unstable exchanges. There are other problems connected with Morocco which also tend to make conditions difficult. Perhaps there is no more important matter from the point of view of British trade interests than that of the Capitulations. It is most earnestly to be hoped that our Foreign Office will resist any and all attempts to deprive our country of our capitulatory rights in Morocco

I now come to West Africa. Our accounts for the year to March 31, 1925, indicate that trade conditions have improved; and so far as exports are concerned the quantities of many products exported from British West Africa were greater in 1924 than in any previous year. Presuming the absence of any untoward and unforeseen occurrences in Europe or America, I see no reason why these exports should not continue to increase and thereby enable the West African Colonies to require and consume an increasing quantity of manufactured goods notwithstanding the higher prices they are called upon to pay for them.

There exists a friendly, if perhaps unspoken, rivalry between the Colonies in their development, but each recognises that the extension of communications is the great essential. More railways, more roads and harbour improvements are of the first importance for British West Africa, and the recent suggestion of Lord Kylsant that the British Government should provide capital for the purpose of their construction deserves every consideration.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

P. AND O. BANKING CORPORATION.

Conservative Policy of the Board.

The fifth ordinary general meeting of the P. and O. Banking Corporation, Ltd., was held on July 10 at 122, Leadenhall Street, E.C.

The Right Hon. the Viscount Inchcape, G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., K.C.I.E. (the Chairman), reminded the shareholders that last year he had briefly set out the lines upon which, in his view, their policy should run. As a young bank they must, he said, go slowly, conserve their resources in their business, and build up their reserves, distributing their profits with cautious regard to possible vicissitudes which might arise in the trades they were financing. In this policy he was sure they, the Board, would have the shareholders' complete agreement.

Dividend and Accounts.

Last year he had referred to the hopes expressed in some quarters of an early revival of trade. These hopes had not been realised; on the contrary, there was an even greater uncertainty now than there had been at that time, while in the last few weeks a new cloud—the trouble in China—had appeared on the horizon. In such conditions they would, he felt sure, endorse the Board's view that it was wise and prudent to increase the bank's reserves rather than to distribute up to the hilt.

They had also felt that they should make a beginning with the writing down of their premises, which at present stood at a modest figure. They were now moving, both at the Head Office and at the Branches, into permanent premises; and it was only wise to write off gradually the expenditure of the last five years on premises which they had occupied temporarily in the early stages of the business.

The Year's Results.

The year's results showed very little material change, and they

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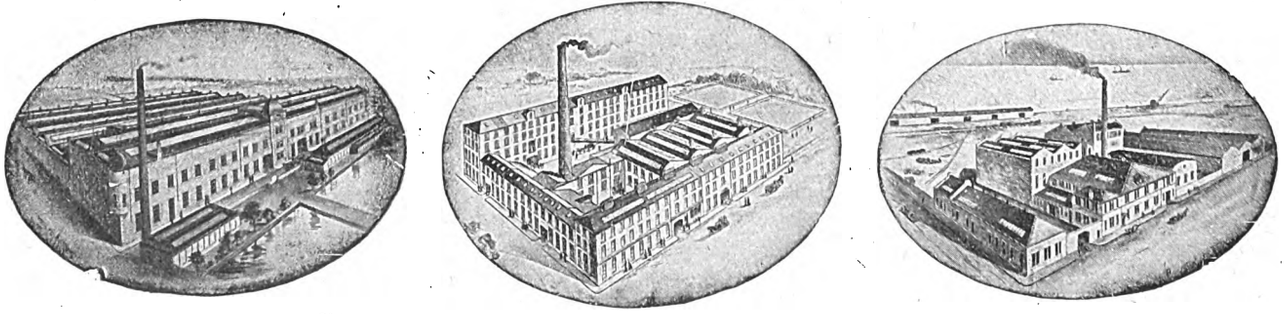

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were indebted for the surplus on the year's operations to the efforts of the management at home and abroad. Their current and deposit accounts stood at £9,419,000, much the same figure as last year, and this important branch of their business was everywhere being steadily maintained. Liabilities on loans against security had been reduced to about £3,750,000; on the contra side they had—in their cash money at call, £2,476,224—a satisfactory reserve of 26 per cent. against their liabilities on current and deposit accounts. Their investments, loans and advances did not differ materially from last year's. The decline in the amount of bills in their portfolio on March 31 did not imply a decline in the bank's share of the financing of Eastern trade; on the contrary, their bill business to and from India and China had greatly increased, the turnover having been more than two and a half million pounds greater.

The past year had not been without its anxieties. Bad trade all over the world was bound to be reflected in a bank's business, but with a return to prosperity, peace in industry and settled conditions, which they hoped soon to see, those banks which had conducted their business prudently would, he concluded, reap the reward of their prudence.

I now beg to move: "That the directors' report and statement of accounts for the twelve months ended March 31, 1925, be and the same are hereby adopted."

Mr. Alastair Cameron (Deputy-Chairman) seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman next proposed: "That a dividend of 5 per cent. per annum, less income-tax at 3s. 7½d., on 259,416 shares be and the same is hereby declared payable on July 16, 1925, to the members who were on the London and Bombay registers of the corporation respectively on July 3, 1925."

The Right Hon. the Earl of Selborne, K.G., G.C.M.G., seconded the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

The retiring directors (Sir Frederick Eley, Bart., Mr. W. O. Grazebrook, the Hon. Alexander Shaw, and Mr. Alastair Cameron) were re-elected, and Messrs. Peat Marwick Mitchell and Co. were reappointed auditors.

A cordial vote of thanks was passed to the Chairman and directors, as well as to the staff both at home and abroad, and the Chairman, having acknowledged the compliment, the proceedings terminated.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

EGYPT.

Steel Index Cabinets.—The Survey of Egypt (Ministry of Finance) invites tenders for the supply of 18 steel card index cabinets. September 8.

Drawing Paper.—The Central Stationery Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 96 reams drawing paper. August 8.

Zinc Sheets.—The Superintendent of Stores, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Saptia, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 9,000 kilos zinc sheets. August 8.

Mineral Lubricating Oils.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 1,775 tons of mineral lubricating oils. August 18.

Steam Engines.—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, P.W.M., Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and erection of two 80 B.H.P. semi-fixed superheated condensing steam engines at Beni Saleh, Beni Suef Province. August 18.

Pumps.—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, P.W.M., Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and erection of two belt-driven centrifugal turbine, or screw pumps at Beni Saleh, Beni Suef Province. August 18.

Vessel for Coastguard Duties.—The Director-General, Coastguards and Fisheries Services, Alexandria, invites tenders for the construction of a sea-going vessel for Coastguard duties. August 1.

Timber, Etc.—The Director of Stores, Ministry of Education, Sharia Kasr el Aini, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of raw materials, i.e., timber, leather, iron bars, paints, tools, etc., for the year 1925-26. August 1.

Paper and Boards.—The Egyptian Government Press invites tenders for the supply of smooth surface writing paper, calendar printings for common forms, buff tinted paper, newsprint, millboard (thickness 1.1 mm. and 2.2 mm.), strawboard (1.1 mm. and 2.2 mm). July 25. (D.O.T.)

Paper.—The Superintendent, Government Press, Bulaq, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of paper, bristol board, and millboard. July 25.

Nails and Shoes.—The War Department of the Egyptian Government invites tenders for shoes, horse and mule, about 5,400 pairs. Nails, horse and mule, about 150,000. July 21.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

PHŒNIX OIL AND TRANSPORT.

The report for 1924 of the directors of the Phœnix Oil and Transport Co., Ltd., states that they are glad to be able to present the accounts so much earlier this year than in the past. The profit and loss account shows a profit of £225,610 (as compared with £77,861 for the previous year), which together with the balance brought forward amounts to £331,264. The directors propose to write off the whole of the balance of preliminary expenses, duty on increase of capital, new issue expenses, underwriting commission and brokerage, totalling £80,710, and to create a reserve against sundry assets of £29,000, leaving a net balance standing to the credit of profit and loss account of £221,554, which it is proposed to carry forward. The sum of £300,166 has been written off for depreciation during the year from the accounts of this company and those of the allied companies. This includes the above-mentioned amounts of £80,710 and £29,000, as well as various sums received by certain of the allied companies in respect of compensation.

In the opinion of the board, the company had reached a satisfactory revenue-earning stage at the end of last year, and, having regard to the continued progress during the first six months of the current year, the directors have felt fully justified in declaring an interim dividend in respect of 1925 of 1s. per share on the fully-paid shares of £1 each and 6.9864 pence per share on the fully-paid shares of 1s. each, in both cases less income-tax at the rate of 4s. 1½d. in the £. This interim dividend is payable to all shareholders whose names appear on the register of members at July 13, and the warrants will be posted before the end of the current month. This is the first dividend payment by the company.

The gross production of crude oil by the Phœnix group of companies for the last three years has been as follows: 1922, 42,106 tons; 1923, 105,259 tons; and 1924, 187,904 tons, while for the first six months of the current year it has attained 135,960 tons. The increase in the production of crude oil is evidence of the success attending the extended drilling programme The progress made in the previous years has been well maintained.

The negotiations for the acquisition of State oil lands and for the renewal of the State lease at Gura Ocnitei have progressed very satisfactorily, the Roumanian Government having signified the extent and position of the lands which it is proposed to allot and which should add considerably to the company's future prospects. The final details are now being discussed with the Roumanian authorities, and it is anticipated that possession of these new lands will be obtained in a very short time and the renewal of the existing lease granted. The negotiations with the Roumanian Government have been of a cordial nature, and the allotment of these lands and the renewal of the lease will redeem the promises previously made by them in this respect.

EAST INDIAN COAL.

The profits for the half-year ended April 30 of the East Indian Coal Company amounted to £26,580, while £8,544 was brought forward. A dividend for the half-year of 10 per cent., less tax, is proposed (making 20 per cent. for the year), while £15,000 is transferred to the reserve for equalisation of dividends. The total output for the year was 668,158 tons.

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.

The net profits of the Imperial Bank of India for the half-year ended June 30 were Rs.69,39,700, and Rs.12,58,200 were brought forward, making Rs. 81,97,900. The Governors have declared a dividend of 16 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax; transferred to reserve, Rs. 10,00,000; to pension funds, Rs.5,00,000; and carried forward, Rs.21,97,900.

FURNESS WITHY.

The report of Furness Withy and Co., Ltd., for the year to April 30 last states that the net profit amounted to £528,742 as compared with £272,443, and with £216,637 brought forward makes the available balance £745,379 against £774,758. The directors state that they regret that the depression in the shipping industry, referred to in the last report, has been accentuated during the year, and the shipowning branch of the business has contributed a comparatively small proportion of the profits

The usual half-yearly dividends on the preference shares were paid on November 1, 1924, and May 1, 1925, and on the same dates dividends were paid on the ordinary shares at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax. The directors now recommend a

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bonus of 2½ per cent., free of tax, on the ordinary shares for the year, which will represent a total distribution for the year of 7½ per cent., free of tax. A sum of £200,000 has been transferred to depreciation account, leaving a balance of £187,259 to carry forward. The bonus will be paid to all shareholders registered on the books on July 22, and the warrants will be posted on August 17.

WESTMINSTER BANK.

The directors of Westminster Bank Limited have declared an interim dividend of 10 per cent. for the half-year ended June 30 on the £20 shares, and the maximum dividend of 6¼ per cent. on the £1 shares for the same period. The dividends, 10s. per share and 1s. 3d. per share, respectively (both less income-tax), will be payable on August 1.

Following is the half-yearly statement by the Westminster Bank showing the financial position as at June 30, 1925:—

Liabilities. — Capital registered, £33,000,000; subscribed, £30,264,688; paid-up, £9,051,718; reserve, £9,051,718; current, deposit and other accounts, £269,015,340; liabilities for acceptances, endorsements, etc., as per contra, £11,175,673; notes in circulation in the Isle of Man, £13,223; total, £298,307,672.

Assets.—Coin, bank and currency notes and balances with the Bank of England, £32,382,310; balances with, and cheques in course of collection on, other banks in Great Britain and Ireland, £10,243,294; money at call and short notice, £24,298,584; bills discounted, £34,342,723; investments, £50,034,441; investments in affiliated banks, £2,991,706; advances to customers and other accounts, £128,678,661; bank premises account, £4,160,280; liabilities of customers for acceptances, endorsements, etc., as per contra, £11,175,673; total, £298,307,672.

TEA RESULTS.

The profit of the Assam-Dooars Tea Company for 1924 was £104,762, and after sundry adjustments the balance available is £119,929. A further sum of £25,000 has been transferred to the reserve, and £21,387 added to the taxation reserve. A final dividend on the ordinary shares of 35 per cent. (less tax) is proposed, making 50 per cent., carrying forward £10,181.

The outturn of the Indian Tea Company of Cachar for the year to March 31, 1925, was 499,273 lb., against 669,076 lb. The profit was £13,629, making available £15,032. A dividend of 8 per cent. is proposed.

The profit of the Hope Tea Company for 1924 was £80,125, and after sundry adjustments the balance available is £107,239. A final dividend is proposed on the ordinary shares of 25 per cent., less tax, making 50 per cent., carrying forward £8,798.

The revenue account of the Lankapara Tea Company for the year ended December 31, 1924, shows a profit of £33,328, plus £6,042 brought in, and interest on investments £710, together making £40,081. The directors recomtmend a final dividend of 20 per cent. (less tax), making 30 per cent. for the year, carrying forward £7,379. The outturn was 1,357,887 lb., against 1,516,614 lb. for 1923.

The net profit of the Anglo-Ceylon and General Estates Company for the year ended March 31, 1925, was £81,469, plus a balance brought forward, making £123,726. The directors recommend a final dividend of 10 per cent., making 15 per cent., placing £5,000 to reserve, leaving £43,726 to be carried forward. The tea crop again shows an increase, and the output, which in the previous year amounted to 3,252,159 lb. and realised an average price of 16.59d. net per pound, was in the past year 3,581,234 lb. with an average price of 17.98d. per pound.

The index of the Egyptian cotton condition is given as 96 in Lower Egypt, 100 in Middle Egypt, and 100 in Upper Egypt.

It is estimated that the Cyprus locust bean crop will amount to about 55,000 tons, as compared with 60,000 tons in 1924 and 35,000 in 1923. At present the stock of locust beans in the island is about 5,000 tons, and it is expected that the greater part will be exported chiefly to Spain during this and next month.

ANCHOR LINE

LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.

KARACHI via Bombay, calling at Gibraltar and Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.
MODERATE FARES.
RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT,
Indian Government Vouchers accepted.

Passenger sailing dates :—

*SCINDIA, Aug. 11.	CALIFORNIA, Oct. 14.
*MASSILIA, Sept. 1.	*CASTALIA, Oct. 27.
*ELYSIA, Sept. 11.	*OLYMPIA, Nov. 13.
*CIRCASSIA, Sept. 29.	*SCINDIA, Nov. 27.

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SPECIAL NOTICE.

NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA, 17,000 TONS, carrying 1st, 2nd and 3rd class passengers, sails from LIVERPOOL Oct. 14. MARSEILLES Oct. 20. All 1st and 2nd class state rooms are fitted with Punkah Louvres and with Fans. This vessel has exceptionally fine 3rd class accommodation.

ANCHOR LINE,
48, FENCHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

GREECE'S MINERAL OUTPUT.

The mineral output of Greece in 1924, showed, on the whole, an improvement on the position in the previous year, the figures (in thousands of tons) being as follows, the totals for 1923 being given in parenthesis:— iron ore 96 (100.1); lignite 111 (117.9); iron pyrites 76.1 (52.3); marble 58.2 (62.6); lead ore 53.6 (53.6); emery 22.6 (21.6); chromium 14.3 (14.8); lead 5.1 (4.5).

It is pointed out, however, in the *Oikonomologos Athenon* that except in regard to emery and lignite there was a marked falling off in post-War output as compared with pre-War down to 1922. In the last two years there has been a marked recovery in the output of iron ore and a slight improvement in that of zinc ore, whilst in most of the rest the decline would appear to have been arrested. The output of emery during the last two years has been greater than ever before, but lignite is still declining after reaching its maximum output in 1918.

The emery mines are a source of considerable profit to the State. Of the 22,632 tons produced in 1924, 19,251 tons were exported for 28.1 million drachmæ against a total cost of 16 million drachmæ for the whole output. Of the 19,251 tons exported France took 5,661 tons, England 5,400, Germany 1,591, Italy 1,421, the United States 1,100, and other countries 4,078.

The fall in the output of lignite is attributed not to exhaustion of the mines or shortage of capital, but to defective organisation and uneconomical methods of exploitation. It is the more painful to the Greeks in view of the increase in the output of their neighbours. Thus the Roumanians increased their output from 250,000 tons in 1919 to 1,800,000 in 1912, and the Bulgarians from 579,000 tons in 1919 to 1,100,000 in 1923. The fall in production is counter-balanced by a large increase in imported fuel; 434,000 tons of coal were imported in 1922, 463,000 tons in 1923 and 669,000 tons in 1924. In the latter year the imports of coal cost 334.3 million drachmæ, which is a considerable item in the Greek trade balance and indicates the necessity for an extension in the output of lignite. The import of oil is also increasing very rapidly, having risen from 20,000 tons in 1922 to 23,000 tons in 1923 and 39,600 tons in 1924, at a cost in the latter year of 140 million drachmæ.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Tarantia for Bombay (Liverpool, July 23). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mandasor for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 25).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Gloucestershire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, July 15).

British India Line.—S.s. Malda for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 18); s.s. Nalgora for Bombay and Karachi (London, July 18).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Cypria for Oran, Algiers, Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, August 1).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Canton for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 20).

Johnston Line.—M.v. Sycamore for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, August 8); s.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 5); s.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 12).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Morea for Bombay (London, July 24); s.s. Nellore for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 25).

Prince Line.—S.s. Cyprian Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, and Beyrout (London, July 21).

Roumania's crude oil production during the first three months of the current year amounted to 528,574 tons, as compared with 392,454 tons for the corresponding period of the previous year. Of this total the fields in the Prehova district contributed 421,709 tons.

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MANCHESTER COTTON MARKET.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended July 11 states:—

The past week has differed little from its predecessors and business generally has been quiet. There was, perhaps, a slight increase of activity yesterday in the way of inquiry, the result of which, in the main, remains still to be seen. Surprise is expressed here that raw cotton quotations should have been so little affected by the favourable Bureau Report published last week.

Yarn.—The situation in this section is unchanged. Supply still exceeds demand, and those spinners who have not actual stock to offer can give early deliveries. It is said that the short time movement in the American section is receiving support from many firms who did not actually vote in favour of it.

Cloth.—There has been perhaps a slightly better tone here. Inquiry has broadened somewhat but, at the same time, it must be said that the prices offered are very low and much negotiation is necessary before orders are finally placed on the books. Business for India has expanded a little and whilst the same cannot be said of China, there is a more hopeful feeling with regard to that market. Other minor foreign outlets call for no mention, but the Home Trade has again contributed good support.

Raw Cotton.—An interesting announcement was made this week by the Liverpool Cotton Association to the effect that they have adopted a new form of "futures" contract to be called "The Empire and Miscellaneous Cotton Delivery Contract." Operation for the new contract will commence in Liverpool on September 1 next, in respect of deliveries for October and onwards, in multiples of 50 bales (480 lb. each). Against this contract all types of cotton will be tenderable with the exception of certain qualities of Egyptian. It is anticipated that this facility will be very useful in connection with the "hedging" of various types of outside growths, amongst which, of course, are Turkish, Cilician, and Iraq cotton.

The market is at present almost entirely under the influence of the weather reports from the United States. These are somewhat varied, and in certain quarters considerable importance appears to be attached to the very dry weather experienced in Texas, although, apparently, in the cotton growing area conditions are normal. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows:—American Middling, 13.65; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 31.35.

The production of the Dacia Romano Petroleum for June amounted to 372 tons.

The annual general meeting of the Imperial Ottoman Bank will be held on July 29 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street.

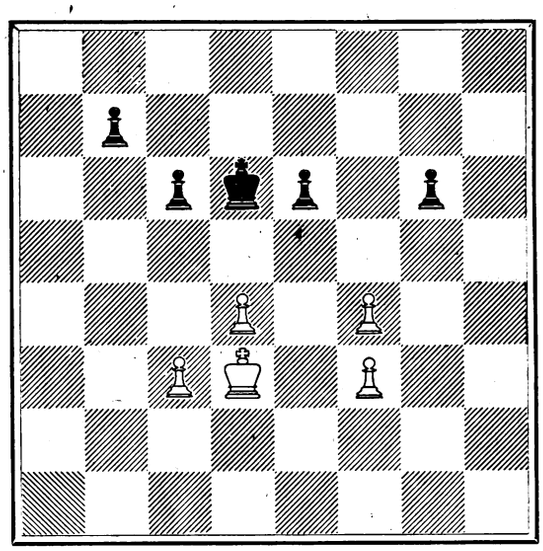
The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended June 30 amounted to £E7,631, making the total from April 1 £E58,202.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria	Piastre to £	97¼	97⅜—9′16
Athens	Drachmæ to £	25 22½	300-302
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	275-280
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.41—20.43
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.03-25.04
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 3/32 - 18⅛d
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	104.40
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	985 995
Budapest	Kronen to £	24 02	345-347,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 3/32—18⅛d
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	880
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2 3	4.86¼—4.86 5/16
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	103.30
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	164
Rome	Lire to £	25 22½	130
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	675
Teheran	Krans to £	50	42.15
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	34.55-34 60
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	25.35-25.45

CHESS.

By "CARO-KANN."



END GAME No. 6.

White to play.—What result?

Solution to end-game No. 5:—1, K—B3, K—B3; 2, K—Kt4, K—Kt3; 3, K—R3, K—R3 and draws. If White attempts to get round on the Queen's side he must lose.

ENGINEERING TOPICS.

Production of Alcohol for Motor Fuel in the Tropics.

The question of making an efficient motor fuel in the tropics, where imported spirit is expensive, is at present attracting considerable attention. Various materials have been suggested, and in some cases tried, as a source of power alcohol, such as starch-containing roots, and cellulosic residues from the sugar and other industries, but one of the most valuable appears to be the sap which may be collected from the flowering shoots of the Nipa palm of the Far East. Considerable work has been done in the Philippine Islands in ascertaining the suitability of this palm for the production of alcohol and quite recently an experimental plant has been erected in the State of North Borneo. The plant is being run under the direction of the local Department of Agriculture and an account of the results of the first year's working, based on a memorandum supplied by the British North Borneo Company, is given in the current number of the "Bulletin of the Imperial Institute," published by Mr. John Murray.

There are about 300,000 acres of nipa palm in North Borneo, occurring in nearly solid stands of 5,000 acres or more. The sap flows for only six months in the year, but it is estimated that during this period 900,000,000 gallons of sap capable of producing nearly 60,000,000 gallons of alcohol, could be obtained. The results of the first year's working of the experimental plant came up to expectations in every way. The still was only capable of producing 100 gallons of alcohol per working day of 12 hours, and the cost of running such a small plant were naturally somewhat high, but it is shown that a permanent plant producing not less than 1,000 gallons per day should prove a commercial success. Estimates are quoted in the article of the cost of production for plants of various capacities. For a plant capable of producing 2,000 gallons per day of 12 hours the capital required is estimated at about £26,000, and the profits on the spirit delivered in Singapore or Hong Kong would be equivalent to a dividend of 10 per cent. on the capital. An 8,000 gallon plant run for 24 hours per day would require a capital of about £122,000 and this, it is estimated, would yield profits equivalent to 30 per cent. on the capital.

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(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889.)

CAPITAL (fully paid) - £650,000 | RESERVE - - - £390,000

Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

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Ahwaz, Barfrush, Bunder Abbas, Bushire, Duzdah, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Maidan-i-Naftun, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, (Seistan), Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz, Yezd

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The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia ; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

London Office : 33-36, KING WILLIAM ST., E.C.4 ; Chief Office in Persia, TEHERAN

IONIAN BANK, Ltd.

Established 1839.

Capital Authorised - - - £600,000
Capital Paid up - - - £485,580
Reserve Fund - - - - £190,000
Total Assets- - - - £6,536,314

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Central Office
ATHENS.
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Sir NORCOT WARREN, K.C.I.E.
N. M. MURRAY, Esq.
Manager in London:—
Sir S. A. H. SITWELL.

Authorised Capital **Rs. 11.25.00.000**
Paid-up Capital - **Rs. 5.62.50.000**
Reserve - - - **Rs. 4.67.50.000**

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Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

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AUTHORISED CAPITAL ... £4,000,000 | **Paid-up Capital** ... £2,000,000
Subscribed Capital ... £4,000,000 | **Reserve Fund** ... £2,800,000

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The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon.
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INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.

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BANGTOK	HAMBURG	MANILA	SINGAPORE
BATAVIA	HANKOW	MEDAN	SOURABAYA
BOMBAY	HONGKONG	NEW YORK	TAPING (F.M.S.)
CALCUTTA	ILOILO	PEKING	TAVOY (Lower Burma)
CANTON	IPOH	PENANG	TIENTSIN
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COLOMBO	KOBE	SAIGON	ZAMBOANGA
	KUALA LUMPUR	SEMARANG (Java)	(Phillipine Islands

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MIDLAND BANK, LIMITED.
WESTMINSTER BANK, LIMITED.
NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK, LIMITED.
THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

The Corporation buy and receive for collection Bills of Exchang grant Drafts and transact general business connected with the East.
DEPOSITS OF MONEY are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application. Interest payable half-yearly, 30th June and 31st December.
The Bank is prepared to undertake Trusteeships and Executorships.

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Head Office: 2 & 3, CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Authorised Capital (200,000 Shares of £10 each) - £2,000,000 **Paid up Capital - - £1,000,000**
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - - - - £1,000,000 **Reserve Fund - - £360,000**

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Board of Directors:

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SIR JAMES LEIGH-WOOD, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G. (*Deputy Chairman*).
G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq.
J. H. BATTY, Esq. EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq.
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(Affiliated with Barclays Bank, Ltd.)

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SUDAN.—Makwar, Omdurman, Khartoum, Port Sudan, Wad Medani. PALESTINE.—Haifa, Jaffa. Jerusalem, Nazareth
MEDITERRANEAN. Malta, Gibraltar.

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Reserve - - - - - - - £720,000

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HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

FULLY PAID CAPITAL - - - - - - - - - - - £3,000,000
RESERVE FUND - - - - - - - - - - - - £2,425,000

London Agency:
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EGYPT and the SUDAN.

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The NEAR EAST AND INDIA

A Weekly Review of the Politics and Commerce of the Balkan Peninsula, Turkey, Egypt, and the Sudan, Syria, Palestine, Arabia, Iraq, Persia and India.

No. 741.—Vol. XXVIII. Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper. THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1925. Price 6d. Postage 1½d.

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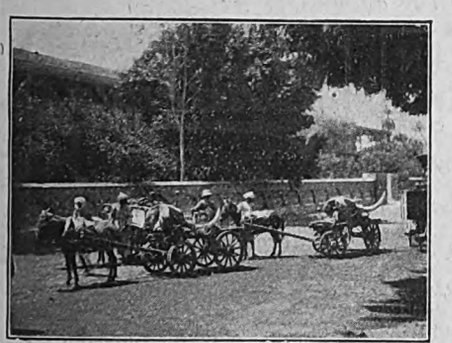

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THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

No. 741.—VOL. XXVIII. THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1925.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	Page
NOTES OF THE WEEK	91
SPECIAL LETTERS—	
Egypt	94
Yugoslavia	94
Bulgaria	96
Turkey	96
Cyprus	97
BOOK REVIEWS	101
CORRESPONDENCE	103
SPECIAL ARTICLE—	
A Festival at Kerbela	104
LEADING ARTICLE—	
Minorities in the Balkans ...	93
THE WEEK AT HOME	100
PERSONAL AND GENERAL ...	103
INDIAN AFFAIRS—	
Special Letters : Calcutta ...	106
Simla	107
The Indian Mail	111
Communal Representation in India	110
Indian Exchange	108
COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
Notes and News	113
Commercial Correspondence ...	116
Cotton Growing in Iraq ...	117
Chess	118
Near East Markets	119
Company Meetings—	
Lake Copais Company ...	120
Shipping Intelligence	121
Cotton and Cotton Goods ...	122

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

The Yugoslav Coalition.

Even those who have not had occasion to listen to hour-long dissertations by M. Raditch on the subject of M. Pashitch and his Radical Cabinets can appreciate the importance of the coalition now effected in Yugoslavia. A truce is thus called to a political antagonism of half-a-dozen years that has been carried to all the extremes of which Balkan history affords so many precedents. At the actual moment of the formation of the new Coalition Government M. Stefan Raditch, the leader of the Croatian Peasant Party, is himself in prison under the gravest charge that can be brought against a responsible politician, that of sedition and of being in correspondence for treasonable ends with the Soviet authorities. According as the accusation against M. Raditch was well-founded or unfounded, so does it, in company with the fact that he has been in prison for six months, illustrate the degree to which political hatred on one side or the other has been carried for party ends. To-day, however, all this rancour is laid aside, officially and, we may hope, with individual sincerity. One of the first acts of the new Yugoslav Government, in which the Croats have four representatives, has been to order the release of M. Stefan Raditch and his fellow prisoners. The charge against them of high treason will be withdrawn, and the ground will thus be cleared for practical and useful co-operation between the two parties. The sound common-sense behind this agreement is obvious, however disconcerting it may be to those who are apt to take too seriously the verbal venom that poisons Balkan politics. The new Ministry comes into power with a joint following of two-thirds of the deputies in the Skupshtina, and in agreement on the general lines of M. Pashitch's policy. Certain modifications in the administrative system, however, are promised, and these, it is to be supposed, will represent the extent of the concessions made to Croatian feeling. Neither party, we may hope, will find it necessary to work out its gains and losses as a result of the coalition. It should suffice for both that the interests of Yugoslavia as a whole stand to be promoted by an agreement which offers the country an opportunity of proceeding with many projects of reconstruction which have been in abeyance or hindered by the political deadlock that has in effect prevailed hitherto.

The Œcumenical Patriarch.

In yet another direction the expenditure of much ink and breath is shown to have been a well-meant but wasted effort. When the Turkish Government gave practical effect to its warning that Mgr. Constantine VI. was an "exchangeable" Greek, and as such could not be regarded as a legitimate candidate for the Œcumenical Patriarchate, an attempt was made to represent the step as a challenge to Christianity and as the beginning of the end of the Orthodox Church. There was, however, nothing in the published accounts to justify the view. Whether in the absence of a world-wide protest the Turkish Government would have proceeded to further measures against the Patriarchate cannot, in the circumstances, be proved or disproved, and the golden rule of not crying out before one is hurt holds good. Mgr. Constantine VI. eventually resigned a post that he could not fill; the Turkish Government, which might not have felt obliged to proceed to extreme measures, if the controversy had been handled more discreetly, undertook not to enforce "exchangeability" in the case of other prelates, and a new election to the high office of Œcumenical Patriarch has taken place. The choice of the Holy Synod has fallen upon Mgr. Basil Georgiades, Metropolitan of Nicaea, who will be known as the Patriarch Basil III. His election occurs at a time when there are signs of improved relations being inaugurated between Greece and Turkey, and it should be possible for the new Patriarch, by emphasising the

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ecclesiastical side of his office to the exclusion of the political functions, on which his predecessors laid so much stress, to mark a new and important era in the history of the Patriarchate.

The Progress of Iraq.

Last year in Iraq a Constituent Assembly ratified the Treaty with Great Britain and proceeded to draw up an electoral law. The first Parliament for the country was opened in state last week by King Faisal, who was able to refer in the Speech from the Throne to the progress made in various directions and to the friendlier relations with Great Britain that held out the promise of much-needed economic developments. The progress of Iraq is necessarily relative, and few people will expect a new State to find itself in a day, in a year, or in five years. The Report recently issued in which the High Commissioner reviews the period from April, 1923, to the end of 1924 impresses the reader as a shrewd and carefully considered estimate of conditions in the country. On the subject of economic development Sir Henry Dobbs states that material prosperity has been disappointingly held back by the poverty of the outside world since the War. Iraq's exports—dates, wool, hides and corn—have been in less demand; it has had to be content with a smaller transit trade between Persia and the Gulf. "Had not these untoward outside circumstances been counterbalanced by increased internal security and by the facilities of transport introduced by the British Administration, their effect would have been crushing. In fact, the result has been that the people find themselves pretty nearly upon the same level of prosperity as they had attained before the War, and, ignoring the adverse factors above described, which are beyond the control of any Government, they complain that they are not much better off in this respect than they were under the Turks."

The Sense of Proportion.

As few countries in the world can claim to be even "pretty nearly upon the same level of prosperity as they had attained before the War," Iraq has good reason to be satisfied with her lot, and the complaint of the Arabs that they are not much better off than they were under the Turks is seen in its proper perspective. Sir Henry Dobbs, indeed, whose Report does not convey the impression of being desirous to make the worse appear the better cause, goes on to say that "when once the trade of the outside world has begun to move, Iraq will be able to take full advantage of the improvements made during the past eight years and should enjoy an era of unprecedented prosperity." This optimism is not necessarily refuted by the Report of the Financial Mission which has been examining the financial situation in Iraq. Now that the time has come for the country to begin to pay off its indebtedness the comfortable surpluses of the last two years will have to give place to deficits, unless there is a complete overhauling of its fiscal policy and a revision of its indebtedness. The Mission recommends that both courses should be adopted. Economies should be effected in the Civil Service and in capital expenditure; substantial reductions should be made in the financial obligations laid upon Iraq by the Anglo-Iraq Treaty. Only by such means will it be possible for the country to take the fullest possible advantage of any improvement in the economic conditions of the world at large.

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Akaba.

If ex-King Hussein knows his Shakespeare, he will have been tempted, on hearing of certain answers to questions in the House of Commons, to declaim with Hamlet, with only the difference of an aspirate,

> What's Akaba to him, or he to Akaba,
> That he should weep for her? What should he do,
> Had he the motive and the love for passion
> That I have?

For, ever since the former King of the Hejaz has changed his residence from on board his yacht off Akaba to the more picturesque Cyprus, the House of Commons has forced its soul to develop an abnormal interest in that Red Sea port, so that question and answer have done their best to

> Confound the ignorant and amaze indeed
> The very faculties of eyes and ears.

The long and the short of it would seem to be that Akaba, in common with the Turkish island of Ada Kaleh in the Danube, has contrived to get itself overlooked. Between 1841 and 1892, we are now reminded, the Porte permitted the establishment of Egyptian police posts at Akaba; but at the latter date the Sultan resumed possession of the town, without protest from Egypt, and in 1906 a Boundary Commission fixed the frontier dividing Egypt from Turkey a few miles west of Akaba, which thus remained in Turkey. During the War, when the Hejaz threw in its lot with the Allied Powers, the Emir Faisal used Akaba as a base; but there has been no formal definition of the frontiers between Transjordan, the Hejaz, and Nejd since the Armistice. The Colonial Secretary was, therefore, able to say that the Hejazi claim to Akaba had never been recognised by the British Government; but from the last answer in the House of Commons it has to be inferred that Egypt lays no further claim to the port. The question thus resolves itself, together with the fate of Maan, into a family matter between King Ali and Emir Abdullah, and a satisfactory settlement to both parties should not be impossible of attainment.

A Good Cause.

In whatever part of the world the Briton is situated he or she can generally find close to hand a worthy object for their charity; but in the belief that readers of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA may be glad to have their attention directed to a definite charitable purpose at Home, we gladly respond to an appeal to call attention to the needs of the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital, of 234, Great Portland Street, London, W.1. Any tendency, by the way, to identify the word "orthopædic" with "feet" must be abandoned in favour of its more correct derivation which connects it with the right rearing of children. This hospital exists for the cure of deformity, tuberculosis, infantile paralysis, etc., or for the treatment of these diseases to an extent required to fit the young sufferers for the battle of life. The King, Queen Mary, and Queen Alexandra extend their patronage to the Institution, and Prince Henry, the President, has now associated himself with a Special Committee formed to raise a fund of £87,500, in order to make more adequate provision for the needs of crippled children. Full education, it is interesting to note, is provided for all children in the Hospital; there is a country branch at Brockley Hill, Stanmore, which needs to have its accommodation more than doubled; the out-patient department in London, designed for an attendance of 20,000 patients a year, had last year an attendance of over 71,000.

Donations should be addressed to "The Appeal Secretary," Royal National Orthopædic Hospital, 234, Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

We regret that, owing to a printer's error, the name of "Giers" was, in Mr. Leonard Stein's reproduction, in our issue of July 9 (page 47), of two telegrams from the Russian Ambassador in Rome to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, wrongly spelled as "Greis."

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THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1925.

MINORITIES IN THE BALKANS.

The repudiation by Greece of the Protocol signed at Geneva in September, 1924, for the protection of Bulgarian minorities in Greece and of Greek minorities in Bulgaria has brought once more to the forefront a question that has an important bearing on the peace and welfare of the Balkan Peninsula. On another page we publish the correspondence that has passed on this subject between the Greek Government and the Council of the League of Nations. The latter, it will be recalled, took exception to certain statements made in the resolution of the Greek Chamber that rejected the Protocol, and called upon the Greek Government to answer three pertinent questions bearing on its attitude towards the minorities within its borders. Greece was asked to say what had been done to execute in practice the stipulations of the Minorities Treaty, what was her future programme, and, thirdly, what in her opinion are the needs of the Slav-speaking minority in Greece in the matter of education and public worship; also what special measures had Greece taken, or did she propose to take, in order to satisfy these needs. From the reply given by the Greek Government it is easy to infer the difficulty that is likely to be experienced by the Council of the League of Nations in getting to grips with the problem of Balkan minorities. In effect the Government states that there has been no time for the application of special measures, that the existing provisions in force in the country constitute an almost complete system for the protection of the rights of minorities, and that, if experience should show that steps of a legislative or other nature in addition to the measures already taken are necessary, these will be taken from the Government's desire to pay particular attention to the application of the Minorities Treaty. Finally, as an earnest of its good intentions, the Government gravely states that "it is at present studying means for ensuring the recruiting of an adequate staff for the teaching of the Minorities languages." It does not, however, pledge itself to do more than examine in a friendly spirit any application from a Slav-speaking minority for the opening of schools with teaching in its own language or for the employment in Church services of that language instead of Greek. In the face of all these good intentions it is the more regrettable that Greece felt debarred from taking the one step that could have ensured their being carried into effect, by committing the interests of the minorities in question to a neutral body.

The Minorities Treaty, associated first with the Treaty of Sèvres and then with the Treaty of Lousanne, was subjected to considerable opposition on the part of the States on which it was desired to impose it. Feeling against it concentrated on two points: that the treaty constituted an encroachment on the sovereignty of the State concerned, and that it could be tolerated only if it were applied equally to the Great Powers and to the minor countries. The argument of the Great Powers was that they were not making any new experiment. They claimed that it was a recognised principle of European international custom that in Eastern Europe the establishment of a new State was a matter of general interest which required the formal recognition of the Great Powers; further, that this recognition was given only on certain conditions. The first application of the principle was made on the creation of the Greek Kingdom, the Protocol of February 3, 1830, stipulating that all subjects of the new kingdom, whatever their religion, should be treated on a footing of perfect equality in all their relations, religious, civil or political. The same principle was enforced in turn as the establishment of each new State in the Balkans took place. It was not until the Bucharest Conference of 1913, when the Balkan States, as a result of their unaided efforts, rearranged their own frontiers, that the Great Powers stood aside and refrained from couching a lance on behalf of minorities. On this occasion, however, it is of interest to recall that the United States Government despatched a Note to the Conference stating that it would regard with satisfaction a provision in the Treaty granting full civil and religious liberty to the inhabitants of all territories which might be subjected to the sovereignty of any of the Powers concerned or be transferred between them. The representatives of the victorious Balkan countries decided that, in view of the claim that such liberty was already secured in their respective States, there was no need to embody the provision in the Treaty, but they allowed the American Note to be inserted in the Protocols of the Conference. In Paris the British Government strongly supported the view that the Great Powers were still responsible for minorities in the Balkans; but it was not until President Wilson had delivered a very closely reasoned speech, pointing out that the Great Powers could not be expected to guarantee settlements, unless they were satisfied that these rested on a reasonably peaceful basis, that the Balkan States waived their objections.

The Treaty clauses, without doubt, make admirable provision, on paper, for the protection of minorities. It is only in the application of the provisions that the local machinery shows a tendency to break down. The Greco-Bulgarian Protocol was an admission of a well-known fact, and if it could have been carried into effect it might have been the means of opening up a happier era for the Balkan Peninsula. As a general rule it may be admitted that the various States have observed the obligations imposed upon them at the time of their creation as independent countries in regard to the fair treatment of minorities. The minorities in question at the time were Moslems, and these have had no occasion to complain of their treatment. The minorities problem as it exists to-day is of later development, and has reference almost exclusively to inhabitants of the frontier territories in and around Macedonia, where the precarious fate of existing arrangements has made each Government anxious by any means in its power to strengthen its hold on subjects suspected of dubious allegiance. In no case has a Government felt strong enough to rely on good administration and generous treatment as the surest method in the long run of securing the loyalty of a community, and there has been little disposition to recognise that the most effective way of perpetuating racial antagonism is to attempt to suppress a language. The Greek Government, it will be seen, professes a more open mind on this point; but only actual experience can show whether practice, in the hands of local officials, will respond to the good intentions expressed to the League of Nations. If the countries concerned were sincere in their desire to eliminate a serious menace to their common prosperity, they would realise the difficulty of settling a vexed problem by their own efforts and would call in outside help, as the rejected Greco-Bulgarian Protocol proposed to do. Whether the knowledge that the subject is engaging the attention of the League of Nations will have the effect of ameliorating the lot of minorities in this distracted region remains to be seen. Certain it is that neither the nature of the problem nor the temperament of the different peoples holds out the least prospect of any satisfactory results being obtained by means of action in the case of one country only. The problem is essentially a Balkan one and must be dealt with as a whole and as concerning equally all the Balkan States.

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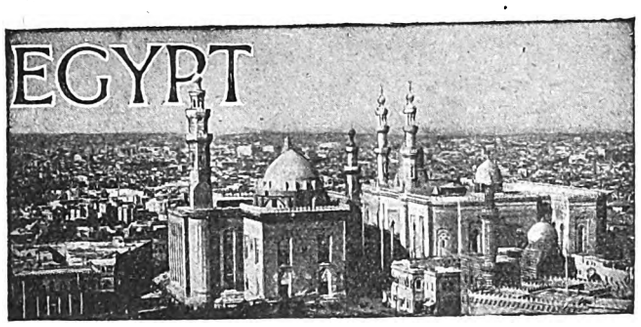
The Near and Middle East*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, July 11.

The Press Law.

Arabic newspapers, irrespective of political views, have lashed themselves to fury this week over modifications of the Press Law which the Government is now considering. Originally it had been proposed to abolish the old ordinance and replace it by an entirely new piece of legislation. This intention has now been changed to the modification of certain sections which will make it an offence punishable by imprisonment for a newspaper to publish inaccurate reports which the Government of the day may construe as hampering the good administration of the country. As a final sting it is proposed that punishment of the editor, publisher, printer, or, in the last resort, in the event of its being impossible to bring any of those persons within the judicial orbit, the newsboys who sell the papers in the streets, shall invariably connote suspension or total suppression of the journal concerned. The Press here has had such bitter experience during the past few years of the manner in which the Law can be used to serve the ends of the party temporarily in power that the present outburst of indignation against the new fetters now forging is not surprising. There can be little hope, in view of past experience, that the new penal powers would not be used oppressively, first by one side, then by another, and for that reason it is to be hoped that the proposed legislation will not be given the force of law.

At the present time there is no obvious need for doing anything at all to the Press. Newspapers here are notoriously venal, and readers are daily presented as independent opinion with columns that have been paid for and often written by persons interested in some commercial venture, judicial dispute or administrative question. But that is a question of innate morality with which the Law cannot deal and which is, in any case, probably no worse here than in many other countries. In other respects Egyptian journalism is notably progressing. The horizon of the newspapers is being rapidly enlarged: sheets which rely for their popular appeal on the political sensation of the moment are finding it ever harder to retain their readers while, on the other hand, the more important journals, which devote increasing space to the drama, literature, women's affairs and other interests outside politics, are making steady progress.

The Feminist Movement.

Egyptian women are making rapid strides towards the emancipation which their Turkish sisters have already attained, but the forward movement is not without its critics. Many of these, as is only natural, have their homes within the venerable walls of Al Azhar, whence has now issued forth a Rectorial pronouncement, declaring that the recent innovation of Moslem women appearing as actresses is contrary to Islamic Law and tradition. In point of fact there is nothing new in Mohammedan women appearing on the stage, but hitherto the dancing girls have belonged to a certain class recognised as outside the pale of society and, presumably, therefore, not liable to the disapproval of *ulema* and theologians. Now a definite attempt is being made by one or two Egyptian actor-managers to recruit for the dramatic stage among respectable girls, and already one or two daughters of good families have made public apearances and show considerable promise. In ignoring the theatre so long as it was a place where no decent woman might appear on the stage, and hardly in the audience, and condemning it now that a movement towards reform promises to attract a class of women entirely different from the old-time exponents of the *danse du ventre*, the divines of Azhar seem to be showing inconsistency.

In any case, the admonition will fall upon deaf ears, for Young Egypt no longer hearkens to the pulpit when it applies the *dicta* of mediæval theologists to the social evolution of the twentieth century. Orthodox Islam has not yet evolved a forward movement, comparable to any of the many such activities within the Christian Church, that shall enable the modern young Moslem to bring his religion into definite relationship with his daily life. For that reason the youth of Egypt, as of other Moslem countries, is increasingly inclined, where religion conflicts with inclination, to go its own way, . . ."nor care one penny piece for what grave old folks say,". . .and Al Azhar's indictment of the drama, like the simultaneous condemnation of the "short dresses and bright colours in which Moslem women are now seen walking on the streets," will be sparsely heeded.

Liubliana, July 15.

Yugoslavia's New Course.

After prolonged struggles and with great difficulty, and not until endless intrigues had been overcome, the agreement between Serbs and Croats has at last been reached, and the question which for all these years has obstructed the right consolidation of Yugoslavia is thereby liquidated.

It was on March 27, the day when M. Paul Raditch, as acting leader of the Croats, made his brilliant speech in the Skupshtina announcing the complete change of course on the part of the Raditch Party and ranging himself with those in favour of the Constitution and the existing laws, that the struggle began for the realisation of that agreement between Serbs and Croats which the two strongest parties in the State, the Radicals and the Raditch Party, desired to carry through.

General comment upon the probable outcome of their efforts for a settlement, their struggles for agreement, was pessimistic in the extreme. For indeed it seemed all but hopeless that a compromise should be reached by two parties that had been so bitterly at feud. The Radicals represented the extreme Right, the Raditch Party the extreme Left. M. Stefan Raditch had even gone on his famous pilgrimage to Moscow, and his party had joined the Moscow Peasant International. The electoral cam-

***Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.**

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paign had further accentuated all differences, especially at the moment when M. Stefan Raditch and the leading men of his party were imprisoned. The fight had become so bitter that it seemed as though Yugoslavia must always be split in two camps.

But matters turned out otherwise. In spite of all noisy phrases, almost bordering on demagogy, the Raditch followers kept their heads and realised that there were only two courses open to them. Either continuation of the feud, which would entail most serious consequences for the State; or conciliation and consequently an understanding with the Government. The Raditch leaders decided for the latter alternative, because they realised that, after all, Yugoslavia is their State also, and that in harming Yugoslavia they would end by harming themselves. This position led to M. Paul Raditch's sensational speech in the Skupshtina, to the adoption of the new course by the Raditch leaders and their recognition of the Constitution and the existing laws.

Obviously the Government, or rather the Radical Party —for from the very beginning the Raditch leaders would treat with none but that—could not simply turn down the offer of the Croats. As a result one had those unofficial preliminary negotiations between Radicals and Raditch leaders, the main crux of which lay in the Radicals' question as to what guarantees the Radical Party could offer to prove that their change of front was genuine and sincere, and that the Radicals need not fear being let down if they were to make treaties with the Raditch Party.

However great the differences between the two, they would have to be overcome in the greater interests of the State; for the absence of the Croats from the State administration was in the long run proving an impossible proposition. This was recognised very clearly at the beginning of the parliamentary session, when the Croats made their entrance with a group of men so brilliant that their co-operation simply could not be dispensed with any more.

Raditch-Pashitch Negotiations.

The next move was M. Paul Raditch's letter of July 2, addressed to the chief of the Radical Party, M. Nikola Pashitch. The letter explains that among the people there is a growing tendency in favour of agreement with the Serbs; that during the course of their unofficial negotiations with the Radical deputies the Raditch partisans had observed that the programmes of the two parties were really in the main identical; and that it was clear, moreover, that an agreement might easily be reached. Wherefore he, M. Paul Raditch, proposed that official negotiations between the Radicals and Croatian Peasant Party be set on foot. M. Pashitch then appointed three delegates of the Radical Party to conduct the said official negotiations. They were the president of the Radical Deputies' Club, M. Zivkovitch; M. Trifkovitch, President of the Skupshtina; and the Deputy Minister in the Cabinet, M. Marko Giuritchitch. On the part of the Raditch Party the delegates appointed were M. Paul Raditch, Dr. Shuperin, and Dr. Nikitch. Another one to take part in these negotiations was M. Aca Stanoyevitch, who is, besides M. Pashitch himself, the only surviving original founder of the Serbian Radical Party.

The negotiations were conducted with zeal, and during the first few days brief *communiqués* were duly published. But as even these *communiqués* gave rise to all manner of intrigues, their issue was stopped; and for the same reason the delegates all bound themselves by word of honour not to divulge anything concerning the negotiations—not even to their closest partisans. This word of honour was scrupulously kept, with the result that besides the delegates themselves, the King, M. Pashitch, M. Stefan Raditch, and M. Aca Stanoyevitch, not a soul was given any information. Even the most importunate journalists could obtain nothing but the laconic utterances of the delegates to the effect that the matter stood well; that the negotiations were being continued, and that at the conclusion of the negotiations a protocol would be drawn up. Even at the end, when the negotiations were already positively concluded, and the two Deputies' Clubs were called upon to vote for the agreement, nothing at all was said in the Raditch Party Club, and in the Radical Club nothing more than was absolutely essential, viz., that the Raditch Party had fully endorsed the Vidovdan Constitution, and that it had in every respect become a State-constitutional Party.

It would be a mistake to interpret this discretion as an infraction of the democratic principle. It was the instinct of party self-defence which dictated this silence. For owing to the agreement between the two strongest parties in the country a whole string of lesser parties has lost its *raison d'être*. All these parties were just waiting for the moment, when, notwithstanding its cardinal importance to the State, they could drag the Agreement into their party feuds, and by means of demagogic agitation frustrate the understanding arrived at. The discreet silence preserved by the two parties directly concerned in the agreement baulked all these schemes, and the Opposition parties, however hard hit, are not in a position with certainty to attack any given point of the settlement simply for lack of information.

The Independent Democrats.

This is especially hard on the Independent Democrats, the so-called Pribitchevitch group. None stand to lose more than they by the Agreement; their very existence as a party is endangered by it. And therefore it is only natural that the present cry of the Independent Democrats is that they have been betrayed by their allies of hitherto. On closer consideration this complaint is not as valid as it seems. For it is the Independent Democrats' own fault that they have made themselves so unpopular that they had to be excluded from the Agreement if the latter was to be realised at all. But apart from the fact that the Radicals concluded their pact with the Independent democrats only for the duration of the electoral campaign, the former could not well act otherwise than they did; for any other course would have meant the placing of party interest before the interests of the State, and incurring the blame and responsibility for leaving the Serbo-Croatian settlement unrealised. And that the Radical Party could not incur this historic guilt was clear to everybody acquainted with the history of the Radical Party.

The "R.R." Government.

Immediately upon acceptance of the Agreement by both Clubs the King returned from his summer residence in Bled to Belgrade, where the resignation of the Pashitch-Pribitchevitch Coalition Government was submitted to him. This resignation was of course accepted, and the King himself at once opened the consultations concerning the new Government which can only be a Radical-Raditch ("R.R." for short) Government. For everything has already been discussed. The new Government will command a two-thirds majority in the Skupshtina, and is therefore the strongest Government that Yugoslavia has so far ever had.

By the installation of the R.R. Government the internal rift in Yugoslavia is closed, and the country definitely started on the path of consolidation. Hereby the cause of peace in the Balkan Peninsula is sensibly strengthened, and therefore every friend of peace should wish Yugoslavia well on the new course she has entered upon.

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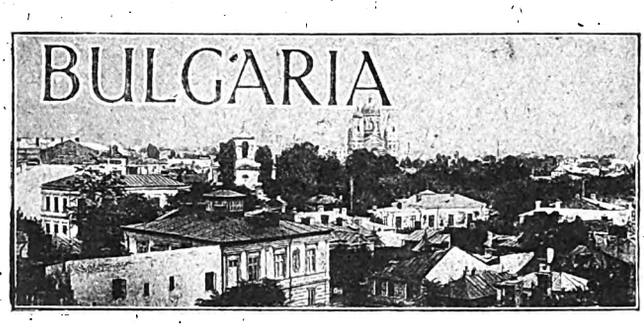


Sofia, July 17.

Internal Politics.

Although the Sobranye is not sitting, there have been several interesting developments in domestic politics. The Agrarians who used to follow Stambolisky, and who are commonly called "Rue Vrabtchists" (their headquarters are in the Rue Vrabtcha, Sofia), have made overtures to Draguieff, one of the founders of the Agrarian Union, with a view to a fusion. It was understood that Draguieff, if he liked, could become the titular head of the party. Draguieff, who is popularly known as the "Hermit of Stara-Zagora," having lived on his farm in comparative seclusion for the last few years, called a meeting of his supporters to consider the Vrabtchists' offer. After a short discussion it was decided not even to reply, as the meeting felt that the Vrabtchists were still so much imbued with Bolshevist morals and methods that any *rapprochement* was out of the question. Draguieff has thus preferred to maintain his idealistic, but if critics can be believed, more or less unimportant, status, to attempting to reorganise the Agrarian party.

Another development is the schism which has occurred in the National Liberal Party. The best-known Liberal Bulgaria has produced was Stambuloff, Prime Minister and virtual dictator, for many years. Recently a powerful faction in the Liberal Party decided to revive the Stambulovist spirit, as it considers that it is only through strong and ruthless Government that Bulgaria can successfully emerge from her present difficulties. Not all the Liberals, however, are in agreement with this point of view; so finally those who call themselves "Stambulovists" separated, and founded a new party. Thus yet another political party has come into existence in Bulgaria. Whether its programme differs very much from that of the present Government is somewhat to be doubted, but it is noteworthy that in the provinces it can count some very stout and loyal supporters who have never wavered in their adherence to liberalism.

The Closed Frontier.

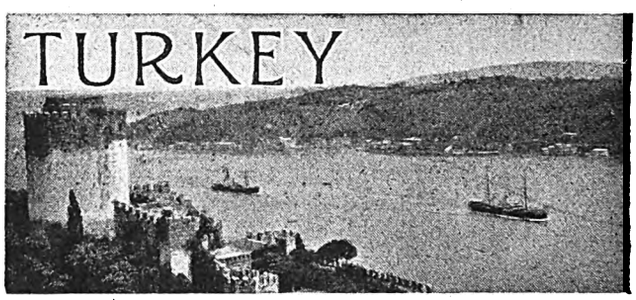
Nothing fresh has happened in connection with the closing of her frontier by Yugoslavia to all Bulgarians. M. Rakitch, Yugoslav Minister in Sofia, has just returned from a short visit to Belgrade, and it is understood that what is required is a "formula" to settle this unpleasant incident. There now appears to be little doubt that the missing Yugoslav subject is dead, and it thus remains to be seen what explanations the Sofia Government intends to make and what attitude the Belgrade Government will take up. In all probability the incident will be satisfactorily settled, but it is possible that other and more important matters will be discussed at the same time—notably the general question of Yugoslav-Bulgarian relations connected with the present situation in the Balkan Peninsula.

In this connection great interest is being evinced here over the negotiations between the Radical and Croat parties in Yugoslavia. It is realised that an agreement is now in sight and that the formation of a coalition Government will immensely strengthen the S.H.S. State.

General News.

On July 14 a new "Alliance Francaise" was opened in Sofia. M. Emile Darde, the French Minister, and M. Marcel Charlot made speeches on this occasion.

A conference regarding railway traffic between Yugoslavia and Bulgaria was recently held at Pirot. An amicable settlement was reached on all the points discussed.



Constantinople, July 15.

The Patriarchate.

The Patriarchal throne is now occupied by Monseigneur Vassilios, and the fact that the Phanar once again houses a Patriarch will, without doubt, afford the inevitable food for discussion which has become an absolute necessity to certain elements connected, both *pro* and *anti*, with the Œcumenical Patriarchate.

Since the expulsion of Monseigneur Constantin and his submission to the requests and demands to resign, all the metropolitans of the Holy Synod whose candidature for election as Patriarch have appeared possible have been passed in review by the local Turkish and Greek Press and "blackballed" or "touted" as occasion arose.

Papa Efthim.

Papa Efthim Effendi has allowed no occasion to pass whereby he could possibly influence the scales on their downward bump to "blackball" after having first made sure that his expressed opinion could in no wise clash with those of the Authorities. His unsuccessful attempt to be recognised by the Government as the supreme head of a Turkish Orthodox chuch, while naturally damping his spirits to a certain extent, has not, apparently, destroyed his hope of becoming at some time a quite effective opposition to the Phanar. He has augmented his activities in this respect by purchasing and constituting himself proporietor of two newspapers (one having been already closed by the police), which fact has given rise to much speculation as to the source of his affluence. The election proceedings were not allowed to pass without an incident which took the form of a raid on the Patriarchate and the forcing of its doors by a number of malcontents said to be closely connected with Efthim's dissentient Church in Galata. The election was also preceded, on Saturday night last, by an outrage, committed presumably by hostile Greeks, against Monseigneur Germanos. The unfortunate prelate was lured from his residence by three individuals who informed him his presence was requested by the Authorities, and taken to some unfrequented spot, where he was attacked and held whilst he was deprived of the respected long hair and beard which distinguishes all Orthodox priests.

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The New Patriarch.

The enthronement of the new Patriarch, contrary to custom, immediately followed the election, and at two o'clock in the afternoon the Holy Synod met under its new president. His Holiness Vassilios III. is seventy-five years of age, having been born at Scutari (Constantinople) in January, 1850. He commenced his studies in Constantinople, subsequently entering the monastery at Halki, where he became a professor. After having studied theology and philosophy in Germany he directed the monastery at Balata for seven years, and was then elected Metropolitan of Ahialou, where he stayed until the Bulgarian expulsion of the Greeks. Prior to his nomination as Metropolitan of Nikias he held the same office at Pelagonie.

The new Patriarch, who is the author of several religious works, is renowned for his profound theological knowledge, and is considered as the most distinguished and capable Greek prelate of the present time.

An American Visitor.

The arrival here, this week, of Mr. King, the American Senator, has given rise to much comment in the Turkish Press which in some cases, considering he is for the present a guest of Turkey, is decidedly rude. Another portion of the Press, realising the weight which Mr. King's report to the Senate will carry, contents itself with statements of conviction that on examination the distinguished visitor will find the Turks better than he has previously imagined. Fortunately, for Turkish interests, there exist some organs in the ex-capital which are able to perceive that the violent terms employed by their contemporaries do not make for a favourable impression being given, and try on the other hand to facilitate Mr. King's inquiry.

Sir Herbert Samuel.

Sir Herbert Samuel, accompanied by Lady and Miss Samuel, arrived at Constantinople yesterday.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, July 6.

The Zaptieh (Police) Force and the Fez.

The Cyprus Police Force—mounted and foot—are a smart-looking and efficient force, and under British officers have rendered excellent service in carrying out many and varied duties. Originally mainly Turkish, they have by degrees been largely recruited from Greeks. The headdress is the red Turkish fez, both for Moslems and Christians. Application was recently made by some of the Greek members that the fez might be replaced by a cap, if not for the whole body, at least for the Christians. When the Chief Commandant, Colonel Gallagher, D.S.O., pointed out the difficulty, having regard to the Moslem element, it was represented that in the Ottoman Navy a cap had been adopted. It is true that the fez is vanishing in various party of Turkey. In Asia Minor and Europe the official fez is being superseded by the *kalpak*, favoured by Mustapha Kemal. In Iraq the picturesque *Sidara* is worn. The form of the fez itself differs considerably in different parts of Islam. The bedouin and many desert Arabs wear the *aghal* and *keffiyeh*. The fez, though giving a smart finish to the uniform, is no protection from the sun. The movement referred to was bound to come sooner or later, and possibly in Cyprus, as elsewhere, time may, on the ground referred to, lead to a change.

A Breach of Promise Case.

Great interest has been taken in a case, the first of its kind in Cyprus, which came before the Nicosia Court on July 2. The plaintiff is a daughter of a deceased prominent Greek of Papho, who became engaged to Mr. J. Ellis, the Assistant Colonial Secretary, now acting Colonial Secretary. Three Greek advocates appeared for the plaintiff and two for the defendant. The plaintiff claims £3,000. The defendant fully admits legal liability, but, as the claim for damages is regarded as excessive, it will be for the Court to decide upon the amount, the case not having yet been concluded.

General News.

Ex-King Hussein, who appears to be in good health, has left the hotel to which he went, to take up residence in the vicinity of the Great Mosque (formerly Cathedral) of Ayia Sophia, where he attended prayer on July 2, when a large congregation of Moslems assembled.

Weather has continued to be very pleasant, the heat not having so far been oppressive.

Great satisfaction is felt that there is again a favourable outlook for the silk industry, and that the establishment of factories by a British firm is to be an accomplished fact.

BRANGWYN'S TURKISH SKETCHES.

At the St. George's Gallery, George Street, W.1, there is an exhibition now being held of works by Frank Brangwyn, Gordon Craig, and Austin Spare (the exhibition includes, incidentally, the head which Epstein modelled as the study for Rima for his Hudson panel in Hyde Park). Brangwyn, of course, strides the exhibition like a colossus; and his water-colours here illustrate admirably the development of the artist.

His studies of Turkey, if one is not mistaken, were made some years ago. They are delightfully fresh, but everywhere held in decent restraint. His sketch of "A Turkish Mosque," for example, is as different as may be from the ordinary artist-tourist's over-coloured representations: it is at once vivid and reticent. His "Constantinople" (done, it would seem, from the Asiatic side) is a beautiful sketch; and even more lovely is "The Golden Horn" with the flopping sails of its ships and its mosques in the background. But the finest, possibly, of all these Eastern sketches is that of "Scutari." Here, among the tombs and cypresses, women in highly-coloured garments (which against the darkness of the trees take on an added brightness) slowly are gathering, while below are the ever joyous or sad waters of the Bosphorus. We have, indeed, no one who can more capably reproduce the soul of the East than Mr. Frank Brangwyn.

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MINORITIES IN GREECE.

[We give below the full text of the documents bearing on the question of the protection of Minorities in Greece, which was recently dealt with by the Council of the League of Nations.—ED.]

NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

The Secretary-General has the honour to circulate for the consideration of the Council the following documents concerning the protection of Minorities in Greece:

(1) Letter from the Secretary-General to the Permanent Greek Delegate to the League, dated April 2, 1925.

(2) Letter from the Permanent Greek Delegate to the Secretary-General, dated May 29, 1925.

This question was dealt with at the March session of the Council. (See Minutes of the 33rd session, page 478.)

LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO THE PERMANENT GREEK DELEGATE TO THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Translation. Geneva, April 2, 1925.

Sir,—I have the honour to forward to you a copy of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council of the League of Nations held on March 14, 1925. At this Meeting the Council examined your note of February 11, 1925, communicating the resolution adopted on February 3 by the Greek National Assembly respecting the Protocol concerning the Protection of Bulgarian Minorities in Greece signed at Geneva on September 29, 1924. These Minutes contained the Report, submitted by the British representative, which was adopted by the Council, and the statement made by the Greek Representative.

In conformity with the Council's decision I have been instructed by its President to draw your attention to the following points.

The Resolution of the Greek Assembly communicated in your note of February 11, contains certain statements which the Council felt that it could not accept.

It stated in the first place that the Protocol was at variance with the general provision of the Minorities Treaty at present in force. The Council felt that it could not allow this statement to pass unchallenged. The Protocol extended and applied the provisions of the Minorities Treaty, but did not contain any stipulations at variance with these provisions.

Secondly, the Resolution of the Greek National Assembly states that "the provisions of this Protocol institute a procedure inconsistent with the general recognised principle that the provisions relating to Minorities preclude any interference in the internal affairs of the State." The Council felt that this statement also it could not accept.

While rectifying the above statements the Council has decided to address to the Greek Government a questionnaire consisting of the following three questions:

1. "What has been done by the Greek Government since September 29, 1924, up to date, in order to execute in practice the stipulations of the Minorities Treaty?"
2. "What is the programme for the future action of the Greek Government if it has not been possible up to now completely to execute in practice the stipulations of the Treaty?"
3. "What, in the opinion of the Greek Government, are the needs of the Slav-speaking minority in the matter of education and public worship, and what special measures has Greece taken, or does she propose to take, in order to satisfy these needs?"

Being convinced that the Greek Government is resolutely determined to fulfil all its obligations under the Articles of the Minorities Treaty, the Council in drawing up this questionnaire has expressed a desire and firm belief that the Government's reply to the three questions will be of such a nature as entirely to satisfy the Council which feels the deepest solicitude for the welfare of Minorities. (Signed) ERIC DRUMMOND,
Secretary-General.

GREEK LEGATION IN SWITZERLAND.

To the Secretary-General.

Translation. Berne, May 29, 1925.

Sir,—With reference to your letter No. 41/42997/39349 of April 2, I have the honour to forward to you herewith my Government's reply to the three questions submitted to it by the Council of the League of Nations concerning the situation of racial, religious and linguistic minorities in Greece.

As regards the observations of the Council concerning the two sentences in the resolution adopted by the Greek National Assembly on February 3 last when it rejected the protocol concerning the protection of Bulgarian minorities in Greece, my Government would refer to the statement made on this matter by its representative, M. E. Venizelos, at the meeting of the Council of March 14 last.

The real meaning of the first of these two sentences was that the protocol imposed on Greece new obligations, not provided for in the Treaty, in connection with the protection of minorities, as the honourable Rapporteur on the question has pointed out. The exact meaning of the second sentence was that the provisions concerning minorities preclude all foreign intervention of a continuous and more or less permanent nature in minorities questions, which are questions of a purely domestic character.

My Government hopes that its reply to the three questions submitted to it concerning the situation of the minorities in Greece, and its explanation concerning the resolution of the Greek National Assembly on February 3 last will give full and entire satisfaction to the Members of the Council of the League of Nations, and that they will be regarded by the latter as constituting a final solution of the question.

In any case it is absolutely impossible for my Government to admit that the protection of the Slav-speaking minority in Greece is of any, even indirect, interest to Bulgaria, or that the Council of the League of Nations is obliged to see that "the indirect interests of the Bulgarian Government are not sacrificed." My Government is bound to see in these statements of the Rapporteur an allusion to the effect that, simultaneously with the signature by the Greek representatives of the protocol for the protection of Bulgarian minorities in Greece, the Bulgarian representative signed a similar protocol concerning Greek minorities in Bulgaria.

This fact should not, however, be regarded as giving any right to Bulgaria in respect of the Slav-speaking minority living in Greek Macedonia. This would be absolutely contrary both to the letter and the meaning of the treaties for the protection of minorities whose object is to ensure that questions concerning minorities shall not be questions between Governments, but questions of a domestic nature in respect of which the League of Nations alone would be entitled to intervene.

(Signed) V. DENDRAMIS,
Chargé d'Affaires.

REPLY BY THE GREEK GOVERNMENT

to the three questions submitted by the Council of the League of Nations concerning the protection of Racial, Religious and Linguistic Minorities in Greece.

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FIRST QUESTION.

What has been done by the Greek Government since September 29, 1924, up to date, in order to execute the stipulations of the Minorities Treaty?

Since September 29, 1924, up to the present date no new measure of a legislative or other nature has been taken with a view to giving effect to the stipulations contained in the Treaty for the protection of minorities in Greece.

The reason is that this Treaty, signed at Sèvres on August 10, 1920, came into force when the Treaty of Peace of Lausanne came into force, that is to say, as from August 6 last, for it was only on that date that the last ratification required for the putting into force of the Treaty of Peace of Lausanne was deposited by Japan at Paris.

As regards the Slav-speaking minority in particular, there is no further reason. As you are aware since November 27, 1919, a Convention has been concluded between Greece and Bulgaria concerning the voluntary and reciprocal emigration of Bulgarian Greeks into Greece, and Greek-Bulgarians into Bulgaria. If we consider that this Convention affects not only Bulgarians inhabiting Thrace, but also the Slav-speaking Macedonians in so far as they have demonstrated their Bulgarian national sentiment by their desire to emigrate, it will readily be understood that no special measures on behalf of Slav-speaking Macedonians could be adopted in the matter of education, until the emigration provided for in the Convention had come to a conclusion. The time-limit for handing in emigration declarations only expired on December 31 last, and consequently only since then has it been possible to form an idea of the volume of emigration.

In these circumstances it was materially impossible for the Greek Government to take any legislative or other measures for the application of the Minorities Treaty, in cases where existing legislation was not sufficient, and additional measures were required.

However, long before Greece had signed the Treaty of Sèvres of August 10, 1920, for the protection of racial, religious and linguistic minorities living in her territory, she had accorded protection to the legitimate rights of the latter by a series of legislative and other provisions, some of the more important of which have been included in the national constitution.

These provisions we may say constitute an almost complete system for the protection of the rights of minorities, which has always and indiscriminately been applied in the most liberal spirit, and earned for Greece the praise of the Principal Allied Powers in the preamble to the Treaty of Sèvres of August 10, 1920, according to which Greece "has given to the populations living in her territory equality of rights without distinction of origin, language or religion."

The provisions concerning the protection of minorities in Greece include: 1. Religious freedom. 2. Educational freedom. 3. Other rights of minorities generally recognised by the treaties and conventions concluded in their favour up to 1919.

M. E. Venizelos, at the meeting of the Council of the League of Nations on March 14 last, referred to these liberal provisions of Greek legislation and gave statistical information concerning the situation from the point of view of the education of minorities living in Greek territory.

SECOND QUESTION.

What is the programme for the future action of the Greek Government if it has not been possible up to now completely to execute in practice the stipulations of the Treaty?

As has been pointed out above in reply to the first question, the application of the provisions of the treaties for the protection of minorities in Greece is facilitated and ensured by a virtually complete system of legislative and other measures, and also by the wide and liberal spirit of toleration shown by the Greek people towards minorities. The result is that a large number of churches and other religious institutions, as well as many scholastic establishments, exist and carry on their work unhindered wherever there are a sufficient number of Greek nationals belonging to linguistic and religious minorities.

The Greek Government will always pay particular attention to the application of the minorities treaty and it intends to take all steps of a legislative or other nature which experience may show to be necessary in addition to the measures already taken. It is at present studying means for ensuring the recruiting of an adequate staff for the teaching of minorities languages.

THIRD QUESTION.

What, in the opinion of the Greek Government, are the needs of the Slav-speaking minority in the matter of education and public worship and what special measures has Greece taken or does she propose to take in order to satisfy these needs?

The needs of the Slav-speaking minority do not differ from those of other linguistic minorities which are provided for and met by the treaties or conventions concluded for the protection of minorities in general and by the Greek legislation relative thereto.

The Slav-speaking minority has enjoyed all rights and advantages secured by these provisions in the same way as other minorities. If it has not up to the present received the benefit thereof, as regards education or religious matters, the reason must be sought above all in the uncertain situation created by the Græco-Bulgarian Emigration Convention.

The Greek Government will examine in a friendly spirit any request which may be submitted to it by this minority for the opening and maintenance of schools with teaching in its own language, in conformity with the laws and regulations of the country concerning elementary education and private schools. The Government will also give it the benefit of any other measure which may be adopted subsequently in favour of minority schools, particularly as regards the recruiting of teaching staff.

As Greek nationals belonging to the Slav-speaking minority are orthodox, they cannot surely suggest that they constitute a religious minority in a country in which the predominant creed is their own. Nevertheless, although from the early days of Christianity until a few years ago Divine Service in their churches was conducted in Greek, the Greek Government will at any time be prepared to consider in a friendly spirit any request from these nationals concerning the employment of their own language in a church instead of Greek.

Moreover it should be noted that the Greek Government does not in any way interfere with the choice and nomination of priests, several of whom are members of linguistic minorities. It is even the intention of the Government to extend to the new provinces inhabited by linguistic minorities the Decree Law of December 17, 1923, under which priests will no longer be appointed by the Metropolitans as was the case under Turkish rule, but will be elected by the parish and by secret ballot. It also intends to take other measures, particularly financial measures in favour of the orthodox clergy, and priests belonging to a linguistic minority will benefit on an equal footing with Greek-speaking priests.

The Greek Government will not in general draw any distinction between the Slav-speaking and other minorities as regards the application of the Minorities Treaty and Greek legislation connected therewith.

Being above all desirous of maintaining peace and order in the country, however, it cannot in any circumstances allow schools and churches to be made the centre of any propaganda carried on against the interests of the State. In particular it reserves the right to exercise control over the origin and nature of the funds by which schools are maintained.

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THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Mining Deadlock.

It is painful evidence of the suspicion with which each side regards the other in the mining industry that the miners in conference last week at Scarborough should so summarily have refused to participate in the Court of Inquiry that the Government has set up. Recently one had occasion to refer to the unreasonable attitude of the owners, but it seems to differ from the attitude of the men only in the degree of cynicism that it possesses. There must be something more than *amour propre* in the demand by the miners that the owners' proposals for a new agreement should be withdrawn before the Court begins.

However, the Court is to pursue its inquiries without the assistance of the miners' leaders. Their absence, of course, robs it of much of its value, but it is still possible that good may come from it. Exactly what the Court is setting out to do is not quite clear—if it limits itself to examining the owners' proposals (which was the miners' first interpretation of its intention), little good can result, but if it examines the whole future of the industry, with a view to its thorough reforming, we may see something worth consideration. It is at least expected that Mr. Bridgeman may be able to use its report when he brings the two sides together again.

The Trade Union Alliance.

Meanwhile, a movement of the highest importance is developing, though there is little enough prospect of its being able to influence the present mining crisis. One refers, of course, to the great plan of forming an alliance between the men of the mining, railways, transport, and engineering Unions. A draft constitution of such an industrial alliance—the alliance which has been the dream of nearly every big Labour organiser, and which has so far been frustrated by the individualism of the British Trade Unionist—has been made. The object is manifestly strategic, and its revivification caused apparently, by the fear that the attempt at reducing the wages of the miners is but the herald of similar attempts in other industries. Whether that fear is real I have no means of knowing, but it is obviously deeply founded.

Such an alliance as this, if it were ever realised (and one cannot help recalling the history of the failure of the much smaller Triple Alliance—a failure directly due to the unwillingness of a particular Union to surrender its sovereignty), would be of very considerable import to the future of this country. For it would imply a definite tendency to substitute economic for political action—a form of activity which is Syndicalist rather than Socialist, and one, therefore, which the upholders of Capitalism can far less easily sidetrack. But the alliance could, one thinks, thrive only in adversity, and although, while the mining dispute remains unsettled, there are distinct chances of its being formed, if the mine-owners' ideas are not realised, neither, it would seem, will those of Mr. Cook and Mr. Bevin see the light. This fighting alliance, however, is the biggest move of our time, and should be watched closely.

The Cabinet's Tension.

Some conception of the opposition that exists in the Press to Mr. Baldwin's Administration may be gained by the eagerness with which reports are given of dissensions within the Cabinet. The resignation of certain Ministers over the question of the Cruisers is, we are assured, but a matter of time; nor is the problem of our naval forces the only point over which the Cabinet is at loggerheads.

At least 90 per cent. of these rumours come from professed or professing friends of the Conservative Party, and may therefore be discounted. It is probably true that at the moment there is an unresolved difference of opinion over the cruiser question (when has there not been?), but this talk of Mr. Bridgeman's resignation is a little fantastic. It is inconceivable that he would resign alone, however strongly he may be supported by the Admiralty.

Mr. Churchill, it is stated, is on the side of economy in this matter. How strange the position must be to him, whose Admiralty days were the days of days! However, *autres temps autres moeurs*, although one has little doubt that his real sympathies are with Mr. Bridgeman.

Summer Time.

The die is now cast; for, despite the Gaelic threats from farmers north of the Tweed, the clock will irrevocably be advanced on the third Sunday of April, and, on the first Sunday in October, as irrevocably be put back. Last week in the Commons they argued about it and about, and although considerable and decent sympathy with the agriculturists of this country was shown the fact that we are now become an industrial people, with the consequent neglect of country interests to the benefit of urban interests, was duly recognised.

It seems curious that an Assembly which can so easily, and in the most literal sense, put the clock back, should never consider whether the same procedure could not be adopted in other spheres, such as the social and industrial. For it is the claim of one school of those who believe that once England trod in right paths and has since deserted them for perilous and precipitous routes that a return to the older ways is the most pressing and yet simple need of our time. But summer time is "progress," and retrogression is—regress.

Amateurs and Professionals.

1925 cricket will at least be remembered for its representative cricket, for the two matches between the Amateurs and Professionals have been unusually interesting. We still call those most popular of matches "Gentlemen v. Players," though so long ago as the time of Craig, the one cricket poet who could sell his verses (cannot one still hear him chanting "Young 'Utchins and young Woolley, the right 'and of Kent?") we knew the immortal truth that "all the Gentlemen are players and all the Players gentlemen." No new professionals were found to help in the beating of the Australians next year, but men such as Nigel Haig, G. T. S. Stevens, and G. O. Allen at least have earned a right to be considered. Above all, even Lord's apears to have convinced itself of the merits of one to whom most of the critics outside that august institution have been looking as England's future leader—A. W. Carr.

The Future of Broadcasting.

Precisely because the British Broadcasting Company has a monopoly of broadcasting, its activities and claims are to be carefully watched, and the speech of Lord Gainsford at the second annual meeting of the Company has, therefore, been scrutinised with a view to discovering the trend of the most important discovery of our generation. A large part of this speech was occupied with the necessity, if the B.B.C. is to reach the plane of excellence at which it aims, of increasing the number of licensed listeners-in, but the process works, of course, round the other way, the number of listeners-in depending upon the quality of the programmes. Now it is at once admitted that much of the work of the B.B.C. has been very good. Lord Gainsford, indeed, claimed that it had already established a "definite influence over the minds of the people." This claim seems rather to depend on the definition of "definite." One still is forced to think that the main importance of broadcasting lies in its scientific significance, and that the uplifting and educating of the listeners-in are rather dragged in—the sort of stuff that is supposed to "go down" well in a democratic age. On the whole, listeners-in take from broadcasting in proportion as they bring to it. To suppose, as some have supposed, that in a few years' time listening-in apparatus will be as necessary to a household as is gas or electric light is precisely the kind of blind servitude to scientific discovery which is so distressing a feature of these pagan times.

The Drought.

The drought which has so long (and, in the towns at least, uncomplainingly) been suffered in the South of

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England has done very serious damage to the fruit crops. The strawberry season was short and unprecedently small; raspberries were less than two-thirds of the usual yield, black-currants one third of the estimate. Apples have been "dropping" every hour; pears are complete failures; and of plums, only Pershore and Prince of Wales are at all plentiful. Even worse have the cultivators of vegetables suffered. No rain has fallen since beans were planted, and marrows will have a negligible crop.

We may suffer these things gladly enough now, but when, next winter, we lack our customary vegetables—brussel sprouts, cauliflowers, and the rest—we shall think of these sunny, rainless days when we laughed and the farmers groused.

"Shepherd's."

It is pleasant to read that we are to have another well-known restaurant name in London. On the site of Devonshire House is to be built an edifice which shall contain shops, luxurious flats, and a large restaurant. The Gordon Hotels are taking the ground floor in Berkeley Street, and are making of it a ballroom, banqueting hall, grill-room, and reception rooms. The name chosen for this new restaurant is "Shepherd's," a happy reminder of Shepherd's Market, an old precinct in Mayfair. The single name for a hotel is a great fashion now in Mayfair. What psychologists our business men are!

The 'Nineties.

It is strange, after the real years of the War, to observe how the call of the artificial 'nineties, that perfumed *fin de siècle*, still makes its appeal. The pale ghosts of that time still hover round us, and how audibly and intelligently they yet gibber may be seen from the portraits of men of the period which Professor William Rothenstein has collected at the Leicester Galleries, Leicester Square. Professor Rothenstein made these drawings about thirty years ago, so that we see Bernard Shaw in the thirties and in flaming red beard, Max Beerbohm an undergraduate and in dapper mediocrity, George Moore less than forty and in weakly melancholy.

It is all extremely interesting, more, perhaps, for those of his subjects who are now dead than for those who, such as Thomas Hardy and A. E. Housman, have ripened into a greater dignity than could conceivably be imagined from their portraits here. The decadence or sadness of men like Ernest Dowson, George Gissing, John Davidson steal unfailingly through these portraits down the decades since they were made. But it must not be supposed that Professor Rothenstein chose only such a type for his portraits, for he has brought equal understanding to men so diverse from these as Lord Morley, Robert Bridges, Sir Hubert Parry (a curious choice, this), Sir E. Ray Lankester (one of the jolliest works in the exhibition) and W. H. Hudson. It is indeed a show as much for the lover of literature and music as for the lover of art.

At the same galleries, incidentally, is a most charming collection of water-colours by Mr. James Wilkie, a young master at the Slade School. Mr. Wilkie has, one is convinced, a great future. He is already a master of line and tone, and he uses water-colour in the traditional method. His drawings here of Northern France and of Southern England are a standing reproof to those who would deride the principles of the Slade School as wild or unsound: one drawing, "Near Otford, Kent" is, in fact, as delicate and as finished a work as any that one has recently seen by a young English artist. There are likely to be in the history of British art at least two Wilkies.

Public Health.

There was not over-much encouragement in the report of Sir George Newman upon Public Health which has just been issued, for it showed that 1924 compared badly with 1923. The Birth rate was, with the exception of the War years, the lowest on record, and there was an alarming increase in influenza (which topped the list of fatal diseases. Next to cancer on this list (of which, incidentally, the cause is yet again reported to have been found), are placed nervous afflictions, which also appear to be on the increase. And the statistics of infant mortality are by no means reassuring, although there was in 1924 a saving of 39,000 infant lives on the average of the years 1901-1910. Compared with 1923 there were in 1924 28,198 fewer births and 28,450 more deaths. ALTER EGO.

BOOK REVIEWS.

"THE DOME OF THE ROCK." By E. T. Richmond. (The Clarendon Press. £6 6s.)

To many lovers of architecture the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, so persistently miscalled the Mosque of Omar, is the most beautiful and the most nobly set building in the world. Covering and enclosing the crude and shapeless mass of rock—scarred, seamed and pitted with age—which has attracted the veneration of men from the days of the Patriarchs until the present time, rises that masterpiece of Arab art with which, in 691 A.D., the Caliph Abd al-Melek replaced the wooden mosque built by Omar in the hope that it would divert, by its magnificence, the stream of pilgrimage to Jerusalem from Mecca, closed by the rival Caliph, Abdallah ibn Zubair, to all but his own supporters. Participating, from the seventh century onwards, in the vicissitudes which have befallen Jerusalem, even becoming for a while, during the Crusades, a Christian Church, the Dome of the Rock has necessarily suffered from the ravages of time and history, has undergone changes, has required periodical examination and preservation, has altered "its tissue and renewed its structure" in order to remain, in the words of Mr. Richmond, "the living symbol of a living Faith." One such period of overhauling synchronised with the British occupation of Palestine in 1917-18; and those responsible at that time for the upkeep of the Harm al-Sherif were fortunate in securing Mr. E. T. Richmond to advise them regarding the treatment of the central monument of "the Noble Sanctuary." Mr. Richmond, combining an inherited artistic taste with long experience of Moslem architecture as architect to the Egyptian Ministry of Waqfs, brought not only his high technical qualifications but a deep love of the building to bear on his study of the Dome of the Rock, some of the fruits of which are now made public in this sumptuously produced volume. For several months, while he was making his detailed survey, Mr. Richmond lived, as he tells us, in the presence of the Dome of the Rock, so that he became impregnated with its beauties as well as with its vitality. He is able to write, therefore, both as a technician and as an enthusiast; and not only the Moslem Supreme Council of Palestine but the world at large owes him a debt of gratitude for his work. Mr. Richmond disclaims, perhaps with undue modesty, having attempted in this book an exhaustive study of the Dome of the Rock in all its aspects. He claims only to have set himself the task of describing its present condition and of suggesting the nature of the work needed for its preservation and the means for carrying it out. But this he has done with admirable thoroughness and a wealth of illustration.

BY MAIL AND MESSENGER

Times Literary Supplement:—"Primarily the letters are love-letters, and as such illustrate the writer's mood; he sings another's love to interpret his own, and what he seeks and finds among all the strange peoples whom he visits, is some tale of true love . . . Sir Thomas's speciality is his method of conveying the outlook and mode of life, of the peoples among whom orders or inclination take him . . . . As a record of travel the book is noteworthy for descriptions of rural Greece."

By SIR T. COMYN-PLATT. 10/6 net.

CONSTABLE: LONDON W.C.2.

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In few buildings does decoration, external and internal, play so important a part as in the Dome of the Rock; and a large portion of Mr. Richmond's book is devoted of necessity to a study of the outstanding feature of the decoration, that is to say, of the tiles, with which the upper portion of the exterior of the Mosque has been, and to a large extent still is, faced. A series of admirably clear diagrams show us in detail these tiles according to the six main periods from which they date. The coloured plates illustrating the tiles are likewise above praise. In the frontispiece, which reproduces the present condition of three bays, as well as in Figures 41 and 42, in which are given a suggested arrangement of the tile decoration in the early sixteenth century and a conjectural restoration, each individual tile is drawn and painted with the minute accuracy of a Satsuma vase. The mosaics of the interior and the glass of the windows of drum and octagon are also described and illustrated so clearly that no future custodians and restorers of the shrine can have any excuse for deviating from tradition in this respect.

The repair and preservation of the Haram al-Sherif have now been entrusted by the Moslem Supreme Council to the distinguished Turkish architect Kemal al-Din bey and his competent staff, who have set up their technical office in the precincts of the Haram; and it is to be hoped that Mr. Richmond's advice will continue to be available in the difficult and highly responsible task which they have undertaken.

This is a noble book, well worthy of the "Noble Sanctuary," and it constitutes a notable addition to the works on Oriental art and architecture which the Clarendon Press are producing so wisely and so splendidly. I have only one small query: Why does Mr. Richmond, so rightly careful in his transliteration of Arabic names, adopt the French transliteration in his references to the Yeshil Jami, the beautiful Green Mosque, at Brusa?

H. C. Luke.

IRAQ, 1923-1924.

"Report by His Britannic Majesty's Government on the Administration of Iraq for the period April, 1923—December, 1924." (H.M. Stationery Office. 7/3).

This Report on Iraq, which is virtually a statement of the progress of King Faisal's State under the administration of Sir Henry Dobbs (Sir Percy Cox having left Iraq in May, 1923), shows, on the whole, the most satisfactory state of affairs that it has been possible to record since the constitution of the Iraq kingdom. It is true that many of Mesopotamia's major problems, both internal and external, are not yet solved, but the year and nine months under review have at least "witnessed on the part of the Iraq Government a determination to seek right solutions and on the part of the people a willingness to accept them."

Sir Henry had the advantage of beginning his régime upon the basis of the protocol, the effect of which was to clear the way for genuine co-operation between the British and Iraqi officials, and it is gratifying to observe to what good uses he has put the opportunity of proving to the Mesopotamians that Great Britain was prepared, on the one hand, to abstain from undue interference, and, on the other, to accord active support. In his general survey of the period he touches, among other things, upon the difficulties, now happily at an end, that arose out of the attitude of the Shiah *ulema*, and upon the activities of the Turks in the North, activities the end of which it is more difficult to see. Another trouble which reared its head persistently during this time concerns the Kurdish districts on the Eastern frontier. His words on the relations between the Kurds and Iraqis are worth quoting. After commenting upon the increased willingness of the Kurds to participate in the conduct of the Iraq State, he says: "There is no reason to anticipate in the future the occurrence of racial dissension and every ground for hope that further development will follow the lines of closer amalgamation. But Arab nationalists will need to bear in mind that the end in view will be more speedily and more surely attained if the national aspirations of their Kurdish fellow-subjects are treated with as much consideration as the similar sentiments which they themselves cherish."

It is not surprising to find that the High Commissioner pays a warm tribute to the Royal Air Force in Iraq, which he says has been a main factor in the pacification of the country. The advantages and the care with which this arm is used are lucidly explained. But Sir Henry is alive to the danger that the R.A.F. may be asked to do the work for which infantry is more suited, and this very problem is now engaging close attention. It is unwise to risk the defeat of an Army whose total strength is 7,500 men, and of which, though the cavalry and artillery are spoken of well, the infantry, owing mainly to the fact that the period of service is but two years, is not so satisfactory.

With those sections of the Report which deal with the Ministries of Interior, of Justice, of Communications and Works, and of Auqaf, we have here no space to deal; and Sir Henry's very frank words in the section which he devotes to the Ministry of Finance deserve separate attention elsewhere. It is sufficient here to explain that that derided "official optimism," so justly complained of in some reports, is refreshingly absent here.

The account of Iraq's foreign relations is worth close study. The frontier with Syria is complicated by the fact that neither the Shammar nor the Anizeh tribe pays the slightest attention to it, but there is a close co-operation between the authorities of Iraq and Syria which makes friction of rare occurrence. With Arabia, however, relations were during this period very far from satisfactory; nor, according to this Report, is there much prospect of improvement. The Sultan of Nejd is represented as being quite unreasonable in the matter of boundaries, an attitude which was mainly the outcome of the conduct of those refugee Shammar whom he has claimed as under his tutelage since his victories of 1921. With Persia, relations are now much better, and in October, 1924, the Persian Government recognised the Kingdom of Iraq.

Extremely interesting is the state of affairs revealed in regard to Education in Iraq. The British, after the occupation of Baghdad in 1917, had nothing but relics of the old Turkish system on which to build. How hard that task was is shown by the fact that the adoption of Arabic as the medium of instruction was by no means a simple matter. The system now in vogue in Government Schools is claimed as being "sound as far as it goes." The Primary Schools exist mainly so that an intelligent electorate shall be formed; Secondary Education exists only for the selected few; and the subject of Higher Education is treated in a very serious manner. Sir Henry's words, incidentally, upon the Baghdad University, should be read by all those who may have been deceived recently by the extravagant claims made out by another University in the East. "A so-called University which has nothing of Academic standard about it except the scale of its buildings, will confirm instead of destroying that belief in false standards of value which is one of the worst banes of this country." And upon the Iraqi's tendency to imagine that unlimited education is the cure for every ill, the High Commissioner writes the soundest of sound sense.

To sum up, it may be said that this record of the events which have befallen Iraq in the twenty-one months from the Spring of 1923, of the way in which difficulties, old and new, have been encountered, and, particularly, of the hints dropped in regard to future happenings in Mesopotamia, has been made by an acute, unbiased, and very close observer. It may be that Sir Henry Dobbs emphasises the financial side of Iraq's problems where some would emphasise her military problems, but it is certain that his account is indispensable equally to the optimistic and to the pessimistic student of Britain's experiment with the first Arab State. A more readable, straightforward, and level-headed document it is impossible to conceive.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

July 23, 1925 (New Style).
July 10, 1925 (Old Style).
Muharram 2, 1344, A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Ab 2, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Maharaja of Porbandar was received by the King last Thursday at Buckingham Palace.

The Crown Prince of Kapurthala arrived at Claridge's Hotel, London, last week from Paris.

Prince and Princess Paul of Serbia left London on July 15 for Paris.

Colonel Ion Antonesco, Military Attaché at the Roumanian Legation, has returned to London from Norway.

M. Stoyan Petroff, Counsellor at the Bulgarian Legation, left London last Saturday for Edinburgh.

The Bulgarian Minister returned to town on July 14 after a week's stay at Sheringham.

Sir Harcourt Butler, Governor of Burma, who had an audience of the King at Buckingham Palace on July 14, left for Bombay last week.

Prince Peter and Princess Eugenie of Greece, who have been staying at the Savoy Hotel, left London last week on a short visit to Paris.

The Earl and Countess of Reading are leaving Victoria for India by the Peninsular and Oriental special at 1.50 p.m. to-day.

Canon A. S. Hitchens, formerly Canon of St. George's Cathedral, Jerusalem, has been appointed as Chaplain to the College for Clergy Widows at Bromley.

Prince Frederick Duleep Singh arrived last week at the Hotel Splendide, Evian-les-Bains, where he will remain for about four weeks.

Viscount Milner, of Sturry Court, near Canterbury, who died in May, left estate of the gross value of £45,868, with net personalty £32,164.

The Prime Minister entertained Ziwar Pasha, Prime Minister of Egypt, and the Egyptian Minister in London at luncheon last Sunday at Chequers.

Sir H. Seymour King has left England in his yacht for a cruise to Norway, and will not return until September.

Field-Marshal Sir William Birdwood, Bt. (upon his appointment as Commander-in-Chief of the Army in India), had an audience of the King at Buckingham Palace on July 15.

Mahomed Izzet Bey, Master of Ceremonies at the Court of King Fuad, who has been visiting his parents, the Egyptian Minister and Madame Izzet Pasha, left London last Thursday for Switzerland and Egypt.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place between John B. Mackie, of Abadan, Persia, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Mackie, of Castle Cary, Somerset, and Joan M. Padwick, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Padwick, of Monks Barn, Petersfield.

The Secretary of State for India and the Countess of Birkenhead gave a luncheon party last Thursday at 32, Grosvenor Gardens to the Maharaja of Jodhpur and his polo team—Captain A. H. Williams, Thakur Dalpat Singh, Thakur Prithi Singh, and Rao Raja Hanut Singh.

The marriage arranged between Humphrey Bowman, C.B.E., Director of Education, Palestine Government, and Mrs. Arthur Bowman, of 12, Church Row, Hampstead, widow of Arthur William Bowman, will take place in August.

Among the passengers who left London last Thursday by the P. and O. Bombay express to join the s.s. Razmak at Marseilles were Colonel the Hon. D. Bingham for Port Said; Major-General and Mrs. J. H. K. Stewart, for Aden; and Sir Harcourt Butler and Sir Samuel O'Donnell, for Bombay.

The King has given Mr. Humphrey Ernest Bowman, C.B.E., authority to wear the insignia of the Third Class of the Order of the Nile, conferred on him by the King of Egypt, in recognition of valuable services rendered by him as Inspector under the Egyptian Ministry of Public Instruction.

The engagement is announced between Vivian Fox-Strangways, Colonial Civil Service, younger son of Mr. M. W. Fox-Strangways, C.S.I., late I.C.S., and Mrs. Fox-Strangways, and Rona Heathcote Plummer, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs. A. H. Plummer, of Risdons, Bradford-on-Tone, Taunton.

CORRESPONDENCE

The columns of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA *are open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

"ARSHIN-MAL-ALAN."

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—Will you permit me, as one who has seen and enjoyed "Arshin-Mal-Alan" six times, and concurs entirely in your favourable notice of its production and performance at the Philharmonic Hall, to correct some of your dramatic critic's remarks, which are misleading?

This amusing piece was not "played and sung entirely in Persian." Gulchora had a Persian song, and in the course of the conversation a few remarks were made in Persian, but the language of the play was Armenian. Not even its title is Persian.

Again, it is not clear why the instrument played in such a masterly manner by M. Abgar should be described as a Persian "fiddle." It is not played with a bow.—I am, etc.,

WOLSELEY HAIG.

West Kensington, July 16.

[Our critic writes: "I regret very much having been misinformed upon some of the details concerning "Arshin-Mal-Alan," but, being unfortunately ignorant alike of Persian and Armenian, I had to rely upon the services of an interpreter. As for the kind of mandoline upon which M. Abgar played, I was given to understand that it was known as 'the Persian fiddle.' But I sincerely thank Sir Wolseley Haig for correcting my main error of supposing that the comedy was a Persian one."]

Where to stay in the East

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A FESTIVAL AT KERBELA.

By MARGARET HASLUCK.

Every reader of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA knows that the breath had hardly left Mohammed's body before his followers quarrelled about who should be Caliph, that is, his successor in the leadership of Islam. Some wished to elect him as occasion arose, others, the Shiahs, preferred him to be the Prophet's natural heir. At length, at Kerbela, south-west of Baghdad, the elected Caliph Yezid attacked and defeated his legitimate rival Husain, son of Ali and Mohammed's daughter, Fatima. Cruelly starving him to death, as the festival of Moharram still commemorates, he finally decapitated him. The head found its way to Damascus, the body was buried where he died. Later, a gorgeous tomb was reared over it, and so Kerbela became one of the holiest cities of Islam.

Finding myself in Baghdad on my way home from India, I naturally wished to see so famous a place. Physically this was easy, since a railway now connects it with Baghdad, but my only possible date was the Mahdiyeh, the Mahdi's birthday. To most English people he is only the false prophet of 1881 who fanaticised Sudan Moslems against the British and eventually caused Gordon's death at Khartoum. To simple Shiahs, the Mahdi is the child Imam, who, vanishing for a time from human ken at Samara on the Tigris, will return to earth like Christ, to re-establish justice and convert the Universe to Islam. Meanwhile they celebrate his birthday annually, but at Kerbela rather than Samara, as Husain's head was brought back to Kerbela from Damascus on the same date. Now it is a law of the Mesopotamians that no woman shall go to Kerbela during a festival, for fear it may dangerously excite their religious prejudices. Fortunately for me, the Mahdiyeh is neither so important nor so emotional as Moharram, and the British police, allowing that measuring 500 Moslem heads in Macedonia may have taught me something of Moslem ways, kindly stretched a point in my favour and let me go.

The night train from Baghdad set me down at dawn at Kerbela station. It was crowded with pilgrims come to catch the first train out. True, it was not scheduled to leave till after mid-day, but Arabs, having little notion of time, now habitually take it by the forelock when a train is in question. Mindful of those kind, but inevitably responsible, officials in Baghdad, I first looked anxiously for signs of hostility among the pilgrims, but they did not seem even interested in me. Then the station-master, an Indian Moslem, reported everything quiet in the town, if only because most of the pilgrims were sleeping off the effects of the festival. It had been strenuous. The previous evening they had assembled at Husain's shrine well before midnight and spent several hours reciting the Koran and gazing at the full moon. This pious observance was to change all their lives for them, the rich becoming poor and the poor rich, saint turning sinner and sinner saint. The stationmaster was unable to say whether many rich kept the festival.

Having supplied me with an excellent breakfast for which he would not take a penny, he next despatched me —in a Ford, of course—to the Commandant of Police. Immediately outside the station lay the famous cemetery of Kerbela. Moslem theologians having painted hell fire in even more lurid colours than Calvin did, simple Moslems dread it intensely. They believe, however, that they can escape it by being buried in Kerbela, as that in itself will sanctify their dust by mingling it with Husain's—it is nothing to them that a good mile separates cemetery from shrine. So they come from far and near: before they die, if possible, like the Aga Khan's mother last year —only she happily recovered. Already dead, they perhaps come on a camel picturesquely laden with coffins. Dead or dying, they receive a warm welcome from both Kerbela and the Iraq Government for the sake of the handsome fees both demand for such holy burial. The Government requires six months to elapse before a corpse enters Iraq, but no one seems to wonder what happens to its soul in the interval. On the whole—Moslems abhorring our practice of burying several persons together—the cemetery seemed small for the numbers it is alleged to hold. Possibly, the soil being pure sand, desert winds soon level the graves and put them again into commission; more probably the numbers are exaggerated.

A fairy garden succeeded the cemetery. On either hand a lake reflected beautiful pictures of the tall and short male and female palms, which fringed it. Between them, fruit-trees, white with blossom in March, sprang from a soft green carpet of young wheat. Further on, the stiff grace of other palms was set off by the haphazard, but always straight lines of a khaki house at the entrance to the town. The first street was a great surprise after Baghdad, whose dilapidation beggars description. Wide and handsome, this Kerbela street had proper pavements and a tidy, if monotonous, frontage of high garden walls interrupted by occasional houses. To a lively imagination their many barred windows inevitably suggested fiercely guarded harems behind, but there was no fierceness in the Commandant, who presently welcomed me in most engaging English. Only when my visit was over did he reveal that my arrival had wakened him from much needed sleep, for till 3 a.m., he had been busy preventing the pilgrims from picking each other's pockets.

On hearing what interested me, he volunteered to escort me himself and took me first on a dull duty visit to the *mutessarif*. The next, to the government doctor, was much livelier. Trained in Constantinople, Vienna, and Paris, he is reputed a *seyyid*, that is a lineal descendant of the Prophet. As a scientist, he was humorously sceptical about this, but said it was a splendid trade-mark. A *seyyid's* hand being thought to heal by its mere touch, he could take the pulse of his (heavily veiled) women patients, whereas their modesty forbade such a familiarity to a doctor of humbler pedigree. The number of waiting sick indicated how his tact and skill are gradually wearing down their ignorant prejudices, but a progressive doctor has still a long row to hoe among such people. Before they even consult him, for instance, they ask advice of their rosaries. Grasping them at any two points, they tell the intervening beads, two by two. If two beads are left at the end, they are free to see the doctor; if only one remains, the omen is bad and they wait till a luckier day. Perhaps it is then too late, but that is Kismet. The doctor having seen them and given them a prescription, the rosaries again come into play: shall they, shall they not, have the prescription made up? If the rosary says no, they return to tell the doctor his medicine is bad. "All right, I will change it," he answers, too wise to reason with such undeveloped creatures. And, tearing up the old prescription—he writes it all out again. He knows of course that they are too unlettered to detect the trick. So far he humours them, but, should they propose to consult the oracle about paying his fee, he takes a firmly negative stand.

The Commandant now suggested taking me to see some Kerbela ladies. We therefore penetrated inside the town wall, which has been utterly ruinous since 1843, when the Turks battered it to fragments in their attempt to persuade the citizens that, whatever future pains residence at Kerbela insured them against, it could no longer save them from military service in this world. We now found ourselves in a conventionally oriental town, the streets being narrow and devious, the houses very tall, their doors low, solid, and sinister, and their street walls blank, because like the ancient Cretan palace of Knossos they are lit and ventilated from a central court. Passing through one low doorway, we saw our prospective host seated on a dais in an open gallery of the forecourt. He was Persian, like half Kerbela, and a very eminent *Mullah*, as his gigantic white turban indicated. With correctly obtrusive appreciation we noisily sucked in the tea he gave us, while we talked of the astounding differences between the tolerant Shiahs of Turkey and their bigoted cousins in Iraq. Then he had me conducted up a winding staircase to the harem beyond a second court. In the reception room, which was neatly furnished with European chairs and tables, the *Mullah's* wife and other female relatives sat awaiting me. They gave me their hand in European fashion, I countered with the beautiful threefold *temena* of Moslems. Then a daintily Persian tray of tea, biscuits, and delicious jam was brought in by a manservant, who took up his stand in the background with

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some other retainers. Evidently these Persian ladies did not mind unveiling before him, as Turks would have done. Their dark, gentle beauty was entrancing enough to turn a Spanish belle green with envy, but unfortunately they did not know Turkish, my only oriental language, so we could say little except with our eyes. We removed our respective headgears to show each other our hair; theirs was bobbed in front and plaited behind. It was always inky black, by nature in the young ladies, by art in the others—not out of vanity, however, but *sewab*, respect for their religion which dislikes grey hair. Then they explained their relationship, laughing at its complications. Just as I had sorted them out, the *Mullah* himself came to conduct me downstairs. There the Commandant made him a flowery speech of thanks for his kindness and carried me off to see the twin shrines which cover the mortal remains of Husain and his half-brother, Abbas.

To reach them, we had to traverse the bazaars. With their floors of beaten earth and their lofty, sharply gabled roofs, they resembled some at Baghdad. As usual in the Orient, each trade had its own street, so we moved from Clothmarket to Shoe Lane and on to Honeybourne Road, where honey brought from Persia's distant hills in goat-skins was being sold. What most interested me were the tiny tablets of Kerbela earth made for pilgrims to carry home. When ill, they drink one dissolved in water as medicine—faith being an important element even in western cures, they sometimes recover in consequence. On another they press their foreheads when they prostrate themselves in prayer: ultimately this tablet is placed under their heads in the coffin, if they cannot face the expense of sending their bones to Kerbela itself.

In the bazaar shops squatted their owners, all except four Jews being Arab or Persian. The Arabs wore their usual monkish frocks and flapping head handkerchiefs, the Persians, extraordinarily pale, wore halo-like turbans. Some offered me their goods, which showed that the railway's advent is beginning to civilise them. Hitherto, they have regarded a Christian's mere touch as pollution and even now, had fear or favour wrung me a glass of tea from their coffee-houses, they would have smashed the contaminated glass or washed and re-washed it in running water.

Pilgrims swarmed everywhere, all in the sombre garments Shiahs have worn since Husain's death. The old men had dyed their beards a vivid orange with henna. A sly suggestion of their danger from the evil eye, now they had so renewed their youth and beauty, was received with roars of laughter and banished my last fear of their unfriendliness. Then in a side yard I salaamed a woman who was surveying me curiously. To my dismay she flushed red and, gathering up her skirts in dudgeon, removed herself to a distant corner, where she turned her eloquent, indignant back on me. The trouble was that the early fog had made me, fearing rain, wear khaki and, a skirt being neither here nor there among Arabs, the colour had made her think me a soldier and my salute an insult. Luckily, the surrounding men were wiser and merely jeered at her for a fool, who had never seen an Englishwoman before.

All this time we were continually emerging on the gateway of one or other of the shrines. There is little to say of them, because infidels are not allowed inside them and, if wise, do not linger long outside. The artists in both cases being Persian, their general scheme recalls the gorgeous Moslem tombs of India. That is, handsome gateways lead into a large court, in the centre of which stands the holy sepulchre. At Kerbela the walls of gateways and tombs alike are one blaze of wonderful blue tiles, while the dome and minarets of the sepulchre are plated with pure gold, for which Persia found the money. Strange chains of bronze festoon the gateways, but no one seems to understand why. As we looked, pilgrims streamed out and in, reverently kissing the threshold, the gateposts, and the chains, so that it was most provoking to be excluded like a fallen angel from such a paradise.

Once more at the station, I learned that even exaggerated fanaticism makes concessions. For all his alien creed and the Indian blood "high-nosed" Arabs despise so heartily, the Kerbelites have made the Hindu ticket-clerk free of their town and coffee-houses, though of course not of the shrines. His assistant, however, an Armenian, they have forbidden to stir from the station precinct, and even there they refuse to give him food and drink. Nor will they shave him—no great hardship in English eyes, but severe in the East, where even a barber rarely shaves himself. And then the pilgrim train tore me away to Babylon and Kerbela's sister, Nejef.

A FILM OF NORTHERN ABYSSINIA.

The Duke of Connaught will attend a private view of the film record of Mrs. Rosita Forbes's recent journey through Northern Abyssinia, to be given at the Capitol Theatre on Monday, July 27, at 11.30. Among others who have accepted invitations to be present are the ex-King of the Hellenes, Prince and Princess Nicholas of Greece, Princesses Elizabeth and Marina of Greece, the Spanish Ambassador, the Austrian Minister, the Duchess of Atholl, the Duchess of Rutland, the Home Secretary and Mrs. Joynson-Hicks, the Minister of Transport and Mrs. Wilfrid Ashley, the Countess of Birkenhead, Viscountess Inchcape, Sir Robert Horne, and Air-Marshal Sir Sefton Brancker. The film will afterwards be shown publicly at the Capitol Theatre.

THE EGYPTIAN PREMIER.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, entertained Ziwar Pasha, Prime Minister of Egypt, at dinner at Claridge's last Thursday. The following guests were invited to meet him:—Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, the Egyptian Minister, Midhat Bey Ziwar, the Marquess of Salisbury, Viscount Peel, Viscount Haldane, Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby, Viscount Cecil of Chelwood, Viscount Inchcape, Sir William Tyrrell, Sir George Lloyd, Sir Geoffrey Archer, General Sir John Maxwell, Sir Samuel Hoare, Mr. Amery, Sir Ronald Waterhouse, Sir Ronald Storrs, Mr. Selby, Mr. Murray, Mr. Lloyd Thomas, and Mr. Beare.

A MIDDLE EAST RECEPTION.

Miss M. A. Broadhurst and Miss Farquharson gave a "Middle East" reception last Thursday evening at the Hyde Park Hotel. Lord Lamington, Lord Danesfort, and Lord Leigh assisted the hostesses in receiving guests, and Marchioness Townshend, Lady Sydenham, and the Hon. Mrs. Gideon Murray were also helping. The large company included, among others, the Chinese Chargé d'Affaires, the Hungarian Minister, Prince Nader Mirza Arasteh, M. and Mme. Yovanovitch, Air Vice-Marshal Sir Sefton Brancker, Sir Atul and Lady Chatterjee, Sir Prabhashanker Pattani, and Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy.

SUDAN POLITICAL SERVICE.

The following have been selected as probationers in the Sudan Political Service:—

Mr. J. Beavan, Mr. F. D. Corfield, Mr. D. C. Cumming, Mr. E. W. Davies, Mr. G. L. Elliot-Smith, Mr. R. J. Hillard, Mr. E. C. Hasleden, Mr. J. Longe, Mr. D. M. Marshall, Mr. A. E. D. Penn, Mr. S. R. Simpson, Mr. C. R. Wordsworth, and Mr. H. M. Watt.

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Indian Affairs.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, July 2.

The Political Atmosphere.

Whether it be due to the return to "bureaucratic government," or to the death of the leader, or to the suspense with which the Birkenhead statement is awaited, the fact remains that the political atmosphere is more tranquil than at any time since the launching of the Reforms. The Indian masses out of the towns live in a state of perpetual economic servitude to the bania, the money-lender; they are born in debt and die in debt, but they live in happiness! The town dwellers are largely drawn from the middle classes; they are literate but beneath the surface they are equally infected with the "pathetic contentment" that excited Mr. Montagu. Together, these are really "the country," and the removal of the terrorists has made it possible for them to return to an absorption in the realities of their own lives. They return, however, with almost a worship of Gandhi and Das and something very akin to racial antagonism to the British.

The Political Classes.

The Indian political classes, lawyers, students, hangers-on who would otherwise be idle, are intensely occupied in mourning their lost leader, whose Sradh ceremony took place at his house yesterday before enormous crowds, while memorial meetings were held later in the day which were mass meetings indeed. Their leaders, lawyers almost to a man, are equally occupied in distributing Elijah's garments, a very difficult problem. The political cloak has fallen upon Mr. J. M. Sen Gupta, thanks to Mahatma Gandhi's influence, but it is a dubious experiment, and even the Swarajists are finding it difficult to defy common-sense to the extent of letting the mayoral robe follow the cloak. A political friend finds Mr. Sen Gupta an amiable and inoffensive individual, who has never learnt the art of saying no. He is a practising barrister and a member of the Calcutta Club.

The Political European.

The non-official Europeans who have been forced by circumstances to think and act "politically" are now able to attend to their own affairs; business or professional occupation is to-day a whole-time problem, but that has never prevented a large proportion of the community from devoting its scanty leasure hours to public service, and the calls of charity, municipal service and other administrative work are to-day more insistent than ever. The voluntary taxation of incomes which have to meet ever-increasing costs of living is becoming a serious problem as each new enthusiasm creates a new organisation for spending money; and the older charities have new duties forced upon them while their government grants are being cut down by corporations and departments alike. The co-ordination of charities has ceased to be merely desirable; it has become imperative.

Competition.

It is not only political animosity that is responsible for the preference shown in many quarters for "continental," frankly German, or Japanese goods. Exchange and low costs of production enable something very akin to dumping to be practised in the Indian market at present, and the bazaars are flooded with goods, particularly those which can be shipped direct in small parcels, which are often quite satisfactory in quality and are on offer at astonishingly low prices. An example may be referred to in the piece-goods market; a large consignment of Japanese nainsook, of a quality which directly compares with Manchester goods, has been placed this week at a price which is below the figure at which Bombay can compete even with an inferior article. Energetic propaganda is accompanied by a regular distribution of bulletins, magazines and price lists, and it is interesting to note the tone of the [illegible] special articles which appear in these; the subtle references to the disinterestedness of the trader whose only concern is to please his customers, as compared with the exploiting activities of the land-grabbing nationals, are worthy of the later stages of the War. British manufacturers will inevitably be hit and increasingly so: their reply will not only have to take the form of lower costs and prices, but they will have to initiate propaganda of an equal quality, and this implies a close study and understanding of the mentality and the point of view of the dealer and the buyer. The new trade war has begun and the enemy is mobilising his brain-power.

The Markets.

The latest reports from Dacca are not optimistic, and it is expected there that the jute crop will fall considerably short of the figure generally anticipated. The market closed with both parties watching a slight firming up. Fabrics show a slight improvement, but business is quiet and that done appears to be either speculative or to cover shipments falling due. There is little change in the piece-goods outlook; the holding out of the Marwaris has not produced the improvement hoped for, and there are signs that the Association will modify its recent resolution. Bombay stocks in the mills are still high. Tea has been well-supported; at the sales competition has been general and there is plenty of inquiry. Indigo is quiet and the shellac market closes steady. There is a glut of money in Clive Street and this is beginning to influence Burra Bazar. There is a strong demand for all Indian raw produce for export but at the moment it is Bombay that is mostly affected by the trade, and money rates there are considerably higher than in Calcutta, where short money has been on offer at 2 per cent. Government have been heavy purchasers of Sterling from the exchange banks, and the rupee seems no nearer its 1s. 4d. level. Stock market movements seem to be purely speculative.

INDIANISATION OF THE ARMY.

(By Our Simla Correspondent).

Simla. June 24.

My last letter dealt in general terms with the practical difficulties which will have to be overcome before the Indianisation of the Indian Army can be carried out with any greater rapidity than at present, and the difficulties to which reference was made were discussed almost entirely from the point of view of those in authority, who are responsible for the success or failure of any Indianisation scheme. There is another point of view, however, which must be taken seriously into consideration, one which does not find expression to such an extent as the other in the debates of the Legislative Assembly, but which must nevertheless weigh very definitely with the military authorities in this country. This is the point of view of the Indian officers who hold the King's or the Viceroy's commission, and of the sepoys themselves. At the present moment eight selected units of the Indian Army are being Indianised as fast as King's commissioned Indian officers become available for posting to them. Although, however, this process of replacing British by Indian officers in these eight units was begun more than two years ago, the results achieved as yet are by no means encouraging, for there is not one of them that to-day has more than two Indians among its King's commissioned officers.

The chief reason for this lies not, as many Indians would have one believe, in the apathy of the authorities or in the smallness of the number of Indian cadets passing out of Sandhurst each year, but in the rooted objection which the Indian officer, newly commissioned from Sandhurst, has to being posted to one of the units in process of being Indianised. When the eight-unit scheme was first formulated early in 1923, the majority of Indians holding the King's commission, who had already been posted to other regiments, expressed their unwillingness to be transferred

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to any of these eight. This was readily understandable, for they had already had time to settle down in their messes and were loth to be moved away from the friends they had just made. Unfortunately the same unwillingness has continued to manifest itself among the officers of more recent batches, many of whom have expressed their intention to resign their commissions rather than serve in these Indianised units. What is the reason for this general objection to service under such conditions? There is no doubt that the young Indian officer after his first year's attachment to a British regiment, following directly on his training at Sandhurst, finds himself thoroughly at home among British officers, and prefers the known, in the shape of a mess peopled, besides himself, almost entirely with British officers, to the unknown which may mean living in close contact with numbers of officers who, though his fellow countrymen, may differ from him in religion, caste, speech, habits and practically every other respect. But it is rather the fear of the future which acts upon him as the chief deterrent, the fear of the time when he may have to serve under other Indians, for whom by reason of these very differences he will have a feeling of dislike, if not of actual hostility, such as he is never likely to feel towards the average type of impartial and straightforward British officer, albeit the latter is in most respects even more different from him than his fellow Indian. There may be other and minor reasons also which have combined to turn the minds of young Indians, so definitely against the eight-unit scheme, but they all relate directly or indirectly to this preference for service with or under British officers.

The attitude of the sepoy class, brought up for generations to believe implicitly in the fairness and justice of the British officer, is very much the same. Knowing only too well the weaknesses of their fellow-countrymen when placed in positions of authority, the men in the ranks will always prefer to lay their cases before a British officer rather than an Indian officer, even though the present King's commissioned Indians, drawn for the most part from the highest classes in the land and from those which have military traditions behind them, have been educated at Sandhurst in just the same manner as their British comrades. But the greatest bugbear to the sepoy is the fear that the officer ranks of the Army may be thrown open to the educated classes of India as a whole without regard to birth or antecedents, and that he may find himsef under the command of men drawn originally from the clerk or shopkeeper classes, for whom he, as a fighting man, has a supreme contempt. The officers drawn from the aristocracy or from the martial classes, agriculturists like himself, he can put up with, if it is necessary for him to serve under his own countrymen, but it is another matter to ask him to serve under the sons of men for whom he has not a vestige of respect. This fact in itself constitutes a further difficulty to the progress of Indianisation in the Army; for it is the classes to which he objects which can most easily afford the expense of having their sons trained to enter the commissioned ranks of the Army. If, however, as a result of political pressure by the leaders of Indian thought, or of weakness on the part of the Government, the way is opened to these classes to find their way into the Army as officers in any numbers, there is nothing more certain than that the men of the martial classes, from among whom the recruits for the Army have always been drawn, and through whose sterling qualities it has been found possible to make that Army as efficient a weapon as it is to-day for the defence of India, will prefer to seek employment elsewhere.

Indian politicians are fond of declaring that, since Japan was able in the short space of forty years to organise and train an army capable of comparison with the armies of European nations, India must be able to do the same. There is one vital point, however, which they overlook—that, unlike Japan, India is not a single nation, but a mixture of many, differing widely in religion, language, and outlook. The division which exists at present between Hindus and Moslems, to take but a single instance, is by itself sufficient to prevent the growth of that spirit of unity and patriotism which is essential to the formation of a national army.

CURRENT TOPICS.

British Trade in the East.

The *Monthly Journal* of the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce for July remarks that her trade with the Far East is the greatest testimony to the all-round enterprise of Britain: it was the most difficult to obtain, and may prove the most difficult to retain. It thus forms a fairly accurate measure of her general economic efficiency.

Our supremacy in the Indian trade is still unchallenged, but Japanese competition is beginning to make itself felt in the cotton industry. This has affected the Indian as well as the British manufacturer, and the Bombay cotton magnates have proposed an adjustment of duties in favour of Britain against the worst effects of Japanese rivalry. That Indian industrialists recognise the advantage of the Imperial connection is a good omen for our future trade with India, and it is possible that their appreciation of the solid benefits of Imperial Preference may have an important bearing upon the general movement for the encouragement of trade within the Empire.

Our greatest commercial rival in the East is Japan, the seriousness of whose rivalry is not only indicated by the great increase in her trade with India during the last twelve years, but even more by the fact that she has achieved it in her present condition of comparative poverty. "At present she is concentrating very largely upon internal development and improvement. These will bring about a healthy increase in her total economic efficiency; they will mean that her competition, when the full pressure of it becomes apparent, will at least not be that of a country driven to depend upon sweated labour and reckless underselling. It will be normal competition of the kind that, in the long run, through the general stimulation of trade and of buying power, automatically compensates for temporary injury done to the trade of vigorous and alert rivals."

The Commander-in-Chief.

A luncheon was given to Field-Marshal Sir William Birdwood by the Royal Colonial Institute on July 16. The Duke of Connaught presided, and proposed the health of Sir William and Lady Birdwood. In the course of his reply, Sir William Birdwood said that he challenged the idea that India no longer afforded an honourable career, in either the civil or military services, for young men of the British race. He knew of no people who, more than the Indians, would respond to the human touch, eagerly, willingly and happily. If young men would go out there with the courage and faith of their forefathers, determined to go straight to the point honestly, and to show the people that they intend to deal always with courage, courtesy, common sense and, if possible, continuity of policy, he could assure them that they would not regret looking to India for an honourable career to the great advantage of the Empire.

The Davis Cup.

The defeat of the Indian lawn tennis team by Holland was not unexpected; but, even if the result had been reversed, India could not have hoped to survive another round, since the winners have to meet the redoubtable Frenchmen who carried all before them at Wimbledon. It is noticeable that the team against Holland consisted solely of Indians—a new departure which is certainly in the right direction. The Indian players did quite well at Wimbledon, especially Jagat Mohan Lal who, up to a certain point, made an excellent match of it with the brilliant French player Cochet. Jagat Mohan Lal's display was, indeed, most refreshing to watch, since his style was markedly different from that adopted by most Indian players, who have a tendency to reduce to an exact science the two first principles of lawn tennis—to get the ball over the net and to keep it in the court. The result of this style of play is a sort of glorified pat-ball, in which the player never makes an actual winner unless his opponent gives him a chance of passing him at the net, but relies upon the latter to beat himself. Jacob, who learned most of his tennis in India, is a skilful exponent

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of this style, and his match against the Belgian Washer —a fierce hitter—was a good example of it: Jacob did not so much win the match as wait for Washer to lose it. Jagat Mohan Lal, on the contrary, goes for the stroke every time, and very often brings it off; which is, after all, the way to bring himself into the first flight. The skilful pat-baller will often manage to get a round further than the man who always goes for the stroke, until the latter learns to add certainty to brilliance, when he may hope for the highest honours; while the former can never be anything better than a "useful plater."

INDIAN EXCHANGE.

London, July 20.

Since our last report cable advices from India indicate that Rupee Exchange has remained fairly steady at 1/6-1/16th T.T., although rates were none too strong in Bombay towards the end of the week, when 1/32 lower was the general quotation.

Buyers of exchange in India, however, do not seem to be plentiful, and any business reported has been at 1/6-1/16 to 3/32 up to Saturday. Monday's cables indicate more strength, with 3/32 offered freely without attracting buyers.

In the London market, business has been quoted at a shade under 1/6-1/8 and transactions, so far as we have been able to gather, have been on a restricted scale at 1/6-7/64; but in sympathy with the firmness in India the rate is now 1/6⅛ to 5/32 with very little passing. The Indian Government has not been called upon to buy, and easier conditions prevail in the money market. Forward rates on the other side have been maintained, and December and January telegraphic is offering at 1/6-3/16 to 1/6-7/32.

According to the Government forecast from Calcutta, the acreage under jute has been increased by over 7 per cent., and the estimated crop is placed at bales 8,800,000. Private reports received in this country indicate that the condition of the crop is fairly good. Taking the figures issued in previous years, in which Government have invariably under-estimated the out-turn, it may safely be assumed that the crop will probably show a more favourable result than the forecast. The Monsoon news continues good and the rainfall has been generally up to the average.

THE LIBERATOR.

BY MUSAFIR.

It was Ram Lall's ambition to be hailed as the Liberator of India. The idea had grown up gradually in his mind. A clear, pushing lad, he had obtained his education practically for nothing with the aid of scholarships provided by the Government, he had qualified at the Bar, and had settled down to the pursuit of that honourable calling. Unfortunately the processes of education had developed his tongue at the expense of his brain, and, like so many other aspirants, he learned that practice is apt to lag behind theory. Few cases came his way, and the number showed no signs of increasing, so he had leisure to meditate upon the causes of things, and naturally he began by blaming the authorities who had educated him for a profession by which he could not live. His eyes thus opened, he saw that the iniquity of the Government was the root of all the trouble in the world, for nearly everyone said so, and words are facts; that being so, it was obvious that the Government should be extirpated, and then everything would go right.

He explained this guileless creed one afternoon to his banker, Manohar Dass, who had hinted that his account was in an unhealthy state, and that a certain promissory note was about to mature. The banker was sympathetic. "True, very true," he said, "this foreign Government is a very great evil. But what's the use of saying so to me? We poor shopkeepers are helpless," and he patted his portly stomach with a deprecatory air.

"Who should I say it to, then?" asked Ram Lall. "We are all helpless alike."

"Not all. Look at the politicians. They can do what they like, and an orator like you should go far. Why don't you turn politician yourself?"

"How should I live?"

"How do you live now? Talking can pay better than law, if one knows how it's done; but come inside, for these things are not for the ears of all my customers."

Manohar Dass was acting under instructions. His banking business was real enough, but apart from it he had a secret connection with the great Cotton Syndicate, which controlled so many of the mills further South, and the Syndicate was out for a change of government on strictly commercial grounds. It was prepared to clothe all India—at a price, and objected strongly to any share of the business going to any other country, whether Lancashire or Japan. It believed in cheap labour, and had no use whatever for Factory Acts, Welfare Work, Trades Unions, and such Western notions. It yearned for the good old days when the whip that hung on the wall of every workship was not there for ornament. It was not too late to restore the old régime, but it soon would be, if spinners and weavers should once grasp the pernicious doctrine that they were human beings; and accordingly the Syndicate was spending substantial sums by way of Secret Service, and debiting them in its books to Goodwill. Several agitators were already in its pay, but there was room for more, and Manohar Dass, who was a tolerable judge of human nature, had come to the conclusion that his loquacious customer was made of the right stuff. At any rate, the bargain was struck, and Ram Lall emerged from the banker's parlour with a new mission in life, to abuse the Government in return for a small salary and an allowance for the expense of travelling.

His rise was rapid. He harangued the local political associations to such purpose that they chose him as a delegate to the provincial conference, and thence in due course he passed to the national executive. And he improved as he went on, for every day he heard of fresh grievances, and he believed them all; the torrent of his burning eloquence swept over India, until the Syndicate raised his salary; he travelled East and West and South, searching for oppression, and he never failed to find it; the young men hung on his lips; and his seniors, though some of them were desperately jealous, were forced to allow him ample scope. Already he was known as Srijut in the East, and Mahârshi in the Middle West: whispers of his miraculous powers began to spread; daily he sought martyrdom at the hands of a callous Administration; and the supreme title of Mahâtma seemed almost within his reach. His success was due mainly to his transparent sincerity. He was indeed a master of his craft, he possessed in full measure

"action, and utterance, and the power of speech
To move men's minds,"

but he could not help believing that what he said was true, and his greatest strength lay in the absence of any critical power. He could rise to white heat in a moment at the story of something that never had, nor could possibly have happened, and he could bring his audience quickly to his own temperature, just because of the obvious depth of his conviction.

It was a great day for Ram Lall when he was invited to be President of the Central Revolutionary Conference. For a few months the whole movement had been a little under the weather. Some of the leaders had been sulking, a few had blundered into gaol, and the remainder had been quarrelling rather bitterly among themselves. The Conference was announced to "inaugurate a new era"; everyone was to be reconciled; and the whole gathering, to be held at Delhi, directly under the Imperial Government's nose, was to decide on a plan of action which should eliminate that Government from the field of vision. Ram Lall followed the etiquette recognised as appropriate to such occasions. He refused the nomination on several contradictory but convincing grounds; he was adamant against the torrent of telegraphic protests which followed his refusal; and then he yielded gracefully to a train-load

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of delegates, who embraced him individually and by squads. As a matter of fact, the position was sufficiently onerous. First came the long hours of deliberation in committee, when, behind closed and guarded doors, each member in turn directed his unrestrained invective against the previous speaker; when deadlock succeeded deadlock; and when the search for a formula threatened to degenerate into a catch-as-catch-can scrimmage. But on this occasion a sense of the common interest happily prevailed, and towards two o'clock in the morning the Committee agreed on the text of the principal resolution, which covered eleven pages of print, and ended with the declaration that India, wounded almost to the death, and prostrate at the feet of an alien mis-government, looked for deliverance to her neighbours, and offered her unswerving allegiance to any Asiatic Power which should cleanse her Sacred Soil from the pollution which now sullied it. That was the line of action on which agreement had at last been reached. Some speakers had urged a direct appeal to Kabul, others had been in favour of Khatmandu, but the choice of a dynasty had been left open, and India was to offer herself to the first king who came along.

At noon Ram Lall rose to address the full Conference in this sense, and when he sat down at sunset there was literally nothing left to be said. It was said, however, at some length by the speakers who followed; then the great resolution was carried without amendment, and Ram Lall was chaired in triumph to his lodging amidst the delighted yells of all the bad boys who infest the streets of Delhi. He was the guest of a prominent Moslem delegate named Wali Khan, for they had marked his elevation to the presidential seat by a formal abandonment of all social or religious restrictions which might conflict with the newborn national unanimity. Of course there was a great dinner in his honour, so great that a European cook had been employed for the occasion; and Ram Lall. worn out as he was, ate largely of the unaccustomed food, while the company canvassed eagerly the chances of their invitation being accepted. Pleading fatigue, he retired early, and fell into a heavy sleep the moment his head touched the pillow.

II.

Ram Lall was awakened by unusual sounds, the trampling of horses and the rumble of guns, and his first thought was that the challenge had been accepted, and that the city was being filled with troops as a preliminary to the arrest of the Conference *en masse*. That, he thought, would be a glorious martyrdom, and he went out into the verandah to meet it, but it was his host, Wali Khan, who seized him in an eager embrace, saying, "This is the Great Day, Brother, for India and for us."

"What has happened?" asked Ram Lall.

"The English devils are marching South, with their backs to Delhi, and the King of the North is coming to complete our deliverance. You can see his horsemen already before the Fort."

"Already! It is only a few hours since——"

"The King of the North wastes little time. To-day he takes his seat upon the throne, and you and I must be there to welcome him, and claim our reward. We had better dress at once, so as not to be late."

"Dress?" said Ram Lall. "I have nothing but my homespun suit."

"Wear it then. It will suit you as our leader, but homespun has done its work, and—you know I used to be rather a dandy."

When they met again Wali Khan looked very little like a serious politician. With his moustache curled defiantly upward, his turban stiff with gold embroidery, and his sash stuck full of daggers, he was much more like a cheerful trans-Border ruffian out for a holiday, and he made an effective foil to his companion, who wore a scanty suit of the coarsest cotton cloth. Together they made their way to the Fort, and on to the great Hall, already filling rapidly for the Durbar. The ushers separated them at the doorway, and Ram Lall found himself in a prominent place, close to the Golden Rails, and surrounded by rather truculent-looking strangers, who showed no interest in his conversation. He spent the time, therefore, in putting together a few phrases of welcome to be uttered when an opportunity should present itself, and, before very long, he saw the new Ruler of Hindustan enter and take his seat upon the throne—a lithe figure with a stern face that showed no trace of any emotion.

The proceedings opened with a proclamation announcing the departure of the English, and the King's return to what, by a pardonable perversion of history, was described as the throne of his ancestors. Then the members of the audience were called up, one by one, to do homage and receive their rewards, jewelled swords, richly brocaded robes, and assignments of revenue to be collected from the fat plains of Hindustan. The procession was a long one, but at last Ram Lall was called, and advanced to the steps of the throne, a figure at once pathetic and grotesque in the midst of that barbarous splendour. Departing from the recognised etiquette, he delivered a brief address of welcome, touching on the efforts he had made to hasten the advent of the auspicious day, and his unfeigned joy at its arrival, asking little for himself, but urging that the services of his associates might not be overlooked. At the close he bowed, awaiting the burst of applause to which he considered himself entitled; but the silence was unbroken, until the Minister, standing at the King's right hand, announced the royal pleasure that the efforts of the late President of the Central Conference should be fittingly rewarded on a more suitable occasion, and then a trooper conducted him out of the hall. This somewhat unusual procedure naturally aroused his anxiety, for he realised that his stipend would probably cease now that his work was done, and when they were in the open air, he asked his guide what the reward would be. The reply was a rude laugh, and a blow on the head with a sword-hilt, which put an abrupt end to the conversation.

When Ram Lall recovered consciousness, he found himself in very evil case. He was lying on the sandy ground between the Fort and the River; he was naked, his arms and legs were secured with thongs, and, what was almost worse, he was gagged, and so deprived of the weapon on which he most relied. Looking round, he saw that he was the only occupant of a sort of arena, the boundaries of which were marked by lines of troops, while behind the troops the whole population of the countryside were saluting with the utmost reverence; and when he glanced from them to the Fort, he saw the new King, sitting in full state at the historic window, where Emperors of India, from Shahjahan to George, had been wont to show themselves to their subjects. From the battlements, where the whole Court was gathered, came a call to silence, and then a loud voice was heard. At first Ram Lall took in little of what was said, but his head cleared by degrees, and he noticed that this was no effort of rhetoric or conventional language, but an Order given by a Man accustomed to being obeyed, and then suddenly the words began to burn themselves into his brain.

"Under the rule of the English," he heard, "Hindustan has learned much, but some things have been forgotten. Let these things now be recalled to mind. Hindustan has forgotten that subjects owe obedience to their King. Treason and rebellion have been allowed to raise their heads, and designing men have lured the people from the path of allegiance. Wherefore, Men of Hindustan, the Great King has ordered that on this day of his accession ye shall see how traitors die. Such an one lies there. A traitor to the English Emperor, he has been bold to ask for a reward. The Great King has listened to his request, and has deigned to grant him his deserts, even the Reward of the Elephant. Long live the King!"

The crowd echoed the loyal wish, and at the same moment a magnificent elephant entered the arena, and paused to salute his King. And through the din Ram Lall seemed to hear, like an echo, the monotonous voice of the old Professor, who had failed to teach him the history of his native land.

"The Mogul administration," it said, "while always strict, was particularly severe on any manifestation of disloyalty or disaffection. The commonest penalty for seditious language was to be mangled by an elephant,

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which was specially trained for the operation, and could protract the sufferings of the victim for an indefinite period, though a sufficient bribe paid to the mahout might secure a comparatively speedy death."

But on this occasion money had not passed, and the elephant was in no hurry. Having performed his salute, he strolled leisurely towards his victim, eyed him carefully, prodded him once or twice with a tusk, then, lifting him up, showed him to the King, and dropped him casually on the ground. Then after a short period of reflection, he repeated the operation before each section of the spectators in turn, and as he did so, the long-forgotten blood-lust of Old Delhi revived, and the crowd pressed hard on the double line of soldiers, each man striving to get a better view, while the hordes of naked street-boys, peeping between the soldiers' legs, yelled encouragement to the elephant, as they had cheered Ram Lall the day before. But there was no immediate hurry, and the brute went through his programme conscientiously. Bruised and bleeding, the idol of the crowd was now only a plaything for the crowd's delight, and horribly conscious through it all that there was worse to come. Then, quite suddenly as it seemed, the executioner's attitude changed. It was business now, and the elephant, laying his victim squarely before him, began to kneel on his chest with one tremendous knee, while the crowd listened eagerly for the cracking of the ribs, which would mark the end——

And then, at last, Ram Lall woke up, still President of the Central Revolutionary Conference, and suffering from the most acute indigestion which it is possible to conceive.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN INDIA.

(By G. B. Scott, late Survey of India Department).

The Earl of Birkenhead, in his speech in the House of Lords, allows that the attempt to introduce representative government in India in accordance with the Montagu-Chelmsford scheme has not so far been successful and that the scheme needs modification. Sir George Lloyd, in the "Empire Number" of *The Times*, asks whether a fair measure of success may not be obtained by "considering whether the present method by which the Electorate express their will might not with advantage be modified to forms more suitable to the particular circumstances of the country and the degree of development of the Electorate."

It may be admitted that one of the main reasons for the non-success of the experiment so far has been that the so-called representative councils and assemblies are almost exclusively composed of members of the town-bred, semi-anglicised professional classes, the product of the government colleges and schools, the notorious "student" class, who are as a rule ignorant of and antagonistic to the interests of the agricultural and "depressed" classes, who form about nine-tenths of the entire population of over 300 millions.

So soon as the large communities of other sections realised the fact that the form of representative government adopted was likely to place powers of legislation and administration in the hands of an oligarchy of Brahmins, lawyers and moneylenders, a demand arose for communal representation of Moslems, Sikhs and the millions of "untouchables" in the Madras Presidency, as well as of the scattered domiciled English and Anglo-Indian communities and the Native Christians.

Racial and religious animosities have on many occasions led to rioting and bloodshed in all parts of India, in spite of the most careful precautions on the part of the civil and military authorities. But, until within the last few years, no "Colour Question" arose, nor any doubt as to British supremacy; nor did the Native Press add to other causes of bitterness by such remarks as that "the Hindus were desirous of imposing a Hindu Raj" or that the "Moslems were aiming at the use of physical force to impose their will on the Hindus." Such statements, appearing in the Native Press on the eve of the last Bakr Id Moslem festival, probably had much to do with the serious disturbances that occurred in Calcutta, and those which were only averted in Allahabad by the tact and firmness of the civil authorities.

Lord Olivier, in an article on communal representation in the *Contemporary Review* for April, 1925, seems to imply that communal representation is impossible especially for the Europeans and Anglo-Indians—is this so?

Every province in India is divided into districts and these into sub-divisions and villages with well-defined boundaries, and also into village circles. From very early times till the rise of the Moslem Kingdoms most of the administrative work in the villages was carried on by panchayets, committees of five elders, to whom were referred all civil and religious disputes for settlement. Up to the present time in Hindu villages there are panchayets, elected by the members of each caste, to whom disputes regarding breaches of caste customs as to marriage, eating and drinking with lower castes, and occasionally disputes regarding field boundaries and water distribution for irrigation are referred.

The decisions of these panchayets are as a rule accepted without demur and acted on. It should not be beyond the ability of district officials to organise some such committees in each village circle to collect the votes of all actual landholders and tenants residing in the circle in favour of candidates to be sent as representatives to a district council. From members of these councils could be chosen by vote representatives to form a provincial council and from the provincial councils representatives for an Imperial Council or Assembly.

Representatives for urban areas could be chosen by such form of election as seemed suitable.

For rural areas only members of agricultural castes actually holding land in a village circle should be eligible for election to these councils. To ensure this the elections should be managed and checked by British or Anglo-Indian officials who alone would as a rule be accepted by all classes as impartial and incorruptible. No doubt many of the rural representatives would be illiterate, as some nine-tenths of the population can neither read nor write, but this does not prevent them from knowing what legislation would be beneficial for their constituents. How many of the lay nobility that compelled King John to sign the Great Charter, or who fought at Crecy, could write their own names? Anyhow, communal representation would be attained automatically. Urban representatives would certainly be members of the "intelligentsia" and, though in the minority, would know well how to guard their own interests. In the Imperial Council and Assembly the members of the more important though antagonistic religions would be in about equal numbers. Thus, for example, Eastern Bengal is Moslem, Western Bengal mostly Hindu. Behar and Orissa are Hindu, the North-West Frontier Moslem. The Western Punjab is Moslem, the Eastern Sikh and Hindu. In Agra and Oudh the two main religions have about an equal number of adherents intermingled. Somewhat similar conditions prevail in other provinces. In the Bombay Presidency the Parsis and Jains are small in numbers but influential and wealthy and would secure representation for the towns.

There remain to be considered the Europeans, Anglo-Indians and Native Christians and the "untouchables" of Madras. These last have in recent years greatly improved their social standing and are numerous enough to secure very able and highly educated members of their community to represent them. There are throughout India some four millions of Native Christians, half of whom are Roman Catholics, and there are large communities of both Catholics and Protestants in the Madras Presidency who, with the help and advice of the European Missionaries, could secure representatives in the councils, and guard the interests of their co-religionists in other parts of India. The European mercantile community, especially in Calcutta, is well able to take care of itself. The same cannot be said of the Anglo-Indians and "Domiciled Europeans" scattered over India, to the number of about three hundred thousand.

Of the Anglo-Indians a large number, owing to neglected education, unhealthy surroundings and poverty, live in the crowded cheap quarters of Calcutta and other large cities, many hardly distinguishable from their Indian neighbours living under similar conditions. But, scattered throughout the Empire are many thousands differing only in colour from Englishmen, who with their domiciled English co-

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workers have, during the last century, formed part of the "steel frame" that made, and still upholds, the Indian Empire which, without this frame, would soon collapse into a chaotic mass, worse than Russia or China. Some have risen to high rank and position in the Army and the Civil Services, and are prominent members of the mercantile community. But the greater number have held what may be styled the intermediate stages of the services between the "men from home" and the vast Indian establishments. While the senior executive and administrative posts in the various branches of the service were filled by the "Covenanted" Civil Servants and others appointed in England, including some Indians, the upper subordinates in the Magisterial and Judicial, Public Works, Forests, Customs, Survey, Medical ,Telegraph and other services, as well as the mechanics, drivers, guards, etc., on the railways, were largely Anglo-Indians, and well they did their work.

Lord Olivier thinks it is right that all posts in the subordinate Civil Services should be reserved for Indians in preference to domiciled Englishmen and Anglo-Indians. In this connection the following extract from *The Times* own correspondent's letter, dated Allahabad, May 22, 1925, may be of interest:—

> "Since 1920 out of a cadre of 120 subordinate judges (in the United Provinces) six had confessed to having been guilty of habitually receiving bribes, a seventh had been found guilty. . . .others less guilty had received warning. . . . Conditions in India are different from those in England, owing to the daily mixing of the judges with members of the Bar in friendly intercourse. . . . ."

It may be surmised that, if such practices are customary in such an advanced Province, matters must be worse in others. On the other hand it may confidently be asserted that during the last half-century not six Anglo-Indian submagistrates have been truthfully charged with bribery. And, if sub-judges take bribes, it is certain that the same may be said of the other branches of the services, the Forests, Canals, Public Works, Customs, etc. It is characteristic that what is known as bribery in England is known in India as dastoori—customary!

If the Anglo-Indian is trusted by the natives, especially the agricultural and depressed classes, as being honest, impartial and sympathetic, surely that alone should be a good reason for employing him in government work, even if he is not as good as the Indian in passing examinations. Even this defect, if it be one, is due to the way that both State and Church have neglected their duty to the community. Lord Olivier thinks the Anglo-Indian youth should enter the government schools for Indians, and cites Jamaica where English, Negroes, and those of mixed blood all attend the same schools without any class distinctions. In Jamaica all these sections are born and educated as Christians, all speak the same language and have the same interests, and the same standards of morality and conduct.

In Indian schools Anglo-Indian children would form a small minority. If Lord Olivier sees no objection to the Anglo-Indian youth adopting the Moslem opinions and practices on, say, sexual matters, or to their being influenced by the degrading superstitions imbibed by many Hindu children in their homes, he cannot expect Anglo-Indian parents to do so.

It is largely due to the fact that the great bulk of British officials, Civil and Military, and the British mercantile community in India, held aloof from the Indians and remained thoroughly British in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and did not follow the lead of M. Dupleix and some other French and Italian officers, that the British have retained the respect, if not affection, of all Indians, and it is largely due to the same cause that the bulk of the Anglo-Indian community has not been submerged into the "untouchable" classes.

It is deeply to be regretted that, when money was being lavished by Government on an Indian Educational Establishment, little or no help was given to the schools for Anglo-Indian children, and that the great Protestant Missionary Societies, unlike the Roman Catholic, used all their zeal and resources for conversion of the "heathen." Their utter neglect of their fellow-Christians of mixed blood was a bad object-lesson to those "heathen" and certainly did not encourage evangelisation.

Perhaps it is still not too late for Church and State to take up the cause of a community that in the future, as in the past, could be relied on to remain loyal to the British Raj, and to render valuable aid to the cause of Law and Order in troublesome times. A few seats in the Imperial and Provincial Councils might be reserved, with advantage to Government, for representatives of the domiciled European and Anglo-Indian communities who could be chosen in each province by their Associations or by votes of all adult members of those communities holding responsible positions.

THE INDIAN MAIL.

India's Iron Industry.

Speaking at a meeting of the Rotary Club in Calcutta, Mr. C. B. Chartres said that for centuries India exported steel until her trade was killed by developments in Europe, but that now she was beginning to reassert herself by exporting pig iron to almost every country in the world—even to Glasgow and Middlesbrough. The day might come when it would pay better to export steel than pig iron, but that would involve the training of a large body of Indians in the difficult processes and hard work inseparable from steel making, and would take time and money—the latter very difficult to raise at present in India. In every country in the world where steel was successfully produced to-day, it was done under protection: e.g., in the United States, Belgium, and Germany. England was the only "free" country, and the works there were struggling: many companies had shut down, and those that were working were losing money. It was not to be wondered at that Indian steel required protection. It would take at least two generations before they could thoroughly train Indian steel makers. The success of Indian pig iron was due not, as is generally believed, to cheap Indian labour, but to the excellence of the raw materials, their favourable geographical position, and to the fact that the works were modern, built on a large scale, and replete with every possible labour-saving device, so that the labour force required was relatively small.

Insurance Legislation.

The text of a Bill, to consolidate, amend and extend the law relating to Insurance Companies, has been published in the *Gazette of India*. The "statement of objects and reasons" explains that it is intended to rely, for the protection of the public, mainly on a policy of allowing no Insurance Company to carry on business in India unless and until it has paid a deposit to the Government, which should prevent the establishment of mushroom companies. Government securities to the face value of two lakhs of rupees will have to be deposited in respect of life assurance business, and of one lakh of rupees in any other class of insurance. The profits derived from the deposits will be made over to the companies, and will form part of their assets, but will be protected from attachment under any judgment obtained by a creditor of any company. In addition, it is proposed to insist on the fullest measure of publicity in regard to the working of each company, so that the public may be able to judge for themselves whether it is worked on sound and prudent lines. The control of Government over Insurance Companies is to be tightened—in the case of any Company whose returns show it to be on the verge of insolvency, the Government may apply to the Courts for the winding up of the Company, if it appears to be insolvent, and may require it to submit its affairs to actuarial examination where it seems likely that sound actuarial advice may restore it to a flourishing condition.

The N.W.R. Strike.

The North-Western Railway strike, as already reported by telegram, came to an end on June 18. On that and the

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following day 2,600 strikers were re-engaged by the Railway, and those who have returned to work have done so unconditionally. The disapproval of the strike, expressed by the recognised Union, has therefore been justified; and the unrecognised Union, which engineered the strike, has had to be content with publishing a lengthy statement in defence of their action, which appears in fact to have been mainly directed towards the establishment of their own importance in the Union. It should be noted, says the *Pioneer*, that the importance of this strike has been out of all proportion to the notice it has received. Thanks to the energetic action of the authorities, it had comparatively little effect on the train services. Altogether the Railway Administration has reason to congratulate itself on the firmness and fairness of its handling of a situation that could only have arisen in a country where the fundamental principles of trade unionism have yet to be properly appreciated.

The Haj.

Official news was received in mail week that the first two pilgrim steamers from India arrived safely at Rabegh, and that the pilgrims and their stores were landed without interference. The first caravan was due to leave Rabegh for Mecca on June 20. The total number of pilgrims who sailed from India is 2,350, of whom approximately 1,100 were Indians, the remainder being foreigners who passed through India *en route* to the Hejaz. The news of the safe landing of the pilgrims has relieved much anxiety felt in India regarding their reception at Rabegh; since the British Consul at Jeddah received notice from King Ali's Foreign Minister that the bombardment of Rabegh would continue in spite of the arrival there of the pilgrim ships: that the pilgrims would not be harmed but that, if they "went ashore and mingled with the enemy" they would do so at their own peril: that landing of goods would be prevented by all possible means: and that every boat or dhow appearing in the harbour would be captured or sunk. Possibly the presence of the much-maligned British warship dissuaded the commander of King Ali's "man-of-war" from adopting these rather remarkable methods of refraining from "harming" the pilgrims.

Mr. Das' Funeral.

Remarkable scenes were witnessed in Calcutta on June 18 on the occasion of the funeral of Mr. C. R. Das. The body arrived at 7.30 a.m. at Sealdah Station, and long before that hour a great concourse of people, estimated at at least 100,000, had assembled: all the platforms being filled to their utmost capacity, and every available inch of space in the station and the surrounding buildings being occupied. A procession was formed soon after the arrival of the train, the body being carried on a bier which was covered with flowers. All along the route the streets and houses were packed, and the procession took about five hours to reach Mr. Das' residence, and nearly eight hours to reach the burning ghat on the bank of the Hooghly. At various points along the route the pressure of the crowd was so great that the barricade was broken through, and it was with great difficulty that the actual ceremony of cremation was performed: a personal appeal from Mr. Gandhi to the crowd, not to enter the cremation enclosure, being disregarded. Mr. Gandhi has appealed to the Government to release the Bengal political prisoners in memory and honour of Mr. Das—"not on the ground of innocence, for the Government may have the best proof of their guilt, but as a tribute to the deceased and without prejudice."

Punjab Sports.

The Governor of the Punjab opened, on June 22, a Conference at Simla for the encouragement of rural games in the Punjab. He said that their object was not only to see the Province materially more prosperous and intellectually more advanced, but also healthier, happier and brighter. Anyone who had seen the great attendances at sports meetings and wrestling matches in the Punjab would know how universal was the interest that they aroused. The life of the ordinary Punjab villagers was often a hard one, and generally somewhat drear and colourless: in his leisure moments there must often be much ennui—the source of many of the troubles of life—and he was apt to seek distraction in civil litigation, "or even the more expensive and intriguing entanglements of the criminal courts." The Conference decided that a serious attempt should be made to revise old rural games that were falling into disuse, and to encourage those that were still popular: these, if desired, could be supplemented by such special forms of sport as tent-pegging and horseracing, or by the introduction of exotic games such as hockey and football.

It is, of course, perfectly well known that litigation in India is quite often indulged in as a form of sport, and this is specially true of the Punjab. In a memorandum presented to the Civil Justice Committee by the District Judge of Jullundur, the writer remarked that a member of the intelligentsia usually lives in a city where he has certain amusements open to him; but the average cultivator's only form of amusement, until the annexation of the Punjab in 1849, was attendance at local fairs. Since then he has had another form of interest and amusement open to him, furnished by the Civil Code then prepared. At first the volume of litigation was small; but, when the Punjab Laws Act was passed twenty-three years later, it turned into "a great flood": so that there is probably not a family in the Punjab that has not had at least one lawsuit since the annexation. The procedure in the subordinate courts is long, but apparently not tedious to the suitor: and, whenever possible, there is invariably an appeal—partly because the litigant has become interested in the game, partly because it is a point of honour with him to fight to the bitter end. Incidentally, the writer of the memorandum said that, if a Supreme Court is ever established in India, in a few years twenty judges will not be able to cope with the flood of litigation that will overwhelm it.

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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

170, *Strand, London, W.C.2.*
Tuesday Morning.

Smyrna's Recovery.

One of the most interesting developments in the Near East is the rapid way in which Smyrna is recovering the trade position it occupied before the War. Of course, the situation at Smyrna cannot be taken as indicative of the progress of Turkey as a whole for the region which the port serves is specially favoured from the economic point of view and it was obvious that once the fruit growing regions recovered, the restoration of the importance of Smyrna would not be long delayed. But it was not imagined that the progress would be so swift. Last year the value of the exports was £T57,448,400, while that of the imports was £T48,288,000, there being thus a favourable trade balance of £T9,160,400. A comparison of these figures with those of the previous year brings out very clearly the advance that has been made. The value of the exports in 1923 was £T35,007,482, that of the imports being £T17,911,229. The principal exports last year were sultanas £T22,900,000, tobacco £T10,156,000, and figs £T5,956,000 while the principal imports were grain and flour £T7,046,000 and coal £T3,000,000. To compare the trade figures for last year with those of 1913-14, the last normal pre-War year, it is necessary to allow for the fact that the pre-War £T1 is at present equal to roughly £T8. For 1913-14 the value of the exports was £T8,061,304, while that of the imports was £T5,803,350. Multiplying these figures by 8 we get £T64,490,432 for exports and £T46,426,800 for imports, the total value of the trade being thus £T110,927,232. The corresponding total for 1924 was £T105,736,400, so that it will be seen how far Smyrna has progressed on the road to economic recovery.

Smyrna Fruit Production.

The chief factor in the recovery of Smyrna as a port has been the development of the fruit production of the province. Last year the yield of sultanas was almost up to the pre-War average. The yield of sultanas last year amounted to 45,000 tons as compared with 59,000 tons for 1913 and 53,000 tons for 1912, and with the average for the period of 1903 to 1913 of about 46,000 tons. The yield of figs for 1924 was 23,000 tons while that of the previous year was 24,500 tons, and these figures compare with 20,900 tons for 1913 and 19,800 tons for 1912. In the trade figures I have quoted in the previous note, it will be observed that there was a great increase in the imports in 1924 as compared with 1923. The fact that the imports were relatively small prior to last year, was due to the general impoverishment of the province. Developments since 1914 and then the war with Greece, the destruction of the orchards and vineyards and the fire at Smyrna, all meant a decreased purchasing power, and one or two good harvests were essential before the inhabitants could be in a position to make purchases on an extended scale. The improvement in the imports last year is a measure of the material progress of the province, and indicates plainly that Smyrna is going to be an economic force in the Eastern waters of the Mediterraean.

Constantinople To-day.

It is a commentary on the fact that natural advantages are not everything, that while Smyrna is, to some extent, recapturing the prosperity of the pre-War period, Constantinople, despite positional advantages should still be a city of stagnation with little prospect in the immediate future of regaining its prosperity unless a turn of the political wheel should bring about the transference of the seat of Government from Angora to the Bosphorus or the Russians changed their Government, and with the restoration of normal conditions the development of the Black Sea trade again made Constantinople an important market. The main economic importance of Constantinople at the present time is, of course, in relation to trade between Turkey and the Balkans, in particular with Roumania and Bulgaria, but while this has been increasing and has imparted to the port rather more activity in recent months it would take much more than merely local trade before Constantinople can assume once again a busy appearance. The main hope of Constantinople lies now in the economic development of the country, and considerable progress is being made in this direction elsewhere than in Smyrna, notably as regards cotton growing in the Adana region, the production of which increased from 69,000 bales last year to 200,000 bales this year. According to a Turkish estimate, the possible output of cotton for the country is put at four million bales. That is rather a large total, and if it be possible, it will at any rate, judging by experiences elsewhere, be a very long time before it is reached, but the concentration on cotton as a crop shows more plainly, perhaps, than anything else could that the rulers of Turkey understand very clearly the best way of promoting economic progress of the country.

Quality of British Motor Cycles.

I commented recently on the success obtained by British motor cycles at Sofia. The same story is to be told of the motor cycle competition which has just been held at Linas-Montlhery in France. Again the British products were successful over all opposition, and the result can only be regarded as most encouraging for British industry as a whole in this period of depression, for it proves clearly that British engineering ability is still equal to holding its own with the best efforts of foreign countries.

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Now that our motor cycles have so triumphantly demonstrated their quality it is only natural to expect that a sustained campaign will be entered upon to promote their sales abroad, and it is equally reasonable to expect that the potential foreign purchaser will demand a British machine because he will be sure that he is getting the best article of the kind on the market. And that brings me to the point that I want to emphasise. The foreigner will assuredly take British motor cycles because their quality has been brought to his notice, but our motor cycles are no isolated effort of British engineering, but are merely symptomatic of the quality for which all British products are distinguished. Why, then, is the foreigner not a buyer of other British engineering products on a large scale? The answer is, of course, that our firms, speaking generally, do not take the necessary trouble to bring their wares to the notice of buyers. This applies particularly to some of the Near Eastern markets. Buyers want to see what they are purchasing. As a class they are unwilling to go to any extreme trouble to obtain what they require, and if an article is put before them, so to speak, and it appears to meet with their requirements, they take it as the simplest course rather than wait to find out if they can obtain a superior article elsewhere. That explains very largely why British trade is not to the fore in the Near East. Some of our firms unfortunately prefer to wait for business to come to them rather than take the trouble to find possible openings, and it is not always the case, unfortunately, that when inquiries reach this country the necessary care is taken over the reply, with the result that business is lost. Methods such as this are less frequent than formerly, happily, but they must disappear altogether if this country is to hold its own in the foreign markets.

British Films.

To-day the President of the Board of Trade is receiving an important deputation consisting of representatives of the Federation of British Industries and other national organisations, who will submit a report giving the conclusions arrived at as a result of discussions by these bodies on the question of British film production. I dealt at length in these columns recently with the vital importance of the film question, and there is no need now to recapitulate the reasons which make it essential to establish a British industry which can at least hold its own against foreign competition. I would, however, point out that the matter is one which admits of no delay, and it is to be hoped that the result of this meeting will be that some definite scheme will be evolved and carried into effect by the Government.

Advertising for Lancashire.

I was very interested in Sir William Edge's remarks at the Advertising Convention at Harrogate regarding the scope for advertising in relation to the cotton trade. It is undoubtedly a fact that in proportion to its size the Lancashire cotton industry does remarkably little advertising, and yet, though it neglects the most obvious method of developing business, we hear more laments from it when things are going badly than from any other industry in like case. Sir William Edge points out that the problem of the advertiser is not only to get English people and people in the Empire to buy Lancashire cotton goods, but foreigners and peoples in Africa and Asia. As he says there is a very large gulf between the producer and the ultimate purchaser, and he believed that a properly organised sales campaign will sell the high-quality goods and lift them over every tariff wall in the world.

Near Eastern Markets.

It is to be hoped that if Lancashire does embark on an advertising campaign as a means of recovering her lost trade that the Near Eastern markets will receive adequate attention. The Near East is one of the trade outlets where as a result of conditions arising out of the War Lancashire has lost much ground, and while the

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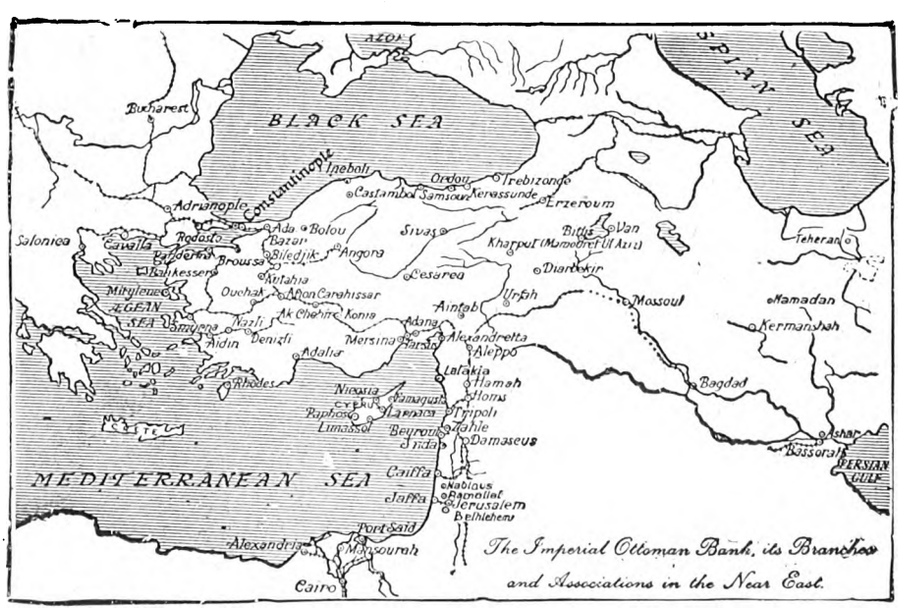

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position in many of the markets in that region has been very bad there are in every direction now indications that the economic situation is improving, and the time would certainly seem ripe for a sustained effort by Lancashire to recover her trade in these outlets. It is the more incumbent to do so in view of the strenuous efforts that competitors are making in the Near East. Not nearly enough attention has been paid hitherto to the painstaking attempts Italy is making to establish herself firmly in the Near East markets. At the moment Italy is undoubtedly one of the most dangerous trade competitors we have in the Near East, and the general industrial situation in Italy speaks volumes as to the success of that country's efforts to find outlets for its products.

Lake Copais Company.

The nature of the development work being done in Greece by this company lends a special interest to its operations. At the general meeting, a report of which will be found on another page in this issue, the chairman, Mr. W. Sandford Poole, dealt in detail with the progress made in 1924. During the year the area cultivated was 31,107 acres, which represents an increase of 4,424 acres. Crops were harvested on 29,690 acres, a larger area than in any year since 1918. The principal crops grown are oats, wheat, and cotton, the last-named being the most remunerative crop grown. Last year the area under cotton was 4,593 acres. Mr. Sandford Poole mentioned that the arbitration proceedings between the Greek Government and the company have been concluded, and stated that as soon as the full details have been received they will be communicated to the shareholders by circular. "It is hoped," he added, "that the award will remove many of the uncertainties which have so handicapped the administration of the company during the past thirty years and more, and will clear away the various grounds of differences. We have ourselves given up a good deal to achieve this end, and we hope our good will in this respect will be recognised as indicating our wish to help in the development of the resources of Greece to the benefit of her people, who now live in health upon the soil we have reclaimed for agriculture, and for the good of the nation generally."

The Rubber Position.

During the past week the price of rubber has varied very little. It has touched 4s. 6½d., and has then swung back, and at the time of writing stands at 4s. 5¾d. The general opinion is that before the inevitable decline sets in rubber will see a much higher figure, and even 6s. is suggested as a possibility. I should hesitate to pin my faith to that development personally, though I shall not be surprised to see 5s. reached in the near future, and it must be admitted that there is nothing in the statistical position to make it impossible. But while it is true that it stood at more than double that figure in the great "boom" of 1910, conditions are different now, and besides the fact that the rubber situation is unreal in the sense that the price is the result of the restriction scheme, there are so many factors unconnected with the industry which yet may affect it that it would be altogether too hazardous to predict definitely what developments may be ahead. Suppose, for instance, that the labour troubles looming on the horizon were to develop into a strike, then for the moment there would be an end to the question of a further rise, and instead the price would fall, not because a strike here would have any real influence for, broadly speaking, it is not the British manufacturers who are the substantial buyers, but on account of the fact that all markets are extremely sensitive to extraneous influences.

The Outlook.

Leaving the contingency of external influences aside, there is the ever-present prospect of a modification of the restriction scheme which draws nearer and nearer as the price of the commodity rises. It seems very probable that August 1 will see the release of more than the 10 per cent. that is provided for, possibly another 5 per cent., but even if that should be the case, while it must have a temporary effect on the market, I cannot think that it will be of lasting duration, for the strength of the statistical position is most impressive. The restriction scheme was devised to save a great Imperial industry, but given the conditions at the time when it was introduced it certainly could not have raised the price of rubber to its present figure. That development is due to the unprecedented increase in the demand for America and to a lesser extent for the Continent due to the great extension of motoring and the use of the new type of tyres. At the present rate of consumption there would be none too great a margin were production on the maximum scale, and on that account a moderate increase in the percentage is not likely to have a very pronounced effect. Ultimately, some time early next year so far as can be foreseen, we shall again reach the stage when stocks will begin to increase, provided of course that there is not a further marked expansion of production. But according to the estimates it will not be many months before consumption overtakes production owing to the fact that on account of the prolonged depression no provision has been made for an expansion of the planted areas, and it is fully expected that between 1928 and 1930 there will be a real shortage. Should that anticipation prove correct we shall see rubber again at a very high price.

BULGARIA'S TRADE POSITION.

In the first three months of this year Bulgaria's imports totalled 92,120 tons, of the value of 1,692,000,000 levas, while the exports amounted to 92,300 tons of the value of 1,393,000,000 levas, so that there was an adverse trade balance of roughly 300,000,000 levas. For the same period of the previous year the value of the imports was 1,185,000,000 levas and that of the exports 882,300,000 levas.

The value of the principal imports, in millions of levas, were as follows, the figures for the corresponding period of 1924 being given in parentheses:—textiles, 631 (566); cereals, 249 (2); metals and metal products, 157 (177); machinery and instruments, 132 (66). For exports the leading totals are:—tobacco, 670 (160); maize, 395 (352); eggs, 84 (48).

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Athens: Th. Vafiadis, 24, Rue du Stade.
Eleftheroudakis and Barth, Place de la Constitution.

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Bucharest: Librairie Universala, 37, Calea Victoriei.

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SYRIA'S EASTERN FRONTIER.

[We are indebted to a correspondent for the following translation from the issue of June 19, of *Alif-Ba*, an Arabic journal of Damascus, of an article dealing with a neglected corner of Syria.—ED.]

By the Turko-French Agreement at Angora (1921), the eastern frontier of Syria was defined as extending from Tel El Abyad (some 60 miles east of Aleppo) to Jeziret ibn Omar (on the Tigris some 25 miles N.W. of Iraq). The frontier line of this "Neglected Territory" runs east and west on a line parallel to that of the Baghdad Railway. This terrritory includes an area of about 6,000 square miles, with an approximate population of 200,000, who are a mixture of Kurds, settled and migratory Arabs, and certain Christians belonging to the Syrian Jacobite, Nestorian and Roman Catholic Churches. They dwell in some 600 villages, and practise husbandry. Approximately their live-stock number 500,000 sheep, 50,000 camels, horses, mules and donkeys, 20,000 oxen and kine, and 15,000 other domestic animals.

In view of the number of rivers, rivulets, and streams which traverse this territory—the waters of which are stored in old Roman reservoirs, many of which are still intact and perfectly usable for irrigation purposes—the land is very fertile. It yields very rich crops of cereals, and cotton and rice are also grown.

Shortly after the Angora Turko-French Agreement, the French forces occupying this territory made Biandour, the central post, their H.Q. But towards the end of 1922 Turkish and Kurdish bands formed under the leadership of ex-Lt.-Col. Ismail Hakki (of the Turkish Army), attacked the French troops stationed here, and killed the French Intelligence Officer, his Assistant, and seventy men. This disaster caused the French authorities to withdraw from Biandour and thus to leave this wide district to the savage chieftains and aghas. Since that date these illegal rulers have oppressed, with an iron hand, the helpless population, who are patiently awaiting the return of the Mandatory French Government to deliver them and to establish a civilised administration.

That this territory is acknowledged by the Turks to be a part of Mandated Syria is proved by the Agreement of Angora.

Many landlords both in Syria and in Turkey own extensive lands and villages within this "neglected territory." Some of these went to maintain their properties, but the chieftans and aghas killed a certain number and expelled others. Thus these unfortunate landlords can gain no sort of benefit from their property. They have already applied for help to the Government of Syria, but in vain; and the reply given by the Turkish Government to those of its subjects applying for relief was that, the district having been allotted to the French Mandatory Power, Turkey saw no cause for interference on their behalf.

In the opinion of those from whom this information is derived, a force of 500 troops would be quite sufficient to overcome the difficulties of the situation, and to establish a civilised government in this "neglected territory." It is indispensable to have civil servants acquainted with the ways and customs of the people. It is a fact that public opinion—even including the ruling chieftains—is in favour of the Mandatory Government of Syria, owing to the fear of the Kurds that they might have to return under Turkish domination. Certain of the aghas who took part in the attack of the French forces are afraid of the consequences of their misdeeds, but even they wish never again to be ruled by the Turks.

The inhabitants of this "neglected territory" are really submissive to the authorities and would abide by the law, and it is a fact that the region is worthy of being administered by a civilised government. Moreover, the richness and fertility of the soil would make it in a short time not only self-supporting, but a source of considerable revenue to the Treasury of the ruling administration. The Turks, when this territory was under their control, collected 250,000 Turkish liras gold, and this amount could easily be quadrupled.

As things are, the district is a peaceful resort for brigands and other criminals escaping from Turkey and Syria, for here they dread no pursuer.

COMMERCIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

THE PORT OF SALONIKA.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—May I, through your kind intermediary, thank Mr. Mahoney Shea-Lawler for his courteous reply to the inquiry contained in my letter of July 9? There are only two observations which, with your permission, I should like to make by way of rejoinder. The first is that it seems to me that the danger of a non-fulfilment of the provisions of an ordinary railway convention between Greece and Yugoslavia might be sufficiently provided against by the inclusion in it of an obligatory arbitration clause. I can conceive no conflict in such a matter which it would be beyond the capacity of a Hague Arbitration Tribunal to arrange.

The second is that, admitting the Hellenic Railway Administration to be not entirely free from defects, my own "practical experience to date" does not lead me to believe that Yugoslavia could safely be relied upon to substitute a more competent one—unless perchance the word "competent" in this connection connotes at Belgrade something rather outside its customary signification here.—I am, yours, etc.,

HARRY H. LAMB.

52, Morpeth Mansions, S.W.1., July 18.

BAD DEBTS IN EXPORT TRADE.

It is announced that Mr. A. M. Samuel, Parliamentary Secretary of the Department of Overseas Trade, has appointed a committee, under the chairmanship of Colonel Sidney Peel to consider the question of insurance against bad debts in export trade. The committee which comprises representatives of the banks, accepting houses, insurance companies, Lloyds, the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, the Federation of British Industries, together with the Comptroller-General of the Department of Overseas Trade, has, as its personnel:—Colonel Peel (chairman) chairman of the National Discount Co., Ltd.; chairman of the London Committee of the National Bank of Egypt. Mr. J. Caulcutt, general manager of Barclays Bank. Sir William H. Clark, Comptroller-General of the Department of Overseas Trade. Mr. A. C. Gladstone, director of the Bank of England. Sir William Goschen, of Messrs. Goschens and Cunliffe, chairman of the Sun Insurance Office. Mr. Joseph Powell, general manager of the Commercial Union Assurance Company. Mr. Eustance R. Pulbrook, deputy-chairman of Lloyds. Mr. Gilbert C. Vyle, deputy-president of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce. Colonel F. V. Willey, president of the Federation of British Industries. The secretary will be Mr. F. H. Nixon of the Export Credits Department.

It is probable that Turkey will shortly adopt the 24-hour day system for railway time-tables and for all official purposes.

The Bank of Roumania recommends a final dividend for 1924 of 3s., less tax, making 6s. per share, less tax, for the year.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal Company from July 4 to July 10 amounted to 3,490,000 francs, against 2,980,000 francs.

The Lord President of the Council has appointed Mr. R. S. Pearson, C.I.E., F.L.S., Forest Economist, Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, India, to be Director of Forest Products Research under the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. Mr. Pearson will be in charge of the Forest Products Research Laboratories, in which pure and applied scientific research will be carried on to meet the practical needs of the using industries and of Departments of State.

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COTTON GROWING IN IRAQ.

In the early part of this year, Mr. W. H. Himbury, general manager of the British Cotton Growing Association, visited Iraq to investigate the cotton growing possibilities of the country, and on his return he made a preliminary report to the Council of the Association on the results of his tour. This report, which appeared in extenso in these columns at the time, has since been supplemented by a fuller review of the position, and the two reports have now been published together by the Association, together with a number of interesting illustrations and two maps, one showing the course of Mr. Himbury's tour and the other illustrating the railways of Iraq. In commenting on the later report it will be necessary to advert to Mr. Himbury's preliminary survey for the second report is supplementary to the first.

In view of the short time he spent in Iraq it can only be said after reading his extremely succinct report that Mr. Himbury has covered the ground with wonderful thoroughness, and neglects to mention none of the factors which have a bearing on the opening up of Iraq as a cotton region. He lays stress on the importance of the political factor in relation not only to cotton growing but to the general development of the country, and emphasises the need for sound administration. The country which has a population of under 3,000,000, or, as he aptly puts it, only about half that of Lancashire, has an area larger than the United Kingdom, and while the great bulk of the inhabitants are Arabs there are also many Jews, Syrians, Armenians, Greeks, and Turks. This question of population is of the first importance, for the Arabs are to no small extent nomads, and the attractions of the life to which they are accustomed are no doubt such that it will be a matter of time before they can be induced to settle down to a sufficient extent to render possible economic progress on a considerable scale. The nomads live by their live stock, and they will have to be convinced of the benefits of a settled existence which can only be accomplished by the examples they see around them. When they realise that cotton cultivation is a really satisfactory means of existence it may be assumed that they will take to it as readily as the natives of the Sudan have done. Mr. Himbury points out that there may be no doubt that large numbers have recently settled on the land and that a great deal of cultivation has been done, but he adds that it is doubtful if any really big thing could be accomplished quickly. He is opposed to the idea of importing labour from India or Egypt, and this course could indeed only increase the problems which have to be solved in Iraq. Incidentally he is emphatic on the point that the country is capable of supporting a population many times in excess of its present inhabitants if drainage and irrigation are developed and extended.

So far cotton growing in Iraq can only be said to be at its commencement, but the pioneer work done by the Association has had very notable results. The suitability of the country for cotton growing has been demonstrated, and the increasing demand for seed each year shows very plainly that the virtues of the crop are in process of being appreciated. It may be interesting at this juncture to give the figures for the production for the past four years. They are as follows:—1921, 60 bales; 1922, 300 bales; 1923, 1,100 bales; 1924, 2,500 bales.

The totals bulk very small when measured against the millions of bales of the world's production, but everything has to have a beginning, and at least it can be said that Irag is now travelling on the right road to enable it ultimately to make a really useful contribution to the total of Empire grown cotton. Mr. Himbury does not consider the cotton possibilities important south of Hillah. While the whole of the soil in Iraq is more or less salted, he remarks, the country to the north and north-west of Baghdad is more promising. He was greatly impressed by the appearance of the land irrigated by canals from the Diala River, especially the area belonging to the new Syndicate. The only difficulty he foresees in regard to this venture is the question of the water supply, but he points out that the new irrigation scheme when materialised will provide much more water.

Mr. Himbury emphasises the need for experimenting with new types of seed to prevent the deterioration of the quality and any decrease in the quantity per acre. He visited the demonstration farm at Rustam and comments favourably on the building arranged for a research institute, but states that there is "practically only about one quarter of the staff necessary for the institute if it is ever to do the work it was intended to do." In view of the importance of agriculture for the future of Iraq the necessity for adequate research into the various problems confronting the grower of agricultural products, he urges, is a vital matter, and while he recognises the need for economy, "it is doubtful" he adds, "if the limitation of money necessary for research work to develop what may be termed the most economic resources of the country is really true economy."

Insect pests have so far not proved a very serious trouble in regard to cotton growing. The principal cotton pests in Iraq are the spotted bollworm and jassids. Mr. Himbury points out, however, that the depredations of the former are worse in some areas than in others. Concluding his report he emphasises the three main factors which he deems essential in Iraqian policy.

1. The establishment and maintenance of a strong government with a sound financial policy.
2. The inauguration of a definitely settled policy of drainage and irrigation.
3. A steady increase in the agricultural population which he believes would follow from the accomplishment of the first two factors.

Cotton growing, he adds, would largely benefit Iraq by bringing prosperity to the cultivators and in encouraging others to settle on the land; but there are great difficulties at the moment in its cultivation. It is essential for the Government to take up a scheme of drainage of land already irrigated, the effect of which will be to put a much larger area under cotton and other crops. It is estimated that with a full irrigation and drainage scheme two million acres can be used for cotton cultivation, but Mr. Himbury fears that it will be many years before there is a sufficiency of labour to cultivate anything like this area.

* "Iraq (or Mesopotamia) as a Source for Increasing Raw Cotton Supplies." By W. H. Himbury (General Manager of the British Cotton Growing Association). (The British Cotton Growing Association. 1s.)

EUROPEAN COMMISSION OF THE DANUBE.

The Foreign Office have received from the British Commissioner on the European Commission of the Danube a detailed statement of the financial situation of the Commission on December 31, 1924. The following is a summary of the figures taken from the official accounts:—

	Francs.		Francs.
Receipts during 1924	14,806,039	Expenditure	17,684,762
Balance from 1923	3,215,155	Balance for end of 1924	336,432
	18,021,194		19,021,194

While the receipts as given above include the proceeds of a loan of 3,028,147 frs., the expenditure includes for repayment of advances 2,094,700 frs., and no less than 7,370,177 frs. in respect of the purchase of a new dredger and of the prolongation of the embankments at Sulina.

An exhibition called "The Palestine and Near East Exhibition and Fair" will be held at Tel-Aviv from October 4 to November 7.

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EGYPTIAN TOURIST CONFERENCE.

Thirty-two delegates representing the various organisations interested in the Egyptian tourist traffic attended the annual conference held under the auspices of the Egypt Promotion Association, which took place on July 15, at Industrial Court, 5, Old Palace Yard, S.W.1., Mr. H. W. Tite (International Sleeping Car Co.), presiding. The object of these annual gatherings is to co-ordinate efforts in order to avoid any unnecessary clashing of the dates of arrival in Egypt of the different cruises, and at the conclusion of the conference the Chairman announced that, in consequence of the exchange of views, the arrangements decided on by the various steamship companies and tourist organisations for next season and for the season of 1926-7 were such as would minimise as far as possible the discomforts occasioned by the influx of a large number of visitors to Egypt during the season, especially in the month of March, when the majority of trans-Atlantic visitors were timed to arrive.

According to the figures produced at the conference, the coming season in Egypt will see the arrival of 18 cruisers, bringing a total of 7,650 tourists from the United States. The vessels affected are the Transylvania, Mauretania, Belgenland, Adriatic, Arcadian, Homeric, Samaria, Rotterdam, Empress of France, Conte Rossie, Conte Verdi, Empress of Scotland, Franconia, Lapland, Corinthian, and Scythia, the Adriatic and the Lapland doing the cruise twice during the season. The first vessel to arrive will be the Conte Rossi, on the 22nd November, an unusually early date, which shows that the Egypt Promotion Association's efforts to induce people to visit Egypt before Christmas, when the weather is ideal, is bearing fruit.

PALESTINE CROP OUTLOOK FAVOURABLE.

The June report of the Director of Agriculture and Forests of Palestine states:—

Harvesting of wheat and barley continues, yields proving so high in most villages of the northern area as to necessitate enlargement of threshing floors. In the south, with the exception of Jericho, winter crops are somewhat uneven and the total yield will fall short of the average.

Weather conditions for the past month have been especially favourable to the growth of sesame and durrah; these crops are well advanced and promise exceptionally high yields. Harvesting of kersenneh, lentils and beans is complete, results averaging from 10 to 30 per cent. under normal.

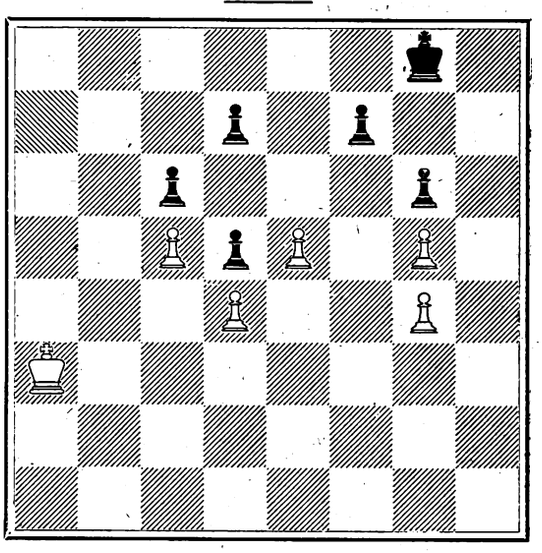
Tobacco plantations are in a satisfactory condition. The plant has benefited from cool weather and is generally free from disease.

A good melon year is anticipated: early varieties are already being marketed.

The almond crop is also good, but the prospects for grapes, oranges, olives, and apricots are disappointing.

CHESS.

By "CARO-KANN."



END GAME No. 7.

White to play.—What result?

Solution to end-game No. 6.—1, P—B4, P—Kt4; 2, K—B3, PxP; 3, KxP, K—Q2; 4, K—B5, K—B2 and draws. If 1 . . . P—Kt3; 2, K—K4, P—B4; 3, P—Q5, PxP; 4, PxP, P—Kt4 and wins.

From my recent remarks regarding the Caro-Kann Defence it might possibly be gathered that this method of deploying the Black pieces invariably leads to a dull game. This is by no means the case. There is a well-known game betwen two masters which only lasted a few moves. As some of my readers may be unfamiliar with it, I reproduce it.

1, P—K4, P—QB3; 2, P—Q4, P—Q4; 3, Kt—QB3, PxP; 4, KtxP, Kt—KB3; 5, Q—Q3, P—K4 (a); 6, PxP, Q—R4 (ch); 7, B—Q2, QxKP; 8, O—O—O, KtxKt, and White mates in three moves.

(a) This was a quite unnecessary manœuvre. KtxKt followed by P—K3 and Kt—Q2 would have given Black quite a promising game.

Once again may I repeat that I shall be glad to hear whether my readers would prefer end-games or problems. I hope their choice is for the former, for it seems to me that the lover of problems is amply catered for in other journals.

On July 15, without formality, the Sennar dam was opened and water admitted to the canal, in the presence of a small gathering of representatives of the Government, the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, the contractors and local notables (says a Reuter message).

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Near East Markets.

PRODUCTION OF ATTAR OF ROSES IN BULGARIA.

The following particulars are taken from the report of the Bulgarska Banka for July 1 :—

The rose crop in the region of Karlovo has reached this year 2,460 tons. Last year the crop amounted to 4,230 tons. This year about 620 acres of new ground were planted with roses, and on the other hand 247 acres of old rose trees were uprooted. A large capital has been invested in installations for distillation of roses, but it was not first assured that there would be a sufficient quantity of roses. The roses in the Karlovo region have been attacked this year by a special mildew blight, called in Bulgarian "reujda." It is not anticipated that next year's rose crop will be abundant for no precautionary measures have been taken for the treatment of this blight. The rose essence factories are able to produce much more than will be made this year in proportion to the quantity of roses grown, with the result that a number of coppers set apart for this distillation have remained unused. The present price of roses at Klissoura, at Slatina and at Tekia is 15 leva per kilogram (1 kg. equals 2.204622 lb.), at Rahmanlari 13 leva per kg., at Yganovo 12 to 15 leva per kg., and in the other villages of this region 12 leva per kg.

Owing to the bad crop of roses this year and the great demand for rose essence, the price of this product is high. In the region of Kasanlik the price varies considerably at present in the different localities of the country, as will be seen from the following. In the western villages of this region the price of roses is from 12.60 leva per kg. in the centre 9.60 to 10 leva per kg. and in the eastern portion buyers offer only 8.40 leva per kg. for the roses.

The Grain Harvest.

The barley harvest has commenced in Bulgaria. In the north of Bulgaria, at Varna, for example, the condition of the cereals is excellent. The flowering of wheat and of rye has begun under good conditions, while that of barley has already finished. The rains have had a most beneficial effect on wheat.

Good reports of crops also come from Bourgas and Stara-Zagora. It is stated that there has not been such a good harvest for 15 years.

CROP CONDITIONS IN IRAQ.

The Agricultural Bulletin of Iraq for the month ended June 15 states :—

Low relative humidity was the outstanding feature of the calendar month of May and gave rise to a general impression of unusual coolness which was not justified by thermometric observation. At Hinaidi the mean maximum and mean minimum temperatures recorded were 98.3 deg. F. and 65.8 deg. F. as compared with 94.1 deg. F. and 68.2 deg. F. the averages for the same month over a period of 36 years.

In general the climatic conditions were favourable for all crops and particularly so for harvest operations. The low humidity impeded vegetative growth of summer crops to some extent but not seriously.

Threshing of winter cereals became general during the period under report. As usual the influx of new cereals on to the market was delayed by the necessity for Revenue Assessment, but towards the end of the period new season's grain was on offer throughout Lower and Middle Iraq. Prices fell considerably in Middle Iraq where the havest is good, but they still remain abnormally high, good quality new season's wheat commanding about Rs. 200 per ton, and barley varying from Rs. 80 to Rs. 120. In Middle Iraq early sown cereals are threshing out well, but the late sown are poor and shrivelled in the grain. Reports from Northern Iraq are to the effect that all grain so far threshed out is of poor quality and very shrivelled. Cultivators attribute this to the locust attack, but it is chiefly due to the excessive cold and consequent short growing period of the crop. The Sunn pest has also done much damage.

Summer crops are on the whole promising. Cotton, as previously reported, has not been extensively sown this year. The condition of the crop is, however, good, and it is remarkably free from insect attack, particularly spotted boll-worm.

At the experimental farm larvæ of Platyedra Vilella, a near relative of the dreaded pink boll-worm, has been noticed feeding freely on the growing shoots and buds of the cotton-plant. The transit of this pest from hollyhocks, its normal host plant, to cotton is viewed with some alarm.

In Northern Iraq small trials are being made with specially selected early varieties of cotton with a view to testing the economic possibilities of sowing cotton after the depredations of locusts have finished. In Middle Iraq early sown cotton has already made bolls.

By the middle of May locusts had started egg-laying. The general trend of the swarms was to the north, and the bulk of the areas on which eggs have been laid are to the North of Mosul. Egg-laying was general throughout the period under report. Eggs from carefully measured areas of egg-infested grounds were dug up and the eggs weighed, with the result that it was found that nearly one ton of eggs had been deposited per acre. This weight, of course, includes the weight of the egg cases.

Flax from the 1924 crop which was scutched in the experimental flax mill was sold in England at the rate of £120 per ton. This figure is most encouraging, especially when it is considered that the straw was a mixed consignment from a number of different sources, and varied greatly in quality. An influential group of prominent business men and owners are now interesting themselves in flax, and it is hoped that as a result of their endeavours a flax-mill will be opened and the cultivators will have a market for their straw.

Live stock are being grazed generally over the winter cereal stubbles and are greatly improved in condition. Wool-clipping is practically completed.

The July 1924—May 1925 exports of wheat from Iraq were 1,104 tons and of barley 31,223 tons, total 32,327 tons as compared with 185,868 tons exported during the same period last year. The August 1924—May 1925 exports of dates from Iraq were 142,086 tons valued at Rs. 1,84,19,529, as compared with 123,641 tons valued at Rs. 1,56,54,808 exported during the corresponding period last year.

The July 1924—May 1925 exports of wool from Iraq were 18,287 tons as compared with 6,104 tons exported during the same period last year.

In answer to a question by Major Kindersley, in the House of Commons last week, Mr. Churchill said the revenue for 1924-25 applicable to meeting the charge for interest on the Turkish Four per Cent. Guaranteed Loan of 1855 was not sufficient to cover the interest. He did not think it was desirable to state in what precise securities past surpluses were invested.

An important company has been formed at Angora under the auspices of the bank founded by the ex-Khedive, Abbas Hilmi Pasha, and other leading Turkish banking houses for the handling and exploitation of petroleum, both in the crude and refined state, and all its derivatives (says a Reuter message). The company will have a capital of 1,000,000 Turkish liras.

The export schedule of Roumania for the current year has been drawn up by the Government (says a Reuter message). The minimum surplus of wheat left over after home requirements have been met is given as 60,000 truckloads. Exportation will be facilitated by a reduction of the export tax to 30,000 lei per truck instead of 45,000. The tax on other cereals remains unchanged. The surplus of petroleum left over for export is subject to an export tax of 1,000 lei the truck, and that of motor spirit to 2,000 lei the truck.

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Company Meetings.

LAKE COPAIS COMPANY.

Development Work in Greece.

The ordinary general meeting of the holders of shares and debenture stocks of the Lake Copais Company, Limited, was held on July 16 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street.

Mr. W. Sandford Poole, chairman of the company, presided.

The Assistant Secretary (Mr. R. D. Prichard) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—The area of land cultivated during the year 1924 was 31,107 acres, an increase of 4,424 acres. On account of unseasonable climatic conditions, the crops on 1,417 acres were a failure, the area from which crops were harvested being reduced to 29,690 acres. This, however, was a larger area than has been harvested in any year since the year 1918. One of the principal causes of the increase in expense was the large amount of development work carried out during the year. An additional 2,321 acres of low-lying land, which had gone out of cultivation, were brought under the plough, and this season some 4,375 acres of tough, couch-infested land had been broken up and sown with oats, and it is expected that it will be possible to deal with a further similar area next season. Cotton is now the most remunerative crop grown on the Copais, in addition to being an excellent cleaning crop, and one of the least exhausting to the soil. The area under cotton last year was 4.593 acres, or nearly double the maximum area under cotton in any pre-war year. As to the new gravitation drainage works, taking into consideration the many difficulties to be overcome, the progress made during the year may be regarded as fairly satisfactory.

Profit and Loss Account.

The net profit in Greece, converted into sterling, amounted to £31,909 18s. 4d. This compares with £23,606 10s. 10d. in the previous year. The increase was due to our having suffered less from losses in exchange. After adding the sundry receipts and deducting the expenses shown in the profit and loss account and transferring £2,000 to capital reserve account, there remains a credit balance of £25,291 7s. 7d. This enables the directors to recommend the distribution of interest at the rate of 5 per cent. on the "A" debenture stock, leaving £14,164 1s. 8d. to go to the credit of the "B" debenture stockholders' interest account.

We have now a total of £14,299 6s. 1d. at the credit of the "B" debenture stockholders' interest account, and it is proposed to distribute interest at the full rate of 6 per cent. per annum in respect of the year 1924 on the "B" debenture stock, leaving a balance of £79 6s. 1d. to be carried forward to the credit of that account. Both payments will be made, less tax, on the 31st day of this month, in scrip for Five per Cent. "A" debenture stock of the company in accordance with the scheme of 1922.

Arbitration between Government and Company.

In the report we refer to the visits to Greece of two of the directors, Mr. Foster and Mr. Whitmee, mainly in connexion with the arbitration proceedings between the Greek Government and the company. Since the issue of that report we have received by cable information to the effect that the arbitration is concluded. As, however, the award may not yet have been promulgated or made public in Athens, and also because we have not the full text, I think it will be best to say nothing about the details to-day. As soon as the award has been promulgated, and the full details are in our hands, they shall be communicated to you by circular.

It is to be hoped that the award will remove many of the uncertainties which have so handicapped the administration of the company during the past 30 years and more, and will clear away the various grounds of differences.

We have ourselves given up a good deal to achieve this end, and we hope our good will in this respect will be recognised as indicating our wish to help in the development of the resources of Greece, to the benefit of her people, who now live in health upon the soil we have reclaimed for agriculture, and for the good of the nation generally.

Mr. E. W. P. Foster, C.M.G., seconded the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97⅜—9/16
Athens	Drachmæ to £ ...	25 22½	306-308
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	276-278
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.41—20.43
Berne	Francs to £.....	25.22½	25.02-25.03
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18⅛ - 18 5/32d
Brussels	Francs to £..... ...	25.22½	104.90—105
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	1.005 - 1,010
Budapest	Kronen to £	4 02	345-347,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18⅛—18 5/32d
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	880
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2 3	4.86⅛—4.86¼
Paris	Francs to £.....	25.22½	102.95—103
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	164
Rome	Lire to £	25 22½	131⅜—131½
Sofia.....	Leva to £	25.22½	675
Teheran	Krans to £	50	42.15
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	34.55-34 60
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	25.35-25.45

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

EGYPT.

Post Binders.—The Surveyor-General of Egypt, Giza (Mudiriya), invites tenders for the supply of 3,000 loose-leaf post binders. October 6.

Conversion of Pumping Station Machinery.—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, P.W.M., Cairo, invites tenders for the gradual conversion of Mex Pumping Station machinery No., 1. Copy of the specification and drawings may be obtained against payment of P.T. 50. September 1.

Sewage Pumping Machinery.—The Director-General, Main Drainage Department, 2 Sharia Abbas, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply, erection and delivery of sewage pumping machinery, comprising 3 large and 1 small Diesel engines with 3 large and 1 small centrifugal pumps, complete with auxiliary plant. November 2.

Pumps, Etc.—The Director-General, State Domains Administration, Savoy House, Sharia Qasr el Nil, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 4 centrifugal pumps and 1 oil filler. September 1.

Machinery, Etc.—The Controller, Technical, Industrial and Commercial Education, Sharia Qasr el Aini, Cairo, invites tenders for the machinery and machine tools required for the engineering and the carpentry also the metal plate sections of the new Mansurah Trades School (September 9); hand tools and machinery required for the Workshops of the School of Engineering (September 17); supply of Diesel engine, generator, switch board, etc., and locomotive boiler, for Assiout Model Workshops; machinery for the Engineering and Carpentry Section, for Port Said Trades School; machinery for the Engineering Section of the Bulaq Technical School (September 17).

Trunk Record Table.—The Superintendent of Stores, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of a trunk record table. Copies of the specification may be obtained on application, against payment in advance of 500 milliemes (not acceptable in postage stamps) at the Stores Department, Saptia (Cairo), or Gabbary (Alexandria), September 10.

Tarboushes.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lights Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of 1,075 "Tarboushes Azizi" with tassel as per Administration sample. October 1.

Steel Index Cabinets.—The Survey of Egypt (Ministry of Finance) invites tenders for the supply of 18 steel card index cabinets. September 8.

Mineral Lubricating Oils.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 1,775 tons of mineral lubricating oils. August 18.

Steam Engines.—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, P.W.M., Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and erection of two 80 B.H.P. semi-fixed superheated condensing steam engines at Beni Saleh, Beni Suef Province. August 18.

Pumps.—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, P.W.M., Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and erection of two belt-driven centrifugal turbine, or screw pumps at Beni Saleh, Beni Suef Province. August 18.

Vessel for Coastguard Duties.—The Director-General, Coastguards and Fisheries Services, Alexandria, invites tenders for the construction of a sea-going vessel for Coastguard duties. August 1.

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Shipping Intelligence.

NEW LIGHT-VESSEL OFF THE INDUS.

As a result of correspondence which has transpired with the India Office the Imperial Merchant Service Guild was able to announce, some months ago, that the Government of India has decided to place a light-vessel off the Khai mouth of the Indus, on the Sind Coast, the opinion of masters of shipping being that a navigational aid of this kind was required in that vicinity. The Guild is now in receipt of information to the effect that the actual position of the light-vessel will be between the Kedwari mouth and Hajamro mouth, and that the vessel will be on station from October 15 to May 15, every year. The Guild is, however, suggesting that the lightship should be retained on her station throughout the year. The question of establishing a lighthouse at the Hajamro mouth, showing a light of 100,000 candle power, visible 18 to 20 miles, is at present under discussion. It is understood that masters of vessels trading to that port have been consulted for their advice. There is also a wireless direction-finding station just opened for the use of ships which is at present in an experimental state, working from 8.30 to 17.30, and at present no charge is made or liability accepted.

TANKER CHARTERING REVIEW.

The Fall in Freight Rates.

Messrs. John I. Jacobs and Co., in their report on tanker chartering for the half-year ended June 30, state :—

The present half-year closes with tank steamer freights lower than at any time since the winter of 1922/23. Our last report was published during a time of improving rates which were not long maintained after the close of 1924. Nevertheless, for the first four months of this year owners were obtaining rates of freight which enabled them to trade their boats to some advantage. The decline during the late winter and early spring was gradual, but when the importing European countries had replenished their storage of motor spirit for the summer months, rates commenced to fall away to levels which have caused owners to lay up their tonnage freely.

What little chartering is being done is at rates which scarcely cover working expenses. Contributory causes to this decline are the increasingly lessened traffic in oil between California and the eastern seaboard of the United States, the increasing amount of refining which is taking place in the countries of consumption, and lastly, but not least, the unsatisfactory financial and political situation which prevails in many of the most important oil-consuming countries of Europe. The price of fuel oil continues to be maintained at levels which do not enable it to compete with coal in many trades, and whereas the bunkering facilities for fuel throughout the world are continually improving, tramp steamer owners find that unless rates of freight are on high levels it suits them better to keep to, or return to coal-burning in spite of the delays occasioned in bunkering and the extra number of hands required for firing.

The March returns of Lloyd's Registry of Shipping this year showed that the tonnage of tankers under construction had increased to 352,143 tons. Vessels fitted with internal combustion engines grow in popularity, and at the end of 1924 60 per cent. of the tonnage building was to be so propelled, and amounted to 923,738 tons. The latest returns published by Lloyd's Register show 939 tankers (of 1,000 tons and upwards) afloat with a total tonnage of 5,177,630 tons, and 2,145 vessels fitted with internal combustion engines and of a total tonnage of 2,714,073 tons as compared with only about 220,000 tons in 1914. Over 27.5 per cent. of the total gross tonnage afloat is now using oil fuel for boilers.

The volume of tanker tonnage passing through the Panama Canal is now but half of what it was 18 months ago, the peak of the movement in tankers in this direction having been reached in September, 1923.

The production of oil in United States in 1924 aggregated about 718 million barrels, or some 2 per cent. below the 1923 output, whilst the consumption, including exports, increased about 4 per cent. and approximated 761 million barrels. The imports which supply this deficiency come mostly from Mexico. The United States for domestic requirements consumes as much as 73 per cent. of the world's production, and it is said to have been about 748 million barrels in 1924. In spite of the fact that American experts see no large new producing fields, the daily production in U.S.A. remains at round about the two million barrel per day mark, which is considered satisfactory.

Mexico and the East Indies show a falling off in production, but the production in Venezuela is rapidly increasing. Oil experts consider that the potentialities of Persia are very large. Russia and Argentina are also increasing their production. Russian exports for the six months ending April 1 aggregated 554,000 tons, an increase of 93 per cent. over the corresponding period of the previous year. Large contracts have been entered into by the Soviet Government with French, Italian, and Anglo-American interests. During the past fiscal year France took the greater proportion of spirit, and Germany of lubricating oil from Russia, whilst Italy took the bulk of the fuel oil.

There is nothing at present to enable tank steamer owners to look into the near future with anv degree of confidence. The large producing companies continue to increase their own fleets, and some foreign owners during the time of prosperity contracted for a number of large tank steamers which the market is for the present, at any rate, unable to absorb. With petroleum products increasing daily in demand, search is being pursued in all parts of the world for fresh production, and should fields be discovered in areas remote from the large centres of consumption, then tank steamer owners will be able to face the future with the prospect of remunerative employment for their tonnage.

Representative rates of freight during the above period in the principal markets may be taken as follows :—

Time Charter.—The highest rate obtained was 8/6 for a modern diesel vessel, and the lowest recorded for this type was 5/3 in June. In each case the periods being for 12 months to 18 months, and 9 months to 12 months in Charterer's option. A steam tanker was fixed for 12/18 months in the clean trades at 7/-, but the majority of time charter fixtures have been for the carriage of crude oil and/or fuel oil, and rates have declined from 7/- on the d.w. paid early in the year to 4/6 in June, and 4/- now offering by charterers.

Northern States of America.—As usual not many vessels have actually loaded in the Northern States with refined oil and/or spirit although in the majority of charters owners have to give this option at a reduction of from 3/-

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MODERATE FARES.
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Passenger sailing dates :—

*SCINDIA, Aug. 11.	CALIFORNIA, Oct. 14.
*MASSILIA, Sept. 1.	*CASTALIA, Oct. 27.
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*CIRCASSIA, Sept. 29.	*SCINDIA, Nov. 27.

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SPECIAL NOTICE.

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to 5/- under the Gulf rate. Actual fixtures, however, may be recorded of 37/6 French Atlantic and 33/6 to Two Ports Portugal done in January last, and several fixtures for North Spain at varying rates, the lowest of which was 22/-. Marseilles usually takes tonnage with New York or Philadelphia loading, mostly handy sizes, the highest rate paid being 39/6 and the lowest 21/-. A white oil fixture can be recorded from Two Ports Northern States to Two Ports in Norway at 17/3 for June/July loading.

In regard to dark oil boats these are mostly for lubricating oil and rates have declined from 30/- to 18/- for handy sizes. Handy tonnage for Copenhagen at one time commanded 30/6 but now tonnage can be obtained at about 19/-. A fixture for crude oil may be noted towards the end of the period under review at about 20/- to Trieste.

Gulf of Mexico.—The favourite size for refined and/or spirit for trans-Atlantic voyages continues to be 7/8,000 tons capacity, for crude and/or fuel oil 8/10,000 tons capacity. In the former trade the highest paid for U.K. Continent was 37/6 and the lowest 17/- to two ports of discharge. Early in the year Stockholm paid 42/6 and French Mediterranean 45/-, while Helsingfors obtained tonnage at 36/3, but in June Copenhagen was able to get a boat at 20/-; two ports Norway at 19/6; and the French Mediterranean ports also obtained tonnage at 20/-.

Black oil freights have, except towards the middle of the year, been on lower levels, the highest paid for U.K. Continent being about 26/6, but on the other hand the lowest for one port of discharge was 19/-, although to-day tonnage can be obtained at about 2/- less. In January West Coast Italy paid 30/- for black oil but has since obtained tonnage at 24/6, and Trieste fixed at 35/- in March. Handy boats for lubricating oil have of course commanded better rates but not truly in proportion to their smaller size and at the moment the owner of the small boat is also forced to lay up his tonnage.

Mexico to North of Hatteras.—Fluctuations in this market have been perhaps more marked than usual. Early in the year tonnage was freely obtainable on the basis of 28 cents per barrel to New York or Philadelphia, and 30 cents to Boston, but in March rates had increased to 39 cents for one of the former ports and 40 cents was reached for Boston. During May and June rates were in the neighbourhood of 23 cents New York or Philadelphia, and 26 cents Boston, whilst at present tonnage could probably be obtained at slightly less owing to lack of demand.

California.—As mentioned above the volume of oil moving has been considerably less than last year, and so far as Europe is concerned chartering has been confined to a few fixtures for the carriage of spirit. In January the rate was 55/-, in March 50/- and in May had declined to 40/- to U.K. Continent, whilst owners of large boats can now be found to accept about 32/6. So far as the trade between California and the American Atlantic ports is concerned the rate after starting at 73 cents and going to 77 cents per barrel to Boston, in February has declined to 57 cents or less for Philadephia or New York. Fixtures with fuel oil have been effected for consecutive voyages at 85 cents per barrel to New Zealand and 80 cents per barrel to Japan, but at the moment there is a distinct lack of trans-Pacific demand.

Russia.—The expansion of her export oil trade has been greater than the number of fixtures show, owing to the fact that large volumes of oil have been moved by vessels belonging to the oil companies and Italian and French Governments. In this trade as in the trans-Atlantic trade rates have declined very considerably and whilst 35/- was obtainable in the early days of the year tonnage is now being fixed for refined and/or spirit at 16/9, and a large boat has been satisfied with 14/6 for gas oil. A number of boats have again been taken for lubricating oil at rates which have declined from 30/- down to 18/- two ports of discharge in the U.K. Continent, Bordeaux/Hamburg Range.

Roumania.—Slightly more chartering can be recorded from this destination, in nearly every case boats of 4,500 tons or under, and rates have declined from 36/3 paid in January to 16/6 paid towards the end of June.

Creosote.—Rates have been steady in the trans-Atlantic trades and as usual the consumers who can get the largest quantities together in one bottom have reaped the advantage. It may be noted that this is essentially a trade which must offer some better inducement to the tanker than returning to the United States in ballast. Throughout the first half of this year tonnage has been obtainable for 8/9,000 ton shipments at 10/- to 10/6; 7,000 tons at 11/6; 5,000 tons at 14/6; and pro rata for intermediate quantities basis one port of loading to one port of discharge. It is only occasionally that these basic rates have been departed from, and then mainly for unsuitable combinations of loading ports. There have been one or two shipments for the Pacific and in one case 33/- two ports of loading to two ports of discharge was paid for 8,000 tons.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Scindia. for Bombay (Liverpool, August 7). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mandasor for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 25).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Oxfordshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, July 29).

British India Line.—S.s. Hatimura for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 1); s.s. Warfield for Bombay and Karachi (London, August 1).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Cypria for Oran, Algiers, Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, August 1).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Brisbane for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 30).

Johnston Line.—M.v. Sycamore for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, August 8); s.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 5); s.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 12).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Morea for Bombay (London, July 24); s.s. Nellore for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 25).

GREEK EXTERNAL DEBT.

Hambros Bank announce that the following has been received from the Governor of the National Bank of Greece: "A legislative Decree is increasing, as from July 20, the rate of the gold drachma for Customs Duties and also Excise Duties on tobacco and salt. As has already been stated, these revenues are being assigned to the service of the International Financial Commission at Athens. The yield of these increases is estimated at from 300,000,000 to 350,000,000 drachmæ per annum. Thus these additional revenues are to increase those already in the hands of the International Financial Commission for the service of the External Debt of Greece, which is adequately provided for and secured. The recent Refugee Loan naturally comes under the same category, and the security thereof is therefore also considerably strengthened."

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

The report of the Brahmapootra Tea Company for the year ended December 31, 1924, states that the outturn was 2,656,492 lb. (against 2,502,391 lb. in 1923), at an "over-all" cost of 10.24d. per pound (against 9.92d.). The average selling price was 20.52d. per pound (against 18.53d.). The profit is shown at £114,253, and £16,809 was brought forward. The total distribution for the year is 75 per cent., and the allocation to reserve £25,000. After setting aside £8,000 to cover the cost of installing an electric plant and the purchase of two oil engines, a balance of £10,747 is carried forward.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

MANCHESTER COTTON MARKET.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended July 18, states:—

Whilst the amount of business booked during the past week shows only slight improvement on recent experience the feeling generally is somewhat brighter. Inquiries for cloth have come in on a rather freer scale but the prices secured are said to be still far from satisfactory.

Yarn.—Nothing of special interest has transpired in this section and operations continue to be mainly of a hand to mouth nature and of small dimensions. In spite of the short time movement it does not appear that current production is being absorbed so that spinners find themselves unable to advance their quotations proportionately to the rise in raw cotton. Shipments of yarn in June amounted to 13,272,800 lb. as compared with 17,203,200 lb. in May and 15,090,000 lb. in June of last year.

Cloth.—The tone in this section has improved to some extent. Goods have moved off a little more freely for India and, somewhat surprisingly, a number of small lots have been bought for Shanghai. Other foreign markets remain in a subdued condition. Shipments of cloth during June amounted to 337,963,000 sq. yards as compared with 371,028,200 sq. yards in May and 346,762,100 sq. yards in June, 1924.

Raw Cotton.—Movements in Liverpool have been on a wider scale than recently owing to conflicting ideas as to the present position of the new crop. A further Bureau Report will be published on Thursday evening next. On balance American is ¼d. per lb. higher, whilst Egyptian has moved upwards to the extent of almost 1d. Actual operations on the spot in Liverpool, however, have been very small for both qualities. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows:—American Middling, 13.92; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 32.30.

THE EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company in their report for the week ended July 9 state:—

Since our last report the futures market has been very active but prices have fallen considerably: the net changes on the week are the following:—Sakellaridis: 1.35 dollars down for July, 1.70 dollars down for November, 1.45 dollars down for January, 1.55 down for March. Ashmouni: 1.35 dollars down for August, 0.70 dollars down for October, 0.75 dollars down for December. The severe drop in prices in New York which followed the publication of the U.S. Bureau condition at 75.9 against 71.2 last year has affected our market very unfavourably and induced heavy liquidations of bull positions in both Sakel and Ashmouni in old and new crops. . . The tendency of the market is undecided and we think that contrary to what the case has been for many months now the future course of prices of our market will, during the coming weeks, be influenced by the course of prices in New York. At the first July tender no dockets were issued. The severe depreciation of the leading Continental exchanges cannot but affect unfavourably the textile trades of these countries; also the unsettled state of things in China might have an unfavourable repercussion in Lancashire. There have been no arrivals from the interior during the week; exports total Crs 26,417 and the stocks stand at Crs 545,627.

Spot: Minet el Bassal continues very quiet and demand from spinners shows no signs of improvement. The market has only been open four days and sales amount to about 2,600 B/s of which we estimate 800 B/s Sakel, 1,700 B/s Uppers, and 100 bales other varieties.

Sakellarides: The demand has been very mediocre and such business as has been put through has been mostly in the medium and lower grades. Spot differences are generally without much change, though Good Fair and Fully Good Fair are on the easier side.

Ashmouni and Zagora: A fair business has been done, covering all grades. Spot differences are a little stiffer except for Fully Good Fair and Good which are unchanged from last week.

Brown and Pilion: A small business has been done in both these growths at about last week's spot differences.

White: Is neglected and no business has been reported. Quotations of spot are rather stiffer.

Crop 1925: We have had very favourable climatic conditions during the past week and the state of the plant has improved considerably in all districts of both the Delta and Upper Egypt. The leaf worm attack, although probably more serious than last summer, is well controlled and no important damage is expected.

The water supply is adequate; very few complaints have been heard so far. Rotations have been reduced to 6 working days alternating with 16 stoppage days. The readings of the Sudan gauges are now better than those of 1924 and about equal to those of 1923, therefore, prospects for the summer water supply may now be considered to be quite good.

The report of the Alexandria General Produce Association for the month of June reads:—

Lower Egypt.—The cold winds prevailing during the first fortnight of the month caused the temperature to be comparatively cool in the North of the Delta; the second half has been warmer; in the South of the Delta the temperature was more regular and more favourable to the plant. Taken altogether one can say that the temperature during June has been favourable to the crop. From the foregoing it results that in the North, the fifteen days' backwardness of the crop, previously reported, continues, but more to the South it is now only about seven days later than normal. The cotton plants are, generally speaking, in good condition, they look healthy but are not as much developed as last year. In several districts a new disease is reported; some cotton plants have dried up; the damage caused is estimated at 5 per cent. in those fields attacked. The appearance of considerable quantities of egg masses of the leafworm is reported from all districts, but the farmers are taking steps to destroy them by picking them off the infected leaves. Generally speaking the damage caused is of small importance up to the present. Water for irrigation has been sufficient.

Upper Egypt and Fayoum.—The temperature during June has been favourable to the crop, which is in good condition. A slight lateness compared with last year is reported in some districts. A few sporadic cases of leafworm, of small importance, have been reported. Water for irrigation has been sufficient.

BULGARIAN TRADE WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

M. D. Christoff, the Bulgarian Minister of Commerce, has left for Varna to attend a special conference to study the question of establishing a direct steamship line with a regular weekly service between Great Britain and Bulgaria (says a Reuter message). It is intended to facilitate trade between the two countries, and the proposal is also connected with the plan for the exportation of frozen meat by a British company.

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(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889.)

CAPITAL (fully paid) - £650,000 | RESERVE - - - £390,000

Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

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Bunder Abbas, Kazvin, Mohammerah, Sultanabad
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Branches in Iraq (Mesopotamia) :—Bagdad, Basra.
Branch in India :—Bombay.
The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia ; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

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Established 1839.

Capital Authorised - - - £600,000
Capital Paid up - - - £485,580
Reserve Fund - - - - £190,000
Total Assets- - - - £6,536,314

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N. M. MURRAY, Esq.
Manager in London :—
Sir S. A. H. SITWELL.

Authorised Capital **Rs. 11.25.00.000**
Paid-up Capital - **Rs. 5.62.50.000**
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Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

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AUTHORISED CAPITAL ... £4,000,000 | **Paid-up Capital** ... £2,000,000
Subscribed Capital ... £4.000,000 | **Reserve Fund** ... £2,800,000

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Reserve Liability of Shareholders - - - - £1,000,000
Paid up Capital - - £1,000,000
Reserve Fund - - £360,000

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Reserve - - - - - - £720,000

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HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

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MANORA	7,888 ...	Aug. 22 ...	Aug. 29 ...	Bombay and Karachi
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The NEAR EAST AND INDIA

A Weekly Review of the Politics and Commerce of the Balkan Peninsula, Turkey, Egypt, and the Sudan, Syria, Palestine, Arabia, Iraq, Persia and India.

No. 742.—Vol. XXVIII.
Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.

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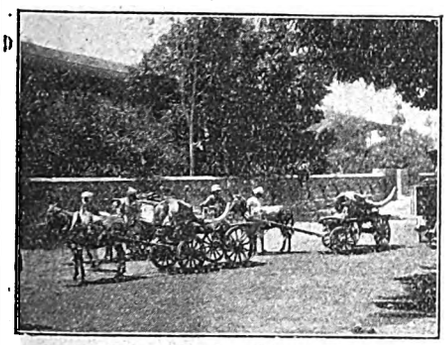

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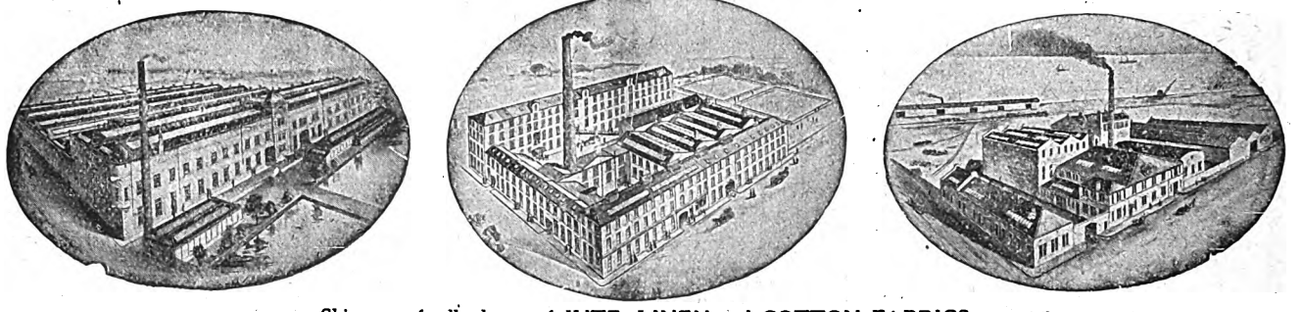

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No. 742.—VOL. XXVIII. THURSDAY, JULY 30, 1925.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	Page
NOTES OF THE WEEK	125
SPECIAL LETTERS—	
Egypt	128
Greece	128
Cyprus	130
Persia	131
SPECIAL ARTICLE—	
The Place of Casting	134
LEADING ARTICLE—	
Egypt and Good Will	127
THE WEEK AT HOME	135
PERSONAL AND GENERAL ...	133
INDIAN AFFAIRS—	
Special Letters : Calcutta ...	139
Bombay ...	140
Simla... ...	140
The Indian Mail	143
The Commonwealth of India Bill	137
Indian Exchange	142
YUGOSLAV SUPPLEMENT.—No. 6.	
The Rise of the Dinar ...	147
Yugoslav Maritime Policy ...	149
State Monopolies	151
COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
Notes and News	145
Company Meetings—	
1. Furness Withy and Co.	154
2. Bank of Roumania ...	154
3. Egyptian Delta Light Railways	155

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

Coalition in Yugoslavia.

The burying of the hatchet between M. Raditch, the leader of the Croatian Peasant Party, now no longer Republican, and M. Pashitch, the Radical Prime Minister—a step entirely in the interests of Yugoslavia—is likely to prove as embarrassing to the friends of the Croats as to their enemies. On June 12 there was held at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the first Convention of the Croatian Republican Societies of America, and a copy of the lengthy Resolution passed at that meeting has recently been circulated. It endorses the programme of the Croatian Republican Peasant Party, the realisation of which programme means self-government for the republican and pacifist Croatia; it condemns lock, stock and barrel the Yugoslav Administration at Belgrade, "its centralism, its militarism, those of its measures contrary not only to the principles of democracy, but also to the very Constitution and laws held up and, pretendedly, defended by the very same Administration, all the maltreatments and ordinary crimes committed by the armed agents of the said administration . . . the application of the Bolshevist measures against the lawful activities of the Croatian Peasant Party." Fortunately the American Croatians have safeguarded themselves in the same Resolution by recognising the political leadership of M. Stephan Raditch and the other leaders of the Croatian Republican Peasant Party as the only trustworthy leadership of the Croatian people and they accord to them their fullest confidence. They should, therefore, experience little difficulty in accepting the new developments in Yugoslavia. M. Raditch himself describes these as a complete change of policy for his party: republicanism, he says, was necessary during the transition period, as it enabled the Croats to strangle the Hapsburg tradition, to defeat anarchy and to pave the way for the present agreement, with its acceptance of the Karageorgevitch dynasty. It also wooed the Croats from Clericalism. He chides the Croatian Union Party for not appreciating the subtle wisdom of these stepping-stones to the monarchical system and for remaining Republicans. As for his past expressions of opinion and all that he said against the Radicals, he explains these away as the necessarily demagogic utterances of the electoral candidate.

A Whole-hearted Monarchist.

The seal on the *rapprochement* and coalition has been placed by M. Raditch's audience of King Alexander. As the meeting lasted three hours, we may well believe that the discussion covered a wide field. It was the first time that the Croatian leader had met the King, and he was compelled to admit that up till then he had completely misjudged his Sovereign. The present agreement, M. Raditch has since explained, was altogether in keeping with his political convictions, and he would have brought it about long ago, if only he had known King Alexander's views on the subject. He had been wrongly informed about his Majesty; "he is our man, he is of our temperament and the true representative of the sovereignty of the people. Such a good grasp of all political problems as the King has I have never once met in any of our party leaders." In the face of these spontaneous admissions it would seem superfluous to challenge the sincerity of M. Raditch's change of front. Interest centres in the first concrete results arising from the coalition. So far M. Raditch has not been able to see M. Pashitch since his release from prison. After his audience of the King at Bled he hurried to Belgrade to meet the Prime Minister, but a sudden improvement in the latter's condition enabled him to leave for Karlsbad before the Croat leader arrived. For the moment, therefore, M. Raditch occupies the centre of the political stage, and his enthusiasm tends to confirm the belief that the Radicals will be found to have made as definite a contribution to the common agreement as the Raditchists.

Roumania and Foreign Capital.

The Roumanian Minister of Finance has left Bucharest for France and is credited with the intention, during his

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stay abroad, of discussing with the French and British Governments the subject of War debts and other financial questions. It is not unnatural that, in view of the long tenure of office of M. Bratianu's Government, which has set itself the task, above everything else of placing the country on a sound economic basis, the Allied Powers should have looked for some overtures for an agreement regarding Roumania's War indebtedness. Unfortunately the fiscal policy of M. Bratianu and his brother, although it has accomplished much for the internal economy of the country, has produced no exportable surpluses, and the Government has taken up the attitude that it cannot liquidate its obligations until the reparations question is settled to its satisfaction and it is able to form an idea of the amount that it may expect to receive and as to when payment is likely to begin. This attitude, however reasonable it may be from Roumania's point of view, is hardly likely to break the vicious circle in which the country finds itself. For the full development of her resources Roumania requires foreign capital; the Government, however, stipulates that this foreign capital must come in on terms that to the majority of financiers are unacceptable. Until such capital is forthcoming, Roumania's prospects of being able to pay off her War indebtedness are not bright, and her omission to make any offer to this end has brought down upon her more or less peremptory requests to give the matter her immediate attention. As there can be no obligation upon American and British capital to take up investments in Roumania, it would seem essential that sooner or later the terms for which the Government of M. Bratianu has hitherto held out should be modified. The fact that foreign criticism has been met to some extent in regard to the mining law prompts the hope that a fresh journey on the part of M. Vintila Bratianu to Paris and London implies that there is to be a change of attitude towards the terms on which foreign capital is to be invited to Roumania. A Roumanian financial mission, it is reported, may be sent simultaneously to the United States to discuss the Note addressed by the American Government to Roumania over two months ago.

The French in Syria.

The French, whose colonial history has been relatively free from trouble as a result of their attitude towards native education and the accumulation of wealth by natives, are beginning to experience in Syria those first stirrings of nationalism which have long been familiar to the British in a similar position. When riots took place in Damascus on the occasion of Lord Balfour's visit, it seemed probable that the authorities saw no need to take seriously threats of a demonstration directed against a foreigner. The precedent, however, may prove to have been a dangerous one. Beyrout has now indulged in disturbances, in the course of which the offices of the gendarmerie were stoned and a number of policemen, as well as the Town Commandant, were injured. A company of spahis had to be called out to deal with the rioters, and there were several casualties before order was restored. The cause of the outbreak is said to have been the suspension of the provisional Rent Restriction Law. A minor rebellion is also reported from the Jebel Druse, where some of the leading chieftains have resented the appointment of a French Governor as a challenge to conditions that they consider essential to the maintenance of their own feudal authority. In these days the cynical adage regarding the troubles of our friends no longer holds good: unrest is to be deprecated wherever it appears, if only because it is apt to be contagious. It is certainly not to the interests of the British in Palestine that the French should have trouble in Syria, and so we may hope that General Sarrail will not only succeed in appeasing the people, but will also by a wise policy remove causes for dissatisfaction and keep the inhabitants of Syria in loyal co-operation attached to France.

Sic Transit.

Yildiz Kiosk, the palace of Sultan Abdul Hamid, has been handed over to the Municipal authorities of Constantinople and is to form, with its magnificent grounds, a casino and amusement park destined to swell the revenues of the city by attracting tourists. The Palace of Dolma Baghtche at the same time will become an hôtel-de-luxe. Of the latter it is reported that at the deposition of Sultan Abdul Aziz in 1876 the occupants were thinned out by three thousand dismissals; when Abdul Hamid left Yildiz Kiosk the removal of the women and children of the Imperial Harem occupied a whole week, one day's exodus alone having required forty-six carriage loads. It was Abdul Hamid who raised the villa of Yildiz Kiosk to the status of an Imperial Palace and converted the park into a fortified retreat,, where he could feel safer than at the Dolma Baghtche Palace on the Bosphorus. On his deposition Yildiz Kiosk became national property, and there has long been talk of utilising the buildings for educational and scientific purposes. More material interests have prevailed, and Yildiz Kiosk will cater for the contemporary craze for amusement.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Information received at Angora, Turkey, from the provinces gives every hope that this year's harvest will be generally well above the average.

A Turkish Government Commission has arrived at Budapest to buy horses up to the value of two milliards of Hungarian crowns (roughly, £5,000).

It is announced by the European Danube Commission that the new canal giving access to Sulina, Roumania was opened to navigation on July 25.

Fethi Bey, the Turkish Ambassador in Paris, was injured in a motor accident near Paris last Thursday, and five other members of the party were also hurt.

The Egyptian Government has approved the Suez Canal Company's plans for the creation of a new town on the eastern bank of the Canal, opposite Port Said, to be named Port Fuad.

After August 1 Turkish barristers are ordered to wear the newly prescribed long-sleeved gowns with satin facings when pleading in the Courts. This settles a question which has caused much difference of opinion ever since the end of the old régime.

The British and Foreign Bible Society last week received news of the sudden death of Mr. C. T. Hooper, Secretary of the Society's Egyptian agency, which covers Egypt, Syria, Palestine, and the Sudan. Mr. Hooper, whose offices were at Port Said, was 58 years of age.

At Harmer, Rooke and Co.'s Fleet Street Auction Rooms on July 22, the sum of £1,500 was realised for a collection of Syrian stamps. The album was sold with a massive gold and silver casket of Arabic design and workmanship. It was sold on behalf of Mohammed Kamel el Kassab, son of the ex-President of the High Assembly of Syria, who is on a visit to this country.

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THURSDAY, JULY 30, 1925.

EGYPT AND GOOD WILL.

By a happy coincidence the Prime Minister of Egypt is on a visit to England at a time when the new High Commissioner is being bidden God-speed by his fellow-countrymen prior to his departure to take up the duties of his important post. Educated and thinking Egyptians will understand that the responsibilities of the British Empire are so manifold and wide-flung that it is inevitable even at the centre of the Empire, where domestic problems are not less insistent than Imperial issues, that interest in any one question should be diverted from time to time to others which are more immediately pressing. At this moment, however, the presence of Zewar Pasha in London and Sir George Lloyd's appointment serve to direct attention once more to Egypt. The essence of the British attitude may be summed up in one term—good will—and it is to be hoped that the significance of this will not have been lost either on Zewar Pasha or the more responsible Egyptians. The honour conferred on the former, who was decorated last week by the King with the Grand Cross of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, is an expression of the national good will entertained towards his country. It is true that Zewar Pasha's personal contribution to the maintenance of good relations between the two countries has been most notable, and the British nation cordially endorses the royal recognition bestowed upon it, but it would be a grave mistake to suppose that in honouring Zewar Pasha His Majesty has sought to imply that Great Britain is attempting to take sides in Egyptian politics. The Prime Minister of the day comes to England as the representative of his country, and as such it is natural that he should receive in his own person the tributes that are addressed to Egypt as a whole. Whether he is fated to continue to be the official representative of his country is beside the point. So long as he remains in office Great Britain naturally reciprocates through him every desire for the maintenance of the good relations which Zewar Pasha himself has been at such pains to re-establish. If for reasons of their own the Egyptians should at any time elect to withdraw their confidence from him and to place it in someone else, the change of personalities, however much the withdrawal of a good friend from active responsibility might be regretted, would be no concern of Great Britain's. She would merely wait to see whether the change implied any change of attitude on Egypt's part; whether it did or did not, her own attitude would remain the same, though naturally more demonstrative, if she was called upon to reciprocate good will than if she had to show good will in the face of hostility or indifference.

Sir George Lloyd did well to stress the point that good will is the ultimate solvent of all outstanding questions between Egypt and Great Britain. It has been notably absent, to the British way of thinking, on the part of those Egyptians who identified themselves with Zaghloul Pasha and encouraged him in an attitude of unyielding intransigence whenever an attempt was made to bring up for discussion any of the questions still at issue between the two countries. Good will does not preclude honest differences of opinion; it merely stipulates that the other party's opinions shall be regarded as being as worthily held as one's own and that prejudice shall not prevent a conscientious effort to discover common ground and a workable understanding. Nothing, as far as we are aware, that Zewar Pasha has done amounts to more than this; he has not abandoned, to the extent of betraying, any of the slogans of the street that were Zaghloul Pasha's substitute for statesmanship, but he has put them in their proper perspective, and has adopted the attitude that, when the suitable moment arrives, he will be prepared to discuss the questions at issue in a friendly and intelligent manner. Until such a conference takes place it is impossible to know whether or not a settlement that can be honourably accepted by both parties is possible. Zaghloul Pasha affected to believe that he could dragoon the British Government into promising to give him everything he asked for before he would consent to enter into what were supposed to be negotiations, but which he desired to make a capitulation on Great Britain's part. He was too fearful of mob clamour and of his own extremists to adopt any other course. Zewar Pasha has taken a more courageous line, and the autumn will show whether Egypt has the political intelligence and sufficient character as a nation to stand by him and to endorse his action. Britain until then must "wait and see," but she does rightly to make it quite clear that she heartily approves of the level-headed policy that Zewar Pasha is adopting.

People lacking good will themselves are incapable of crediting others with it. The Zaghloulists have had little difficulty in persuading the bulk of their countrymen to claim the Sudan for the Egyptians alone, on the ground that if Britain retains possession of it, she will be in a position to do harm to Egypt. The British public, having made up its mind that its own interests are identical with those of Egypt, refuses to allow the interests of both Egypt and the Sudan to be prejudiced by yielding to this specious argument. The uneducated Egyptian thinks and speaks of the Nile as a pipe line leading from an inexhaustible cistern in the Sudan, where is also a tap to be turned on or off at the pleasure of those in control of the country. If the Zaghloulists had trusted themselves with an open mind to a conference, they might have learned that, if such a cistern exists it is not in the Sudan but farther south; also, as Sir Geoffrey Archer, Governor-General of the Sudan, reminded an audience last week, that a dam built at the north end of Lake Albert, with a subsequent canalisation of the Sudd area, would relieve Egypt once and for all time of any anxiety regarding her water supply. Now such a dam can be built only by Great Britain or with her support, and it is at least conceivable that a group of intelligent Egyptians, capable of dissociating themselves from slogans and mob clamour, would decide that such a dam would in the long run be far more beneficial to Egypt than the certainty of political trouble in the Sudan while Egyptians were trying to govern it before they had mastered the science of administration in their own country. If they came to this conclusion, one slogan at least might be jettisoned. In the same way other problems, no doubt, would be found to wear a different complexion. An indispensable preliminary to this end is good will; for certain it is that Great Britain will be far more tempted to make generous allowance for Egyptian susceptibilities when her own good will is reciprocated than when she is being denounced day by day as the enemy of Egypt.

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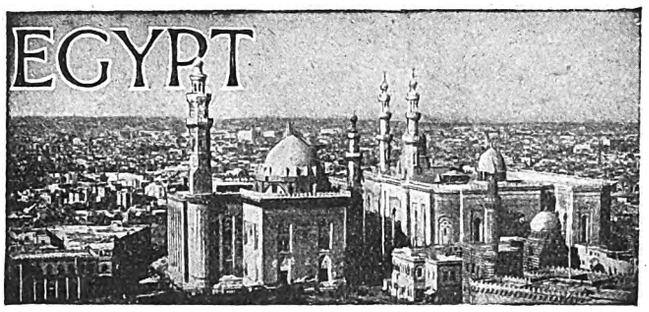
The Near and Middle East*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, July 19.

Electoral Law Revision.

The Electoral Law Revision Commission, under the presidency of Ismail Sidky Pasha, Minister of the Interior, has finished its labours. The Commission's recommendations will now go to the State Legal Advisers, who will draft the new law in correct form for promulgation, which is expected by the middle of next month. Although the Commission's decisions have not been published, apparently well-informed summaries have appeared in the Press, and from these it seems that the new electoral ordinance will correspond very closely with the form with which intelligent anticipation has invested it. The minimum age of electors is to be raised from 21 to 25 years; for electors between 25 and 40 years there are certain tests. To be eligible to vote there must either be a property qualification (ownership of land taxed at not less than £2 a year, or tenancy of property paying at least £24 yearly in rent) or an educational qualification (the possession of a diploma entitling the holder to practise any one of the liberal professions). These qualifications are not applicable to men over forty years of age, whose mature years alone will entitle them to vote. Secondary electors will in future represent twenty, instead of thirty voters, the reduction being made so as to give the same number of deputies with the new reduced electorate as with the previous system, from which the new qualifications were absent. Any person eligible to vote is eligible for selection as an elector delegate.

These are the principal changes from the old law, and most people will be inclined to agree that they are changes for the better. In Egypt's present stage of political evolution it is probably wise to restrict the suffrage in the comparatively slight degree that the Commission has adopted. But whether these alterations will have any great effect on the type of man to be returned to the Chamber is at least open to doubt. To secure an altogether different kind of deputy from those who formed the Zaghloulist majority was the declared object of the revision of the law, and one will have to await the next elections to see whether that object has been achieved.

Responsibilities of Journalists.

Despite the unanimous protest of the Arabic Press, marked by all the daily newspapers excepting three ceasing publication for a day, the Government has put into operation its amendments to the Criminal Code articles dealing with the responsibilities of journalists. The chief effect of the new provisions is that they make it an offence to propagate false news or opinions regarding the Government of the day, and stipulate that suspension or suppression of the journal concerned shall be an invariable accompaniment to the imprisonment or fining of the editor and publisher. Apart from the obviously reactionary character of this law, it is being attacked on the ground of its defiance of the Constitution, which lays down that, while Parliament is not in session, exceptional legislation may only be enacted, by Royal Decree, when necessitated by grave emergency. It is argued that no such emergency exists, that the country has never been calmer than at present, nor the tone of the Press more mild. The principal purpose of the law is, presumably, to put a term to the campaign carried on by certain Opposition newspapers which have lately been violently critical, not of the Government alone, but still more of the influence on internal administration of the Palace, as represented by Hassan Pasha Nashaat, acting Director of the Royal Cabinet.

Al Azhar University.

There is again talk of embarking upon the hopeless task of reforming Al Azhar University, that refuge of a mediaevalism which would seem to be so utterly out of sympathy with modern life and needs that no reform, short of abolition, can ever change it. The present time seems an unfortunate one to choose for such plans, for Al Azhar, in the past such a well-spring of turbulence and fanaticism, has lately, thanks to tactful handling by the authorities, and not least by King Fuad himself, who has lent a sympathetic ear to the University's grievances, been so uncommonly tranquil that it would be a pity now to trouble the placid waters. In the matter of reform, Al Azhar has lately neatly returned the thrusts of the modernists outside by declaring, in a statement to the Press issued over the signature of a learned Sheikh, that the manners and morals of to-day are in pressing need of change. Similarly, a Moslem divine who has scandalised orthodoxy by publishing a Koranic commentary in which polygamy and other practices supposed to be lawful to Moslems are roundly condemned, has been summoned to appear to-morrow before the Rector and a board of elder sheikhs, there to give an account and explanation of the faith that is in him.

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GREECE.

Athens, July 14.

Government.

The development of the internal situation has until the present falsified the hopes of those who prophesied trouble. By the adhesion of Papanastassiou's Republican Union to the military cabal which engineered the "Revolution," the Pangalos Government has acquired a sufficiently strong tinge of constitutionalism to satisfy the moderate standards of the Near East. The executive continues to function *tant bien que mal*, as always, and the prorogation of the Assembly has resulted in the assumption of its legislative functions by a commission which promulgates decrees having the force of law.

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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General Pangalos' early and rather hectic pronouncements about the policy and intentions of his Government have given place to a more sober view of things, and it must be admitted that the life of the country has been little disturbed by the new Government's doings. He persists in the cardinal point of his policy, namely, the strengthening of the armed forces of the State, and it is probable that apart from that his main preoccupation is finding the money to make that possible. The military League is undoubtedly dictating his policy, but it will be interesting to see how far his purely political collaborators will succeed in freeing him from professional tutelage. Greece's relations with her neighbours are not satisfactory; the thinly-veiled hostility to Serbia, the armed truce with Angora, which has been rudely shaken by the latest outrage on the person of Mgr. Germanos in Pera, and the apparent hopelessness of any sensible entente with Bulgaria, are sufficiently important factors to cause General Pangalos to postpone any sabre-rattling he may have in mind until a more convenient season.

Reception of the "Coup."

The reception of the new régime by the Greek people has been curiously apathetic. The Athenians appeared to regard the actual *coup d'état* as a form of comedy staged for their amusement, and the provinces have not shown any tendency to react in any way for or against. The subversive elements, commonly called Communist, are in a quandary. They hate and are afraid of General Pangalos and his military friends, and wonder what is going to happen to them at their hands; on the other hand they are rather hopeful since the *mariage de convenance* between Pangalos and Papanastassiou, for they regard the latter as their particular friend. General Pangalos has steered a middle course by releasing the Communists under detention at Salonika and told them "not to do it again," threatening them with conviction by drumhead court-martial and summary execution if they do. The defeated labour elements have put forward to Pangalos demands inspired by their confidence in the influence of the Republican Union, but so far have obtained nothing except polite sympathy. For the sake of vote-snatching at the eventual elections it is probable that some benevolent labour legislation will be put into force.

Financial Policy.

The policy of M. Cofinas, the Finance Minister, is obscure, but it is clear that he will follow in essentials the line of his predecessor in taking every possible precaution against frightening the City of London. It is generally thought here that the Governor of the National Bank of Greece, now in London, has been instructed to give the most solid assurances to London financiers concerning the direction of financial policy, and Government circles are now much more optimistic about their chances of keeping on the right side of foreign finance than they were at the outset of their régime. M. Cofinas is credited with the intention of holding as a threat over the heads of the Greek nation a repetition, on a small scale, of the Protopapadakis forced loan of 1922, by the further devaluation of the paper money, but these reports should be treated with great caution until something more definite is known.

The American Archæological Concession.

Much local interest has been aroused by the publication in the London Press of a story that American Archæologists have obtained a concession to dig on a large scale on the site of the old agora of Athens, which has as yet hardly been touched and which is expected to yield valuable finds. The project was reported to involve the expenditure of some fifty million sterling and the expropriation of property housing 100,000 people. This account is somewhat exaggerated in its tone, for the present scheme is to commence operations on a small scale with two or three houses and gradually to progress as money and personnel are available. The excavation of the whole area will probably extend over a period of 50 years or more, and therefore any apprehension concerning the fate of the 100,000 inhabitants of the expropriated houses is rather premature.

Athens, July 21.

Republicans and Militarists.

The internal situation has undergone no unexpected modification, although the papers are full of "statements" made by various prominent political leaders which savour a little too much of mud-slinging. The main point of interest remains the question whether Papanastassiou and his Republican Union will be able to continue his collaboration with Pangalos and his military junta. Rumour has it that relations are not particularly solid, and although the alliance probably hampers Pangalos, it is thought that the slight tinge of constitutionalism, which the alliance adds to the present Government is sufficiently valuable to Pangalos to cause him to acquiesce in certain limitations of his dictatorial tendencies. Pin-pricking is being freely indulged in, and the main point of divergence between Pangalos and his fortuitous supporters is on the question of the submission, or not, of important matters affecting foreign policy to the parliamentary commission. For example, Papanastassiou is publicly pressing for the convocation of the commission to examine the lately signed Angora Agreement, and Pangalos maintains that the question is for him to decide, but up to the present he has neither decided anything nor convoked the commission.

Well-informed circles hold the opinion that the lackey-like policy adopted by Papanastassiou has not found favour with a great portion of his supporters, who are beginning to regret their hasty vote of confidence in the present Government, and that a split in the Republican Union is imminent, the result of which will be that Pangalos will find himself practically without support in the Chamber; also he has made for himself numerous enemies among the senior officers of the Army, who require only a certain amount of time to prepare their underground schemes for organising a movement against him.

In a word, the situation is that Pangalos wants to rule if possible *solo*, until Parliament reassembles in the autumn, and Papanastassiou wants to share his dominion. Meanwhile, the country goes on peacefully amassing money.

Prosperity of Greece.

The progress in savings banks deposits is generally accounted good evidence of the prosperity and progress of a people, and under this head Greece makes a distinctly good showing. The figures given by the Greek representative at the international congress of Savings Banks at Milan show that in the first quarter of 1924 the movement in the Savings Banks departments of the various Greek Banks amounted to over 460 millions of drachmæ,

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to which must be added an increase from January 1 to July 31, 1924, of nearly 13 millions of drachmæ in the deposits in the P.O. Savings Bank, and a net increase of 5,437 depositors. Savings banks date only from 1915 in Greece, and the increase in the total deposits between 1920 and 1923 is remarkable, even when allowance is made for the depreciation of the drachma.

Foreign Relations.

The new Government does not appear to have yet made any startling innovations in the foreign policy of the country. Matters are stationary as regards the relations with Yugoslavia and Turkey, and the only mildly interesting feature was the visit to Athens of the Italian Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, M. Grandi, who was received with fair words and replied in kind with true Latin elasticity. The Athenian Press, eager to pursue some new thing, seized upon this everyday incident as a text on which to hang discourses concerning the isolation of Greece and the possible advantages of a counterpoise to the overweening Yugoslav ambitions. These things must not be taken too seriously. The internal situation is too obscure, and the financial negotiations in London too important to be neglected by the present Prime Minister for the sake of chimerical schemes for the reversal of traditional Greek foreign policy.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, July 14.

The Limassol Communists.

The foolish body of so-called Communists who, in spite of warnings from the Commissioner of the District and others, have continued to lead astray ignorant townspeople and to publish their organ, *The New Man*, have had a setback. Their leader was recently taken to the Limassol Police Station, and there informed by the Commissioner and the Chief Commandant of Police that the Government had ordered his expulsion from Cyprus. He was forthwith placed on board a Greek steamer, the Albania, then in port, his family being allowed to visit him before he sailed.

The Silk Industry.

With reference to the newly-awakened expectation of a successful development of sericulture, it is to be hoped that a stumulus will now be given to the cultivation of mulberry trees. Here we touch the everlasting question of better water supplies in the practically rainless months (say, May to October, in the plains). As Professor Patrick Geddes pointed out when visiting Cyprus, the decline of population, and often of land values, in Cyprus as in the East generally, has been largely due to the decay of the methods and practice of irrigation in the past. Even in Cyprus there were, not so long ago, simple but valuable systems, on a small scale, of bringing underground water on to lands, for example by chains of wells, which have fallen into disuse, instead of being extended, through Government encouragement and better conditions. Fortunately, for some years past much larger use has been made of air-motors—chiefly Canadian and American—in some areas, especially in the east of the island. Here oranges of the Jaffa and other varieties are largely and now very profitably grown, and there is a considerable export. There water-lifters have turned out very well. The growing of citrus trees may be largely extended in many localities.

Ex-King Hussein.

His Highness is gaining the esteem of the Moslem, and indeed of other communities, by his kindly and kingly demeanour and pleasing manners. He has exchanged visits with various leading personages, including the Armenian Patriarch, to whom he presented £50 for charitable purposes. It is said that he intends to contribute generously to a school building for the Moslem community in Nicosia.

PERSIA.

Teheran, June 26.

Quiet in the Capital.

Everyone who can afford the luxury of a house up country is now out of town at Shemiranat where all the Foreign Legations are in residence. Reza Khan Pehlevi, the Prime Minister, is on tour in Azarbaijan and Gilan, and the greater part of the troops in the north are near Bujnurd and Astara to punish the Turkomans for past raids. The capital is consequently quiet, and business slack.

The Premier's Movements.

The Prime Minister's trip to Tabriz was a great success at first, though it is rumoured that certain of the Mullahs were offended at his failure entirely to meet their wishes. General Abdulla Khan, the Governor, is popular, and has succeeded in carrying out many improvements. The Prime Minister will afterwards visit Resht and Enzeli, where Sartip Fazlolla Khan is now in supreme charge on transfer from Khuzistan, and he will return to Teheran early in July.

The Work of the Mejliss.

Nothing further has been heard of H.I.M. the Shah, and his return is not expected till the outcome of the next elections at the end of the year is clearer. The Mejliss just now is so well balanced that the Prime Minister with little effort can control the voting in his favour. The composition is at present: 56 in the Right Group under Mudarress and Prince Firouz, 32 in the Left, and 29 Independent members—totalling 117. The summer weather and the early approach of elections are having effect on the activity of the present Mejliss, but it has achieved much in the past few months. Prior to his departure the Prime Minister personally did much to secure the final passing of the Compulsory Military Service Bill. Its provisions will be gradually brought into force in the towns, but is unlikely to affect the country districts for some time. Every male is liable after 21 years of age to serve for 25 years, of which two years is Colour Service, four years First Reserve, 13 years in the Second Reserve, and six years in the Third Reserve. Curiously enough, the Act is at present a popular one in the capital, and its possibilities are scarcely realised. Other Acts of importance recently passed are as follows:—

The Registration Act for births, deaths, marriages, and for military service, and for registration of documents. The Weights and Measures Act providing for standard

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measures on the metric system, to be adopted everywhere within a limit of three years. The Tea and Sugar Monopoly Tax providing for a surcharge of krans 2s. per 6½ lb. of sugar and krans 6s. per 6½ lb. of tea, to be levied after May 12. The Monopoly Administration was devised to evade the restrictions of existing Customs Agreements, but will eventually be merged into Customs. The receipts are ear-marked for railway development only, and necessitates a Railway Act now in course of preparation.

The incidence is not expected to be heavy on consumers, and the Act is not unpopular in the popular belief that it will result in a National Railway. Gradually it is being realised by the public that the receipts will at most cover a loan on capital. It will cost the country time and money to realise the advantages of private enterprise as opposed to State Monopoly.

The Registration of Companies Act has been made law and is modelled on existing European legislation of a similar character. It will be shortly followed by a Penal Code Act, the necessity of which is very severely felt.

A Bill which is in preparation, but has not yet been debated, is that for the arbitrary abolition of pre-Constitution concessions conveyed by Firmans. The Bill is loosely drafted, and in its present form most unfortunate as likely to defeat the efforts of those who wish to attract capital to Persia, at a time when it is urgently needed.

General News.

The New Russian Minister gave a reception on the 25th instant to the Diplomatic Corps and leading personalities in the Russian Legation in town. The reception was well attended. The new Minister, M. K. Jouranleff, was appointed to Teheran from Rome.

The new Ministers for Poland and Egypt have not yet arrived here, but are expected shortly.

The Khorramabad route from Ahwaz to Teheran is now in use, and becoming popular on account of its cheapness. It will, however, become popular only when guaranteed by Government or when experience has shown that its safety can be relied on for long.

The number of German experts will be shortly increased by the addition of experts on Forestry, and in Road Engineering. Other German experts now employed are the Head of the Technical School, and a representative of the dye-stuffs industry.

Three of the present staff of the American Financial Mission are due to leave at the end of June, but will be replaced shortly by new arrivals now being selected by Dr. Millspaugh in America.

BRITAIN AND EGYPT.

Sir George Lloyd on the Future.

In honour of his appointment as High Commissioner for Egypt and the Sudan, Sir George Lloyd was the guest last week of the African Society at dinner and of the Overseas Club at a luncheon.

The African Society's Dinner.

At the dinner on July 22, at the Trocadero Restaurant, the African Society entertained, in addition to Sir George and Lady Lloyd, Sir Geoffrey Archer, Governor-General of the Sudan, and Lady Archer. Lord Buxton presided and proposed the health of the guests of the evening. Among others who were present were the Hon. W. G. A. Ormsby-Gore, M.P., and Lady Beatrice Ormsby-Gore, the Hon. A. Asquith, D.S.O., Sir George and Lady Barnes, the Countess Buxton, Lady Burghclere, Mr Howard Carter, Dame Alice Godman, D.B.E., Sir William and Lady Tyrrell, General Sir Reginald Wingate, Bart., Lady Gould-Adams, General Walter Baird, Sir Henry and Lady Birchenough, Viscount and Viscountess Broome, Sir Gilbert and Lady Carter, Sir W. D. Mitchell Cotts, Bart., Major-General Sir J. H. and Lady Davidson, Baron E. B. d'Erlanger, Lady Annabel Dodds, the Hon. Mrs. Wilson Fox, Lt.-Colonel Sir Henry and Lady Galway, Sir Humphrey and Lady Leggett, Sir Sidney and Lady Low, Mr. D. O. Malcolm and Lady Evelyn Malcolm, Sir J. C. and Lady Maxwell, Sir Neville Pearson, Lady Arthur Pearson, Sir Milsom Rees, Sir Alfred Sharpe, and Sir Thomas Troubridge.

Sir George Lloyd, in reply to the toast of his health, said that he had struck his roots in the East and was glad to be going back there. He hoped that he might have the good fortune to keep alive and to fan the fires of good feeling between Islam and Great Britain, to maintain and, perhaps, to develop the old friendship between England and the peoples of Egypt, which had so long been the tradition of British policy and of British feeling. If he was a definite optimist in the task to which he was going it was because he could not help being confident that there was no necessary ground for misunderstanding. Partly by her own industry and partly through British guidance Egypt, once smitten by poverty and torn by strife, had become prosperous and attained to financial eminence, which was the admiration of her neighbours. This prosperity had been a real prosperity, inasmuch as it had been founded, not on the wealth of the few, but on that of the masses of the people. In those processes interests of special and vital importance to the British Empire had been created, the rupture of which would cause incalculable damage, not only to the peoples of Egypt themselves, but to others far beyond the confines of Egypt. Those interests it would be his first duty to protect and uphold, but in Egypt, as in other countries to-day, new feelings, new aspirations, and new impulses were all alive at the present moment, and they must recognise and appreciate this and play such a part that Egyptians of all classes and grades should feel that the British Empire was not only the most potent power, but also the very best friend of Egyptian interests and of the true liberties of her people. It was not the form nor the machinery of government that mattered, but the spirit which made for smooth working. Good will was the best, the most efficient lubrication, and good will was the ultimate solvent of Egypt's troubles. It was by mutual good will and co-operation between England and the Egyptian people that he hoped to find a solution of the problems before them.

Sir Geoffrey Archer, after paying a tribute to Lord Allenby for having asserted the high traditions of British disinterestedness and fair play, stated that Sir George Lloyd would find in Egypt a friendly Government doing its best to restore a position marred by extremists. In the Sudan the political barometer was set fair. Cotton and water were the outstanding questions. The Makwar Dam was now complete, and cotton would shortly be coming to Lancashire from 80,000 acres of the Gezira. Referring to Uganda, Sir Geoffrey Archer pointed out that it produced half the cotton grown in the British Empire, if India and Egypt were excluded. In the Northern Sudan the main problem was water; but it was capable of solution. A dam built at the north end of Lake Albert would give both Egypt and the Sudan all the water they wanted, if the canalisation of the Sudd area were also undertaken. For work of that nature Great Britain was indispensable to the two countries, and he thought that Egypt could be well content to have British executive control in the Sudan. He deprecated judging everybody by our standards alone. Toleration and consideration offered the quickest way to the heart of the native, and Sir Geoffrey Archer instanced the case of Somaliland, held with a corporal's guard, where we had been able to achieve our object by the threat of evacuation. Half a dozen political officers had made themselves indispensable to the country and had accomplished what could not have been done by force of arms.

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The Overseas Club Luncheon.

On July 24 Sir George and Lady Lloyd were the guests of honour at a luncheon given by the Overseas Club at the Criterion Restaurant. Sir Ronald Storrs, Governor of Jerusalem, presided, and among the guests was Zewar Pasha, Prime Minister of Egypt. After the toasts of The King and King Fuad had been honoured, Sir Ronald Storrs proposed the health of Sir George Lloyd, who, he said, was bringing to his new post a knowledge and experience of Eastern affairs extending over a lifetime. Sir George Lloyd well knew that the secret of the East was that there was no secret. In Egypt British interests and those of the Egyptians were not only common but identical.

In the course of his reply, Sir George Lloyd said that he was very happy that His Excellency the Prime Minister of Egypt should be present on that occasion, and they all hoped that this visit of his to England would be followed by others, and that he would feel assured not only of the happy impression he was leaving behind him, but also that he would always find a warm welcome in the capital of the British Empire.

Of his task in Egypt there were those who told him that it was not an easy one. "It would be surprising if it were easy, for Fate has disposed, with bitter flattery to our generation, that all our tasks, whether we be diplomats, administrators, or politicians, should be surrounded with unusually delicate problems. The whole field indeed of our political vision had been so cracked and burnt in the fierce heat of the world struggle that, as we scan the war-scorched territory of national thought and insurgent impulse, it is hard to see how best to sow the seeds of peace, stability, and mutual understanding. But that is true of all the world and not of any one part of it, and in looking to the field in which I am going to work, I confess I look not only with real pleasure and happiness, but also with a steady optimism to what lies before me. What are the grounds for my optimism? Partly, I suppose, because I am going to live and work in a country which has for me the greatest attraction. It is a land of antiquity, of romance, studded with magnificent and monumental records of a proud and ancient civilisation. All that there is—but there is much more; there is the record of half a century when Great Britain and Egypt worked hand in hand for the modern improvement of her peoples, where poverty gave way to wealth, where strife yielded to order, where modern science yoked to an ancient civilisation brought Egypt once more to wealth and prosperity.

If I am hopeful it is because I believe that in the hearts of the Egyptian peoples those years are not forgotten, and I am convinced that an intimate friendship between the British and Egyptian peoples is essential, not only to one or the other, but to both. I go further indeed, for it seems to me that the very fact that the British Empire has in Egypt interests of such vital and permanent importance to guard and protect, is in itself a guarantee of the abiding interest and friendship which must be conserved between the two countries.

I look forward no less with keen interest to the study of the general problems in development and administration afforded by the Sudan. It was my fortune during my period of office in India to be concerned with great irrigation problems undertaken for the benefit of the people. In Western India the desiccation of that great area of the Deccan and the appalling famines that have resulted, have impelled the Government to undertake a vast chain of irrigation works. These, spread over half a century, are nearing completion—and in a few years now we shall be able to say that the monsoon has been finally harnessed to our great purpose, and that under providence never again shall famine stalk that land with its deadly visitation. In the great Northern province of Sind likewise we are preparing so that some new 8 million acres of desert soil shall become fully productive in less than another lustrum of time. In the Sudan we have similarly gigantic tasks awaiting us, not only for the increased prosperity of the Sudan, but also in order that North Africa, which drinks the whole Nile, should drink it in absolute equity to the special needs of both Egypt and the Sudan. There is, too, that vast swamp area into which five great rivers, each of them bigger than the Nile at its outflow, now pour their wasted riches, and throw their empty tribute to the sun. In the prudent but persistent development and organisation of these waters for the benefit of the peoples of the Sudan and of Egypt, there is the widest field for cordial co-operation between the Governments of Egypt and the Sudan, another opportunity for that mutual good will which it is my object to inspire.

The future, like some gaunt Memnon, straining his lidless eyes over the yellow land, is always blind; but I at least look forward to it with confident and sturdy gaze."

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LORD READING'S DEPARTURE.

Lord Reading, Governor-General of India, with Lady Reading, left Victoria Station last Thursday, by the P. and O. express for Marseilles, where they embarked on the mail steamer Narkunda for Bombay. Among those taking part in the informal leave-taking were the Prime-Minister, Lord and Lady Birkenhead, Lord Louis and Lady Louis Mountbatten, Mr. Lloyd George, Lord and Lady Inchcape, Lord and Lady Winterton, Lord and Lady Lee of Fareham, Lady Oxford and Asquith, Sir Robert Horne, Sir John and Lady Simon, and a number of relatives and family connections, including Lord and Lady Erleigh, Sir Alfred and Lady Mond, Mrs. Godfrey Isaacs, and Mrs. Detmould. The company also included.—Sir Arthur Hirtzel (Permanent Under Secretary for India), Lady Harcourt, Sir William Vincent, Sir Robert and Lady Holland, General Sir Havelock and Lady Hudson, the High Commissioner for India and Lady Chatterjee, Mr. Austin Earl (representing Sir Laming Worthington-Evans), Lady Birdwood, Sir Thomas and Lady Carey-Evans, Sir Francis Oppenheimer, Colonel Bannerman, Sir Henry and Lady Dickens, Sir Reginald Mant, Mr. N. M. Samarth, Mr. H. A. F. Lindsay, Mr. J. C. B. Drake, Mr. Ewbank, Sir Muhammad Rafiq ,Mr. R. H. A. Carter, Mr. N. C. Sen, Miss Raleigh, Mr. F. Oldrieve (British Empire Leprosy Relief Association), Mr. H. S. Polak, Mr. V. Dawson, and Colonel Gidney.

OTTOMAN LAW.

Count Leon Ostrorog has been appointed to be Honorary Lecturer in Ottoman Law for three years at University College, London. Count Ostrorog was formerly head of the legal department of the Ottoman Public Debt in Constantinople and Judicial Adviser to the Sublime Porte. He graduated in Mohammedan Law at the Turkish University of Stamboul in 1897.

Professor N. N. Gangulee, who is a son-in-law of Sir Rabindranath Tagore, has been awarded the Ph.D. of London University for his researches on leguminous plants carried on in the bacteriological department of the Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden.

Suleiman Sirry Bey, the Turkish Minister of Public Works, recently opened a railway Congress at Angora for the discussion of proposals for extending the existing system of railways in Turkey and to consider the possibility of effecting a reduction in fares and goods rates.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

July 30, 1925 (New Style).
July 17, 1925 (Old Style).
Muharram 9, 1344, A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Ab. 9, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Queen of Roumania was present at the dinner and dance given by the Duchess of Sutherland last Friday.

Moukbil Bey, Counsellor at the Turkish Embassy, left London on July 21 for Paris on leave.

The King received Ahmed Ziwar Pasha, the Prime Minister of Egypt, on July 22 at Buckingham Palace.

Mme. Ferid, wife of the Turkish Ambassador, is due in London on August 4, from Paris.

Dr. G. Djouritch, the Yugoslav Minister-elect, is expected to arrive in London about the end of August.

Queen Elizabeth of the Hellenes arrived in London last week and joined King George of the Hellenes at Brown's Hotel.

Sir Herbert Samuel, formerly High Commissioner in Palestine, arrived in Bucharest on July 21. He left last Friday for Vienna and the Austrian Tirol.

Prince Nicholas of Roumania, who is undergoing naval training on the Benbow in the Mediterranean, will arrive in London on leave about August 4.

Abdul Rahman Fikry, Secretary at the Egyptian Legation, left London on July 21 for Edinburgh to attend the International Educational Conference.

Among the visitors to the Indian Pavilion at Wembley last Thursday, was the Earl of Birkenhead, accompanied by his youngest daughter, Lady Pamela Smith.

Colonel I. Antonesco, Military Attaché at the Roumanian Legation, who is accredited also to the Legation in Brussels, left London on July 22 for Belgium to attend the Belgian Army manœuvres.

The King received Major T. N. Watson (Officer in Charge) and the King's Indian Orderly Officers at Buckingham Palace on July 24, and took leave of them upon their return to India.

The Hon. Sir Ronald Lindsay (His Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Constantinople) was sworn in a Member of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council on July 24.

His Excellency the Turkish Ambassador (Ahmed Ferid Bey), His Excellency the Czechoslovak Minister and Madame Masaryk, and Lady Robertson had the honour of being received by the Queen at Buckingham Palace on July 24.

The marriage took place on July 18, at St. Mary's, Cowes, of Mr. Alfred Philip Wood, son of Mr. F. B. Wood, O.B.E., I.S.O., and Mrs. Wood, of Aroe, Patras, Greece, with Charlotte Noel, daughter of the late W. W. Barnes and Mrs. Barnes, of Balmoral, Newport-road, Cowes.

The will of Colonel George Young, of Fir Cottage, Pytches Road, Woodbridge, Suffolk, an Indian Mutiny Veteran, and one of the last survivors of the Old East India Company's Army, afterwards commanding the 56th Gurkha Light Infantry (net personalty £2,609) has been proved at £3,603.

Two of the water-colours exhibited by the Bombay artist Mr. Fyzee-Rahamin, at Messrs. Tooth's galleries, 155, New Bond Street, have been acquired for permanent exhibition at the National Gallery, Millbank. They are "Raagni Todi" (Goddess Tune), representing one of the 12 classical melodies of India, and "A Rajput Sirdar."

The Egyptian Minister and Mme. Izzet Pasha entertained at luncheon at Claridge's last Thursday:—Ziwar Pasha, Mr. and Mrs. Austen Chamberlain, the Earl and Countess of Cromer, Sir William and Lady Tyrrell, Sir Geoffrey and Lady Archer, Mrs. W. Selby, the Hon. Mervyn and Mrs. Herbert, Sir Laming and Lady Worthington-Evans, Sir George and the Hon. Lady Lloyd, Katherine Countess of Cromer, the Earl of Cavan, and M. Ziwar Bey.

Mr. J. S. Wardlaw-Milne, M.P., gave a dinner on July 22 in the House of Commons. Those present were:—The Secretary of State for India, the Under-Secretary for India, Sir Montagu Turner, Sir Henry Craik, M.P., Sir Sidney Sitwell, Sir Charles McLeod, Brigadier-General Charteris, M.P., Sir Frank Nelson, M.P., the Hon. E. J. Hawke, Sir Thomas Catto, Mr. Langford James, Mr. Sandeman Allen, M.P., Sir Thomas Birkett, Mr. W. Osbern Grazebrook, Mr. G. Pilcher, M.P., Mr. Dudley B. Myers, Sir Alfred Knox, M.P., Sir Victor Warrender, M.P., and Mr. E. T. Campbell, M.P.

PROMOTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies has transferred Dr. C. H. Cuff, Senior Assistant Medical Officer, Seychelles, to be District Medical Officer, Cyprus.

Major E. T. T. Todd, 1st/8th Gurkha Rifles, will vacate his appointment as D.A.Q.M.G. at Army Headquarters on October 31, and receives combined leave for one year.

Major J. de L. Conry has taken up the command of the 2nd/19th Hyderabad Regiment in succession to Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Jardine, who has vacated the appointment.

The honorary degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred by the University of Edinburgh on July 22 on Brigadier-General Charles Granville Bruce, chief of the Mount Everest Expedition.

Ahmed Ziwar Pasha, Prime Minister of Egypt, was invested by the King with the insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George on the occasion of his reception by his Majesty at Buckingham Palace on July 22.

Colonel Miralai Russel Pasha, Commandant of the Cairo City Police, whose name was so conspicuously associated with the tracking down of the murderers of the Sirdar, has been promited Lewa (the equivalent of the rank of Brigadier-General).

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THE PLACE OF CASTING.

By "Fulanain."

The plains of Lower Mesopotamia, all travellers are agreed, are unutterably dreary, flat, and featureless. Still, their monotony is occasionally broken; and the low mounds which mark the sites of ancient cities sometimes serve other ends than that of mere relief to the eye. Here is a useful landmark on a rarely-used caravan route; here the resting place of some holy man, whose bones still bring blessing to those whose faith is great enough; here is the common cemetery for many of the neighbouring tribes. One of these mounds I often passed on my way to the rice fields, and classed it with the majority of its fellows as devoid of all interest except in so far as it broke the changeless flatness of the plain, until by chance I heard the name by which the tribes knew it: Masub, the Place of Casting.

Why the Place of Casting? Once, in earlier days, the mound had been surrounded by marshes; but the water, receding year by year, had left Masub high and dry, until to-day it stands in the barren land which, once marsh, has become first rice land, then wheat and barley growing land, and finally an uncultivatable waste.

Once in the rice country, slipping silently down a narrow canal in the *mashhuf** of Shaikh Thamir, I questioned my host.

"Why do they call that mound Masub?"

A voice behind me answered, before the sheikh had time to reply.

"I will explain to your Honour."

I turned to look at the speaker. A very old negro, his face seamed and lined with wrinkles, the ends of his grey woolly beard dyed red with henna, laid down his paddle, in order to give his whole attention to his story.

"I will explain," he repeated. "Well do I know the reason, for the tale was often told me by my mother. And she was bought by the great Faisal for twenty-five liras," he added with pride, as one might mention the fact that one's ancestors came over with the Conqueror.

Most of the sheikhs in Iraq are the owners of slaves, who seem to have no quarrel with Fate on the score of their condition. They are, as a rule, well treated, address their master as "my uncle," and may rise to positions of considerable influence and power. As is natural in a Mohammedan country, the yoke of slavery presses most heavily on the women. A female slave may be given by her owner to whom he will, for the purpose of adding to the number of his slaves, and the child belongs not to her but to her master; even if she is formally married to another slave, with the usual payment of dowry, their child is not freed from bondage to its mother's owner.

The lot of the slaves, in those exceptional cases where they were badly treated, has improved since the British Occupation. Once my old friend Makia, a sheikh in her own right, made an illuminating remark on the subject. The matter on which she had come in having been settled, she sat in silence for some minutes. Then she burst out with a sudden question.

"Can you *expect* me to be grateful to the British?"

"Why not?" I asked.

She replied, "I had fifteen women slaves. Thirteen have run away, and the Government does nothing to help me to get them back."

I said nothing.

"Still, I dare say I deserved it," went on the deep masculine voice of Makia. "They didn't like my branding them with hot irons," she added with her hoarse chuckle.

But the old man who had been paddling vigorously behind me all this long, sunny morning was probably one who found slavery to his liking. He was on the best of terms with his sheikh, and felt quite at liberty to drop his paddle and join in the conversation when it interested him.

"In the days of the great Faisal," he began, "the Chawaimal, as now, were cultivators of rice, though not as an independent tribe, for they paid tribute to the Bani Madhkur. Now Faisal was young, and a proud sheikh, and he counted it a disgrace that his tribe should pay tribute to any. So one year he made excuses and did not pay, and when after some months messengers came from the Sheikh of the Bani Madhkur, ordering him to send at least a part of his dues, he sent them away with insults, openly refusing any longer to acknowledge an overlord.

"Zumzir of the Bani Madhkur, as proud a man as he, began to collect his tribes at Bahatha, for the overthrowing of his disobedient vassal. Faisal called together his own men likewise. Then came news that Zumzir was building mud forts at Bahatha, and we rejoiced with scorn and taunting, for we thought he was afraid to come down and fight our sheikh in open battle. We rejoiced too early. Soon the reason of his building became apparent: he had brought together, not only his armed warriors, but men used to toil in the fields, and these he had set building a great dam at the head of the Madina canal, from which our rice fields drank their water. Thus Zumzir achieved his end, with no fighting and without venturing into our marsh country; for Faisal, unable because of its protecting forts to break down the dam, thought it better to pay than to lose the whole of his rice crop—the value of ten years' tribute. But those who sat with him that night in the *madhif*† say that he broke silence only once, to swear "by Allah, and in Allah, and through Allah" that this year of humiliation should be his last of vassaldom.

"After that day his people saw no more of Faisal for many weeks. He shut himself up in his fort, and all we heard of him was an order that no coffee should be drunk in the tribal madhif, until the stain of his disgrace should be washed away. Day after day the coffee-beakers stood empty in the unkindled ashes, and the old men who had gathered nightly to talk of war and the good days of their youth came no more to the madhif.

"At last Faisal came forth from his fort, smiling the smile of a conqueror, and made a great feast for the headmen of the tribe. None knew what his plan was, save that messengers who had been sent with money to distant Baghdad had returned, bringing with them a certain Saiyid, by name Ali son of Mahbush. But after the feast, Faisal gave orders to his mullah that every family, both of his own tribe and of those who owed allegiance to him, should send him copper vessels, each household to the utmost of its ability.

"The order went forth among the people, and they hastened to obey, for Faisal was a sheikh whose bidding

* The bitumen-covered canoe of the marsh country.

† Guest house.

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it was best to do quickly. They sent in cooking pots of copper, and coffee pots of every size, from the heavy *gum-gum* to the tiny *dallah* copper trays and water-vessels they sent, and *mushkhanas*. There was no stint or hold-in back, for it was said that the sheikh was in need of copper for the making of a mighty spell against the Bani Madhkur.

"Faisal chose the *ishan* we have just passed, that which which men now call Masub, for the place to which all the tribes should bring their gifts of copper. Here, where the surrounding marshes gave him security from his enemies, he set to work, building a mighty furnace. Every day from dawn to sunset came mashufs from all the neighbouring tribes, bringing *bardi* and *gossab*‡ to heat it, and every day came more mashhufs with household vessels from the more distant settlements.

"Ali, the Saiyid from Baghdad, directed the work. He showed the sheikh's men how to make moulds of dried mud, each one in a deep pit. The copper vessels were heated in the furnace, and the molten metal poured into the moulds. All the tribesmen made *hosa*§, running round the smoking pits, waving their swords and lances, praising the ingenuity of Faisal.

"The sheikh and all his people waited breathlessly for the cannon which, the Saiyid had said should be made from their household vessels; but alas, there was no success. Then Faisal ordered that the furnace be rekindled, and the metal melted once more, for he had set his hand to the task, and would not own to failure. This time sheep were slain as a sacrifice to Allah, but still with no good result, so that the people began to murmur, asking one another how it could be possible for them, ignorant folk of the marshes, to make cannon such as the Turks employed in their wars against other great nations. And those who had spent many days in bringing fuel for the furnace begged leave to return to their homes, saying that it was now the turn of others.

"But Faisal would not listen. He ordered the people to bring in more *bardi*, as much again as they had brought before. And for the third time the furnace was heated, many hundreds of men running to and fro with more fuel and still more, while the shaikh himself stood by and encouraged them with cheering words. And this time, Allah was gracious.

"When under the direction of Saiyid Ali the cannon had been taken from their moulds, some of the men were set to smoothing them with roughened pieces of iron, others were called in to make wheels, and others the sheikh set to work to make powder.

"That was a great work, of which men talked far and wide, so that the Bani Madhkur heard of the hostile intentions of our tribe, and their sheikh with many followers came out with war flags against us. But thanks to Allah and the cannon of Faisal, the Bani Madhkur broke and fled."

"Were many killed by the guns?" I asked.

"Five or six," said the old negro, "May Allah have mercy on them!"

"Only five or six! Why did Bani Madhkur flee at the loss of so few as that?"

My error was gravely corrected. "The cannon killed five or six of our men. None of the Bani Madhkur was killed, but because of the great noise they were filled with terror, and fled."

"And after that, what happened?" I asked.

"After this great success, Faisal determined to attack his enemies, and free himself once and for all from their yoke. Their forces, many hundreds of horsemen, were collected at Abu Hassaniyah, behind the great bund which protects their land from the Tigris floods. But when the men of the Chawaimal, in their mashhufs, saw how many were gathered against them, they were unwilling to land, saying that they feared no enemy in their own marsh country but could not hope to match the mounted men of the Bani Madhkur in their open desert.

"Then Faisal spoke to his followers, and promised them horses more fleet than those of the enemy. He kept his word, for he had brought his twelve good cannon, on *danaks*‖ lashed two by two, and with these he broke down the great bund. The waters rushed in over the dry land of the Bani Madhkur, and our tribesmen followed in their mashhufs, passing swiftly where the horses could only flounder. Great was the defeat of the Bani Madhkur, and their yoke was lifted from the Chawaimal tribe. Thus, Sahib, our Faisal brought freedom to the people."

The old slave took up his paddle once more, and fell to work, crooning softly under his breath—the song a pathetic link with his own unknown freedom, for the words, meaningless to him, were those which are sung to their children by the mothers of far-off Africa.

A strange story he had told of pluck and energy, of one man's will overcoming obstacles which might well have seemed insuperable! It seemed hardly credible that nearly a century ago an ignorant savage of these wild marshes should not only have conceived such a project, but have carried it through to success, and I should have been inclined to doubt the old slave's story, had I not heard of the cannon from other sources, and learned of the disaster which, in the end, they brought upon Faisal and his tribe; on this point the negro had been silent.

In those days, only Baghdad and Basrah were occupied by the Turks, the intervening tribes being left to their own devices. But news of the existence of Faisal's guns reached the ears of the distant rulers; they became alarmed at the increasing strength of the tribes, and resolved to break them before it was too late. Thus the Chawaimal, after one short taste of liberty, found themselves under a yoke far heavier than that of the Bani Madhkur, and under masters far more tyrannical, grasping, and corrupt. The guns were taken to Baghdad: and I have often wondered whether, among the collection of disused, antiquated cannon found in the citadel after the fall of the town, were numbered the clumsy, home-made, splendid guns of that fine old warrior Faisal.

‡ Reeds. § War-dance. ‖ Large type of mashhuf.

THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Coal Crisis.

Although the Government succeeded in bringing together the rival delegates of the coal-industry last Friday afternoon, the real battle will not come until after I write—to-morrow afternoon. In the meantime opinions upon the probable result of this eleventh-hour conference—which takes place but forty-eight hours before the expiry of the Agreement—vary in accordance with the equally unfounded optimism or the pessimism of the individual. Those who believe that something like a real solution may be found are relying not so much upon the stupidity or cleverness of one of the parties, nor upon the general sympathy that the rest of the world of Labour and of Capital are reported to have with the miners and with the coal-owners, but upon the intervention of a beneficent

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Government. For there is a common credence in the generosity of the Premier's nature, and it is thought that no such cruel lock-out as is contemplated by the owners will be permitted during his régime.

It is by this time fairly obvious to even the stoutest defenders of our present industrial system that this crisis, if it is precipatated, will be the result, not of a strike, but of a lock-out; but it must also be fairly obvious that the miners, in refusing the suggested reduction in their wages, are really acting upon the best Capitalist principles —the miner in effect says to the Capitalist that he will serve him for three guineas a week, but not for two. Whatever be the ultimate intention of the miners, therefore, whether it be socialisation of the mines, or merely an improvement of the present system, the arguments they are using are fundamentally capitalist. So that we get the curious spectacle of principles identical in spirit being used in practical opposition. Whether the Government can resolve this anomaly will be seen to-morrow. Meanwhile, the nation is anxiously waiting. But even now one would not swear that the equalising by Hobbs of "W. G's" record is not more anxiously awaited.

The Admiralty's Victory.

The Admiralty has secured its annual victory, and this time not only over the preachers of economy within the Cabinet, but also over those who believe that the defence of this country depends much more upon our air fleet than upon our Navy. Possibly the fight within the Cabinet was exaggerated by imaginative journalists, but there does appear to be real ground for assuming that the Chancellor of the Exchequer stirred himself to oppose the Admiralty's ingenious scheme of "replacement." As a matter of fact, the Navy's triumph will not be reflected in this year's Budget, but if Mr. Churchill wishes to add further to his reputation, he had better not be Chancellor of the Exchequer next year, for without question the new cruisers will have to be paid for either out of new taxes or out of savings which normally would have gone to the relief of taxation.

The ordinary man who is no expert in these matters looks on a little bewilderedly. But at least he can see the wisdom, given the desirability of concentrating upon naval defence, of securing continuity in naval construction. In other words, it is not the scheme, but only the decision of the Cabinet, which he is a little prone to criticise.

The End of the Drought.

For Southern England at any rate, the end of the drought came last week with most violent suddenness. Thunderstorms and downpours visited us mercilessly; at night between the rollings and flashings of the heavens one could lie awake literally hearing the passage of the rain before it descended. It is always a thrilling experience, hearing in the dark silence the downpour before it has poured down. And how sweet, after the deluge, smelled the good earth and the grass and the flowers! The brown lawns and courts took on the green that we love to think is peculiarly English; and the bowler smiled in anticipatory victory over the too-long triumphant batsman.

The Harvest.

But there is another side to these things. The sunny summer and the long drought have caused the harvest to be both very white and small. In the Midlands, they say, a grass field resembles an oatfield, so bleached are they both become. Oat-crops had to be cut far earlier than usual; some fields have actually been ploughed already. And though in the West of England the harvest has been very gratifying, the Eastern counties (by which the English harvest is always judged) and the Home counties have another tale to tell. In some parts of Hertfordshire and of Norfolk, for example, one can see at a glance the excess of dryness, and it is calculated that in oat and barley crops the yield is not within fifteen per cent. of the normal. All the same, a passage now, after the rain, through our agricultural counties is to the layman one of the finest sights that the Earth affords.

The Purchase of Honours.

The abuse of Honours is not quite so prevalent at the moment as it was immediately before and after the War, but the despair of ever ridding ourselves of this accretion upon the Party System was shown when the second reading of Sir Douglas Hogg's Bill was introduced into the Commons last Friday. The mover himself confessed that the punishment by fine was not likely to put an end to traffic in honours, and there was a general atmosphere of impotence in face of this recognised practice of purchasing honours. It fell to a Liberal Member, Captain Wedgwood Benn, to make the only sensible contribution to the debate, for he stated—what of course has long been known to sincere students of the problem—that the only real way to get rid of the taint of money payment was publication of the lists of party funds. He, indeed, out-Persianed the Persians, and said that he saw no reason why in a democratic age signs of distinctions should not be abolished.

As a Liberal he had naturally to talk of democracy, although it is patent to everyone that the English is an aristocratic people, and so loves titles that it will suffer plutocracy (as indeed it is now doing) rather than have democracy. And it may be that neither the Conservatives nor the Labour men suggested the publication of the names of their "benefactors" because these have now become more numerous than those of the Liberals. After all, the Conservatives are in for a long time, and when they are succeeded, it will be those who are responsible for the incident of the Daimler Car. Our business-men are not unmindful of these things.

The Name of Gladstone.

Nothing has been more characteristic of post-War journalism than the tendency to broadcast to the world the private deeds of public men. It is a tendency that in many cases has far outstripped the bounds of decency. Fortunately, however, it is less prevalent than it was a year or two ago.

But the whole question of the propriety of the practice is likely to be raised again by the protest which the sons of Gladstone have raised against Captain Peter Wright's defamation of the Liberal statesman in his recently published "Portraits and Criticisms." Viscount Gladstone and Mr. H. N. Gladstone have written point-blank to Captain Wright calling him a liar, a coward, and a fool. It must be many years since English letters contained such direct charges, but it is by no means a bad thing to revive the tradition of outspokenness that was at one time a distinguishing mark of our prominent men.

The Sargent Sale.

The two sides that there are to every picture, the commercial and the artistic, were seen very clearly at Christie's when a few Sargents came up last week and yesterday for sale. On the first day alone almost £146,000 were obtained a price that is, of course, fantastic, and one which could result only from the actions of patriots or speculators. For the most part it was a case of England and America (both of which countries claim Sargent for their own) bidding against each other, but for a small water-colour to reach nearly £5,000 was an event, I should think, unprecedented in the history of British painting.

But much the most interesting aspect of this sale lies in the question: how does it reflect real values? Was Sargent so incomparably above his contempories in portraiture and in water-colours as these figures suggest; or is it merely that to realise huge posthumous prices one should take the precaution of making oneself known in America?

ALTER EGO.

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Indian Affairs.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDIA BILL.

The mail of July 3 brought a memorandum on the "Commonwealth of India Bill," signed by 41 Indian politicians of various parties, some of whom may rightly claim to be leaders of political thought in India, though most of the best known names are absent. They include the Right Honourable Mr. Sastri, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, late member of the Governor-General's Council, Mr. G. S. Khaparde, an influential member of the Council of State, Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas, lately an equally influential member of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. N. C. Kelkar, a Bombay Swarijist on whom some part at least of the mantle of the late Mr. Tilak fell, and Mrs. Besant. The memorandum says that the Indian National Congress unanimously passed, in 1914, a resolution that India should be placed on an equality with the self-governing Dominions and, in 1918, another claiming the right to self-determination: and that the signatories now "demand from the Parliament of Great Britain the passing of a statute embodying these resolutions." It then goes on to assert that, so far from any action having been taken in that direction, "steps are being taken to perpetuate the administration of the affairs of India by a foreign bureaucracy and assurances are being authoritatively given to British undergraduates to induce them to enter the service of Great Britain in India by promises that they will have a life job." Incidentally, it declares that India "is on the down grade under British rule": under the present régime she can neither revive her ancient prosperity at home nor defend her nationals abroad: and an enormous proportion of her revenue is spent on the Army because it exists for Imperial purposes, not for home defence. These are stock arguments, in which there is nothing new: the rather pathetic belief in the golden age of India before the advent of the British is no novelty, no matter how often and how completely it has been exploded: nor is the refusal to admit that British development of industry, railways and canals has been of crucial value to India, as the means—and the only means—of permitting the vast expansion of the population of India since the era of the Moguls. It never seems to occur to any Indian politician to inquire how, without the material benefits provided for her by "a foreign bureaucracy," it would be possible for India to support a population of 320 millions, or to envisage the enormous human disaster that would necessarily ensue if those material benefits should cease to be operative. Many thoughtful writers have drawn a moral from the political chaos that now exists in China, and have predicted a similar fate for India should the strong hand of the British administration be withdrawn; but one seldom sees any mention of the fact that China's population reached its economic limit very many years ago, since when its further growth has been prevented by vast calamities of which the outer world hears little, but which represent an appalling amount of human suffering. Forty years ago the textbooks used to put the population of China at something between 400 and 450 millions: they now put it at about the same total as that of India—320 millions. The diminution is very likely due to more accurate computation, but at least makes it certain that there has been no increase.

But, if these are stock arguments, often repeated until those who employ them have come to accept them as facts, what can be said of some others, put forward in the memorandum? The recent alarming recrudescence of communal strife is thus explained: "There is only one cure for the admitted 'restlessness' of India, and that is her freedom. Her irritability finds vent in domestic quarrels because she is denied self-expression as a nation." One ought, no doubt, thankfully to recognise that one, at least, of the old stock arguments has been dropped—that Hindu-Moslem strife in India is solely due to "the British policy of *divide et impera*," which deliberately fans communal differences that would cease to exist with the removal of their instigator. How is it possible to accept, as a serious statement of the belief of the signatories to the memorandum (who, it is true, are almost all Hindus), that Hindu-Moslem differences are solely due to the absence of national "freedom," when prominent Hindu leaders are starting an organisation to protect their community from the danger of foreign Moslem invaders, whose aid they profess to expect the Moslems of India to invoke in order to redress the inequality of numbers between themselves and the Hindus in the event of the grant of self-government—that "Hindu Swaraj," to defend themselves against which the Moslem leaders are starting counter-organisations? And, patently absurd as this argument is, the climax of absurdity is surely reached when the signatories permit themselves to indulge in the childish statement that "the Prime Minister has made the sinister proposal that the term 'Empire' shall be changed into Commonwealth of British Nations, thus relegating India definitely to the detested position of a dependency." It would, indeed, seem ridiculous to accept such an argument seriously, and hopeless to argue with persons who claim to speak for "the people of India" and can yet solemnly commit themselves to so preposterous a misrepresentation. After this, it is no matter for surprise that the memorandum should continue with what are described as a "statement" and a "warning," expressly disavowed as a threat. The statement is that, if Great Britain is obdurate in her refusal to grant Dominion status to India, "government will become increasingly difficult and ere long impossible": and the warning, that a nation cannot for ever submit to foreign domination and that Great Britain must beware of a mistake such as she committed in the case of her American colonies, but avoided in that of her existing Dominions.

The memorandum proceeds, "No intermediate steps are required—and so far as we are concerned they would be rejected—before the establishment of Dominion status in India by the passing of a measure made by Indians": and concludes, "We therefore demand from the British Parliament the passage of the Commonwealth of India Bill. . . The country is organising itself in its support, and the work will be carried to success, for when a great nation demands its freedom it cannot long be denied." Here, then, we have three stages—a statement, a warning, and a demand: none of which is intended as a threat, though their combination amounts to an ultimatum. It is worth noticing that the two signatories representing the submerged classes signed "subject to safeguarding the interests of the depressed classes," which shows that they, at least, look upon the Bill, and its authors, with some suspicion: while Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, the only one of the signatories who, as an ex-member of the Governor-General's Council, has any practical training in the art of government, signed the concluding paragraph only—which apparently means that, though he dissents from the arguments employed, and dissociates himself from the statement and the warning, he accepts the conclusion whereto they lead, and approves of the ultimatum. Before Mrs. Besant left India, she and her associates in the preparation of the Bill publicly announced that they would reject any suggestion of compromise—that they stood by the Bill, the whole Bill, and nothing but the Bill, which must be presented to Parliament to take or to leave—to pass without amendment, or to reject altogether. She added that, if Parliament did reject it, it would be presented again and again, until they made a virtue of necessity and took the only course that could save the situation. No doubt this also was no threat: merely an announcement of the terms that would be dictated to an opponent so completely defeated as to be incapable of further resistance.

And what of the Bill itself? It lays down that the Viceroy shall be a constitutional ruler, acting solely on the advice of his Cabinet except in two matters: relations with the Indian States which are, "for the time being," to be excluded from the provisions of the Bill, and military defence "until such time as (the Indian) Parliament shall, in pursuance of the recommendation of the (Indian)

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Defence Committee, signify its readiness to assume control over the naval, military, and air forces of the (Indian) Commonwealth"; till when, the Indian Parliament "shall have no power to make any law with regard thereto without the previous approval of the Viceroy." The Bill contains no provision under which the Viceroy can legislate of his own motion, without the consent of his Parliament; so that it would appear that relations with the Indian States, and matters of national defence, are to be left in *statu quo*, without alteration, until such time as the Indian Parliament is prepared to get to work on them. If so, it is obvious that the interregnum would have to be as short as possible: and the clause constituting the Defence Committee evidently envisages such a result. It is to be appointed by the Viceroy "in consultation with" his Cabinet, with a majority of Indians, every five years: its duties are to recommend the total expenditure to be incurred on the Indian Defence Forces, with the proviso that "no revenues of the Commonwealth shall be expended on those branches, if any, of the military, naval, or air forces in which Indians are ineligible for holding commissioned rank": and "to report on the progress in the Indianisation and training of the Defence Forces of the Commonwealth, so as to enable the people of India to undertake their own defence as soon as practicable." The Indian Parliament is to consist of two Chambers, a Legislative Assembly and a Senate: each Province will be under a Governor, also ruling constitutionally, with a Legislative Council, which will have the right to add a Second Chamber if its decision, to that effect, be approved by referendum among the electors of the Province. The Indian Parliament may admit to the Indian Commonwealth, or establish, new Provinces: and may, with the consent of the Provincial Legislature and with the approval of a majority of the electors in the area or areas to be affected by the decision, voting upon the question, increase or diminish or otherwise alter the limits of any Province. There shall be a Supreme Court for India, against whose decisions no appeal shall be permitted to the King in Council unless the Supreme Court shall certify that the question is one that ought to be so decided. Until the Indian Parliament otherwise provides, the appointment and removal of all officers of the Executive Government of the Commonwealth shall be vested in the Cabinet: and, immediately on the establishment of the Indian Commonwealth, a Public Services Commission shall be appointed to make recommendations for such reorganisation and readjustment of the departments of the Public Services as may be necessary, and in regard to assignment of officers to the several Provinces. After it has reported, the Viceroy, acting on the advice of his Cabinet, shall assign to each Province such officers as may be necessary, who will then become officers of the Province. Later, a permanent Public Services Commission will be set up, with full powers over all public officers. Any officer not retained in the service of the Commonwealth or assigned to that of a Province" will receive such pension, gratuity, etc., as he would have received in like circumstances, if the Commonwealth had not been established. There are to be a series of "sub-provincial governments," beginning with that of the (rural) Village and the (urban) Municipal Ward, and rising, in an ascending scale of importance, through the "Taluk" (group of villages), the Municipality and the District (group of Taluks). The Village or Ward will elect a "Panchayat" whose members shall serve for one year: the "Taluk" a "Sabha" for two years: the District or Municipality a "Samiti" for three years. Electors must be 21 years of age and, if "aliens," must have resided in India for at least five years: there will be no disqualification of sex. The "Panchayat" will be elected on manhood suffrage: the "Sabha," the "Samiti," the Provincial Legislative Council, and the Central Legislative Assembly on an ascending scale of educational and property qualifications, particularised in detail in the Bill. Communal Representation will be abolished, and all elections will be held on the basis of purely territorial electorates. As a temporary measure, the number of seats now reserved for Mussulmans and Europeans will be guaranteed for five years, at the end of which period the question of their continuance, modification, or abolition will be examined by a Franchise Commission set up for the purpose. A Finance Commission will be appointed every five years, to make recommendations regarding the apportionment of the revenue between the Commonwealth and Provincial Governments: inter-Provincial trade shall be free, and nothing shall be done to give preference to any one Province or locality over another.

It is impossible, of course, to accept seriously the claim of the authors of the Bill that it must be accepted and passed as it stands, without compromise, without amendment, without any "intermediate steps." As it stands, the Bill is more a piece of political propaganda than a serious attempt to solve an intricate problem. Indian politicians have long complained that the British Government, while affecting to approve, in principle, of the eventual Indianisation of the civil and military services of India, have only made even so much of a gesture with reservations that make it ineffective. The Secretary of State has started a recruiting campaign at the British Universities: the Bill shows the way to make this campaign of no effect—the Indian Parliament will retain any officer whom it is its pleasure to retain, and will scrap the rest. The British Government keeps in its own hands the appointment of officers to the British Army, to the Artillery, and to the Air Forces—the Bill lays down that, if it desires to continue to do so, it can itself pay for its contribution to the military establishment in India, that is, as the authors of the Bill affect to believe, kept at its existing strength to serve Imperial ends without reference to the real military needs of India. The unofficial Briton in India claims that his material services to his adopted country are out of all proportion to the numerical strength of his community, and that this should be recognised much more than it is at present: the Bill disfranchises him during the first five years of his residence in India and, while agreeing to retain his present meagre legislative powers for five years, quite clearly intends to reduce it, if not abolish it altogether, after that period. It is true that it proposes similar action in the case of the Moslem minority: and, as the only recognisable Mohammedan name among the signatories to the memorandum is that of the egregious Shaukat Ali, it is—to say the least—unlikely that Moslem opinion will accept the Bill as anything but an avenue to that result of which they continually express their open fear—"Hindu Swaraj." It is, indeed, characteristic of the inveterate inability of Indian politicians to face facts that this predominantly Hindu coterie should solemnly put forward their Bill as receiving the support of "the country." But this is not to say that the Bill, preposterous as it is when examined as a whole, does not contain points not only of real interest, but of real value. To begin with, it is a constructive plan, and as such a welcome novelty after the years of negative or destructive effort that have, so far, followed the introduction of the Reforms. Dyarchy was admittedly an experiment, intended to usher in the transition stage between "paternal" and democratic government; the actual form that it took was, no doubt, largely due to the fact that Indian opinion had not crystallised sufficiently to suggest an alternative. An objection, voiced by Indian opinion of practically all shades, to the Government of India Act is that it attempted to foist on the East a form of government on the pattern of Western civilisation, but entirely foreign to their own: and we have now the advantage of seeing a scheme drawn up by Indians and giving their own ideas as to what the ultimate form of government in India ought to be. It is not at all impossible that the Commonwealth of India Bill may contain the germ of what that form of government ultimately will be; for the rejection of any "intermediate steps" between the present Government of India and full-fledged Dominion status is a claim the absurdity of which is recognised the moment it is examined. The proposal that bases the ultimate democratic government of India on the village unit, with its immemorial "panchayat" system, is no new one, and has often been put forward before, though never in precise terms, as part of a considered scheme, as it is in the Bill. And perhaps of even more interest is the clause that suggests the recasting of the limits of the existing Provinces, for in this lies the germ of what many people believe to be a real solution of the problem of Indian Government. The Indian National Congress has its own "electorate"

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and its own "Provinces," widely different from those that obtain in India to-day, the latter being twenty in number, following the main racial and linguistic divisions of the country roughly indeed, but much less roughly than do the existing "official" Provinces of India. This is a large subject, demanding separate treatment, that cannot be discussed within the limits of the present article; it is enough to say now, that the Commonwealth of India Bill, though it cannot be admitted to be worth serious consideration in its present form and within its present limitations, should be welcome as the first definite attempt on the part of Indian thought to solve the problem of India: and does, at any rate, provide a basis for discussion and consideration, in the hope that its authors may realise the impossibility of their present attitude, and may, after all, find themselves in a mood to "try again."

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, July 9.

Lord Birkenhead's Speech.

Lord Birkenhead's statement in the House of Lords pleases nobody. The Indian "Liberals" sit on the fence this morning, obviously puzzled by the cabled comments from the English Press; the *Statesman* has no doubts as to the dampness of the squib and is more than a little annoyed that its intelligent anticipation appears to have been severely edited on its way to the public ear. The extremist Press has a handsome present in the comments of the Home papers and is not slow to use it; *Forward* quotes the *Morning Post's* "frigidly pompous nullity" right across its centre page, and adds "a blustering outburst" and "an open challenge" as sub-heads. Its leader-writer concludes that this is an attempt to bully "the people, particularly the Swarajists," to work the Reforms, and he adds that Lord Birkenhead's obsession will not leave him until hard facts knock the "impressions" out of his brain. The recent promise of the Secretary of State to the Prime Minister affords an opportunity too good to be missed for facetious comment upon the time spent in journalism which might have been better spent in the India Office, and the article ends with a vehement denial of the right reserved to the British Parliament under the Reforms Act, to determine "the time and manner of each advance" in self-government.

It is a little early to speak of general impressions, as the speech was only available this morning; but if no more was available for saying than this, it is a pity it was not said much sooner.

The Commonwealth of India Bill.

With recollections of crowded audiences in Kensington and Langham Place, swayed by the eloquence and fascinated by the personality of Mrs. Annie Besant, it is impossible not to wonder to what extent public opinion will be misled by the deputation which has gone to England to urge the immediate grant of Dominion status to India. The value of the memorandum recommending the passage of the Commonwealth of India Bill is well understood in India, but it is not intended for Indian consumption. The signatories do not include a single Bengal Swarajist, and though they mostly come from Bombay and Madras, one looks in vain for names that have recently been conspicuous in political circles; there is no unanimity behind the proposal and the memorandum is misleading from the beginning. Its value may be judged by the signature of Bepin Chandra Pal, who combines a sort of semi-extremism with the writing of frank political articles in the *Englishman*. He signs the demand for the immediate grant of Dominion Home Rule to India, but in an article published this week he puts forward a series of arguments to show that India is not ready for self-government and adds that to talk of giving, or getting, Swaraj under these conditions within a year or even a decade, or twenty years, is to adopt the familiar tricks of a clever company promoter. How many people who see the mass of signatures will hear of the comment on them by one of the best known of the writers?

The Mayor.

Nothing is yet settled in regard to the appointment of a successor to the late Mr. C. R. Das. The matter should have been before the Corporation yesterday, but it was postponed by orders of the Swaraj caucus as it has not been possible up to date to settle the claims of the contending parties. Even among the Extremists there is more than a little resentment at the part that is being taken in this matter by Mr. Gandhi; he is strongly urging the claims of the new Congress leader to the third of the offices which formed the triple crown of the late Mr. C. R. Das and, in spite of the objections from all sides, it is quite likely that his wishes will prevail in the end. It is a significant comment on the political capacity of the average member of the Swaraj Party; it would be grotesque to pretend that the new leader can be compared with the old either as a politician or as a leader, and his claims to be the Mayor of Calcutta are absolutely nil; further, Mahatma Gandhi knows nothing of Calcutta or its problems and he lives in a world of his own where he is completely out of touch with material things, and Calcutta is one of the most material towns in the East; yet he is regarded with such a personal reverence that his wishes in this matter are quite likely to carry the day. The policy of such an appointment is more than doubtful; it is actively dangerous to the party which makes it, and will eventually recoil on the heads of those who can show such a contempt for the city and its needs.

Assam.

Political news from Assam is sufficiently rare to make a headline in the daily paper conspicuous, and this week reports have come through which indicate a certain amount of mild excitement in connection with the salaries of the Ministers appointed under the Reforms Act. In previous sessions the salaries have been both reduced and raised, and there is now a proposal to interfere further with them. Happy is the Province in which there is nothing else to disturb the executive; conditions in Assam appear to be much more satisfactory than in the sister Province of Bengal. Thanks to the absence of agitators, labour is contented and the situation is better than for some time past, and those concerned in the tea districts have every cause to congratulate themselves on the present state of affairs.

Bakr-Id.

The magistrate and the police spent a long day yesterday in parading the coolies employed in the new dock works and identifying those who were concerned in the racial riots at the Bakr-Id; thanks to the prompt steps which were taken, the incident remained one of little importance; but it is a reminder of the inflammable material which is always liable to ignition at such times. One man was killed and some forty injured, a comparatively small casualty list when the vast number of labourers engaged in the mills along the banks of the Hooghly is considered. At Delhi there was an imposing preparation against expected trouble, with the usual result that everything passed off quietly; it is to be hoped that the situation will not have to be faced in such a way in the Calcutta area, for the expense alone would be staggering apart from the number of troops required.

Protection.

Tatas are asking for more; the protection and the bounty they have already do not enable them, according to the evidence offered before the Tariff Board this week, to meet Continental competition, although they are now happy as competitors with British steel. They therefore ask for a further bounty, and put forward an imposing array of figures to support their case, coupled with promise of increased production and reduced costs if their demands are granted. Judging by precedent, they will be granted, as the solitary printing ink factory in Howrah has just been encouraged by a tax on all similar imports throughout India. The Home manufacturer, and the Labour Party, should read the signs of the changing times.

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Markets.

There is nothing to report in regard to piece-goods, except possibly a deepening of the gloom. Jute, however, more than compensates; the forecast is out and, while showing an increase on last year's figures, is much below market anticipation. The market at once rose and is still inclined upwards. The position was reflected in an improvement all round in fabrics, and the market closes very confident. Tea is better underneath than the cable accounts indicate. There is no reason to anticipate any weakening in spite of a substantial increase of stocks. Exchange, after some dullness at the week-end, has improved again on Government buying and closes with a steady undertone.

THE INDIAN COTTON SITUATION.

(By Our Bombay Correspondent.)

Bombay, July 10.

Sir Basil Blackett and Mr. Chadwick visiting Bombay this week have been severely heckled by the various bodies representing public opinion on what Sir George Lloyd, at the Bombay dinner held in London on June 12, called the profound mistake of the Excise Duty. Unlike Calcutta, which has tea, coal and zemindaries, besides its jute mills, Bombay is solely dependent on the one industry of its cotton mills: and when, as at the present moment, the cotton mills find it impossible to work at a reasonable profit, the business community of Bombay has some reason to claim that the Government of India has proved a rather hard stepmother.

Setting aside some rather fanciful grievances of the War period, the Bombay mill owners attribute their present trouble to, first, the Excise Duty, secondly the rise in exchange, and thirdly the burden of local and municipal taxation: and, while the two latter may be considered debatable points of political economy, they hold very strongly that the present position of the Excise Duty is unsound in every way, and that, even as a means of raising revenue for the Government of India, it is both unjustifiable and unprofitable. In the nineties, after a period of no import duties at all, a duty of 5 per cent. was levied on imported piece-goods. In 1896, in deference to the Free Trade principles of Great Britain in general and of Manchester in particular, the import duty was reduced to 3½ per cent. and a countervailing Excise Duty of the same amount was imposed on the production of cloth in Indian mills. The situation was a perfectly logical one if the principle of free trade was to be maintained, and that principle was only shaken in a very minor degree when it subsequently became necessary to raise the import duty to 5 per cent. at which rate it stood till the beginning of the war.

During this period the Excise duty was consistently attacked in Bombay (and, on at least one occasion, very injudiciously defended in the House of Commons) as a piece of legislation devised solely in the interests of Lancashire to check the legitimate growth of the Bombay cotton mills. Neither side has as yet realised its limitations: and, while Lancashire demanded the right of free competition with Bombay in low grade twills and shirtings, the Bombay mills still believed that, with a very moderate amount of protection, they would be able to take away Lancashire's monopoly of the finer cloths.

It is safe to say that this particular form of bitterness has passed away to-day. For purposes of revenue the import duty has been raised to 11 per cent, but, even without this reasonably high protection, it is recognised that Lancashire, at the present level of wages and of American cotton, cannot possibly produce cheap cloth in competition with Bombay; while we on our side realise that the low grade and short staple of our local cotton, coupled with the comparative clumsiness of our labour, prevents us from meeting Lancashire on an equal footing in the higher counts.

Yet the Excise duty continues: and, seeing that it can no longer be justified either as a sop to Free Trade or as a reciprocal agreement with their friends in Lancashire for benefits received, Bombay millowners are entitled to ask what purpose is served by it.

They are harassed by a severe, and as they maintain, unfair competition from Japan, who is able, even in face of the import duty of 11 per cent. (less Excise), to dump its production into India at less than the present Indian cost of manufacture: and they point out that, while the import duty hits Japanese mills only on that proportion of their output that it suits them to unload on India, they themselves have to pay an Excise on the whole of their production. It is beyond the scope of this article to discuss how far the Indian Government can afford to remit the Excise and how far the millowners are justified in their contention that Government would gain as much directly through income tax and indirectly through the general improvement in economic conditions, as they would lose on the duty. But there is no doubt that it is almost universally believed that the present condition of the mill industry in Bombay is due to the imposition of an Excise duty, which is of no conceivable benefit to anyone but the Japanese cotton mills.

To what extent the extreme pressure of Japanese competition is due to temporary causes may be discussed later. In the meantime the depression in Bombay's only important industry is acute; and though up to the present few, if any, of the mills have had to close down, and the question of a reduction of wages is still, it is to be hoped, a remote one, there are no profits now circulating in the city, and all prospects of genuine development are at an end till the industry revives.

It must be remembered that the present agitation against the Excise duty is entirely non-political, in the sense in which that word is generally used in India. There is no racial feeling about it whatever: on the contrary, all communities are united in the view that its abolition can do no harm of any kind to any British interests, and are only anxious to secure its repeal because they consider that it is sapping the power of one of the greatest of Indian industries to resist the inroads of a far more important competitor.

THE "INDIAN SANDHURST" COMMITTEE.

(By Our Simla Correspondent).

It has now been definitely announced that a committee will shortly be appointed under the chairmanship of the Chief of the General Staff, Sir Andrew Skeen, to enquire "into the means of attracting the best qualified Indian youths to a military career and of giving them a suitable military education." Of the two tasks which will thus face the committee the former is, in the case of India, a most essential preliminary to the latter: for, to judge by results attained up to date, there can be no question that, despite statements to the contrary frequently to be found in the Press and elsewhere, Indian youths, whether of the right or of the wrong type, are not at present attracted to a military career in any number. Moreover when it comes to a consideration of actual results, it appears that the military authorities are with difficulty able to fill the ten vacancies allotted to Indian cadets at Sandhurst, although the standard of examination set in India is distinctly below that demanded in England. Whenever this fact is ventilated in the Legislative Assembly, however, there are always speakers prepared to insist that there does exist a large body of suitable young Indians, who would prove just the very material required to man the officer ranks of India's army of the future, if only —. There are several "if's" brought forward by the supporters of the theory, or, it is better to hope, the fact of the existence of such a body of Indians. Some declare that, if the conditions of entry to Sandhurst and the advantages of a military career were better advertised, youths of this class would be attracted; others that they can only come forward for the Sandhurst examination if the cost of the course they will have to undergo, provided they pass, is considerably lower than it is at present; while others again maintain that Indian lads will only present themselves in any numbers for examination with a view to obtaining the King's commission, if their train-

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ing can be done in India and they are not called upon to travel thousands of miles across the sea to a foreign country. These are plausible arguments, and in one at least of them there is a considerable grain of truth; for the cost of the training which a boy must undergo before he obtains his commission is a very serious consideration, particularly when compared with the paltry amount which is usually held to be sufficient to enable a boy to obtain a B.A. degree in this country. But surely there is a deeper reason than this for the paucity of suitable candidates for commissions? The information made public about the methods of entering the army, the nature and cost of the necessary preliminary training, and the prospects of the young officer, is not so scanty that, if there really existed that ardent desire for a military career among any considerable section of young and educated Indians, they could not easily find the means of obtaining any additional information required. Again, considerable as is the cost of the training at Sandhurst, it is so very much greater than that of the three years' course necessary for a degree at most of the British universities? Yet there are hundreds of Indians at English and Scottish universities at present, studying medicine, law and other subjects. To study the arts of peace at any rate they do not hesitate to cross the sea to a foreign country. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that, in face of what the young Indian is able and willing to do in order to make himself more efficient in his civil career, the military authorities in India should be sceptical regarding the existence at present of any real desire among the educated classes in this country for a military career; and in this doubt they are reinforced by the unanimous verdict of a recent committee, composed largely of Indians, which declared that the military spirit necessary for the foundation of a national army in India was at present insufficiently developed, and must be inculcated into the minds of Indians by a series of stages, which must commence from their earliest youth. Unless and until the Indian boy is taught from childhood ideas of patriotism and civic duty, military ideals and military traditions, no real desire for a military career will germinate in his mind. The only classes in India which have any real conception of military ideals and traditions are the martial classes, and their standard of education is as a rule so low at present, and their means so slender, that a Sandhurst education is unfortunately out of reach of all but a few of their sons.

Besides the problem of finding the officers necessary to Indianise the Indian Army within a reasonable space of time, that of deciding on the best method of giving them, when found, a suitable military education is simplicity itself, resolving itself as it does into the old controversy as to the necessity of founding an institution on the lines of the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, in this country. There are cogent arguments for and against an Indian Sandhurst, and almost everyone is agreed that in course of time such an institution will become a necessity. But on the score of military efficiency, which after all is the chief criterion, military opinion—the opinion which must of necessity carry most weight on such a subject—holds that such an institution cannot be made as efficient a training ground as its prototype in England.

It is, however, a matter for satisfaction that the Government of India has agreed to the appointment of this committee, even if it does not in the end succeed, as some may hope that it will, in bringing about the complete Indianisation of the army within a few years. For it will allow the whole question to be discussed in all its aspects: and those who press for immediate Indianisation will be given a chance of realising, in a manner previously impossible, those difficulties which the military authorities in this country have encountered and are to-day encountering in fostering even that small measure of Indianisation which has so far been undertaken. They will have a chance also of realising that it is not any insincerity on the part of the Government in carrying out its professed intention to Indianise the army, if such a thing is possible without jeopardising the safety of India, that stands in the way of the attainment of the object they desire, but the lack of martial instincts among educated Indians and the lack of education among those Indians who possess martial instincts.

CURRENT TOPICS.

War Secretary to Visit India.

The Times says that it is understood that Sir Laming Worthington-Evans, Secretary of State for War, will pay an unofficial visit to India in the autumn: and that, while there, he hopes to attend the Northern Army manœuvres in November and to have an opportunity of visiting various military centres.

Ango-Indian Deputation.

The deputation from India, which has been sent to represent the grievances of the domiciled Anglo-Indian community, arrived in London on June 13, and were accorded an informal interview with Lord Reading on June 22. It is understood that Lord Reading expressed his intention of discussing the matter with the Secretary of State before leaving for India. The deputation is preparing a statement which they hope to lay personally before Lord Birkenhead, the main points in which are the status of the domiciled community in India, Indianisation as it affects the community, and the position of the community in relation to the Army in India.

High Commissioner at Wembley.

The High Commissioner for India, speaking at a luncheon given at Wembley on July 18 by the Hull Committee, said that the already large trade in oilseeds from India would be assisted by the opening of the new port of Vizagapatam, as this port would serve a very large area in which oilseeds were a staple. India's exportable surplus of wheat should be largely increased by the great irrigation schemes now under construction, and he looked forward to the time when Karachi would double and even quadruple her shipments of wheat. As regards the timber trade, the High Commissioner said that, though she could not provide much soft wood, India possessed many varieties of hard woods thoroughly suitable for commercial purposes.

India's Tea Industry.

The Chamber of Commerce Journal says that India's tea industry experienced an exceptionally favourable period during the year 1923-24, the total quantity exported increasing from 228 to 339 million pounds and the total value from 22 to 31½ crores of rupees. The total shipments of black tea to the United Kingdom rose from 248 to 296 million pounds, and its value from 19 to 28 crores, compared with the preceding year.

At the annual general meeting of the Indian Tea Association held on July 20, the chairman referred to the propaganda campaign in India, America and France, on which about £90,000 per annum was being spent. It was stated that, during the eleven months ending May 31, 1925, the quantity of black tea exported from India to America was 7¾ million pounds more than that for the corresponding period in 1923-24. The chairman described the outlay on propaganda as "something similar to the sowing of seed. When we plant quantities of seed in tea garden nurseries, we do not imagine that this will result in an immediate increase in our tea crop, but we do believe that in time the seed will bring in new areas of production: and so I am hopeful that the long view we are now taking will be fully justified when production has inevitably increased."

Japanese Bank at Karachi.

A telegram from Karachi says that a branch of the Yokhama Specie Bank was opened there on July 20. Two years ago, the number of Japanese in Karachi was only nine: now there are about forty, and it is expected that there will be at least a hundred by next spring. The trade between Japan and Karachi, whence three shipping lines have regular direct sailings to Japan, has greatly increased during the last five years, and the anticipated increase in cotton shipments, from the large area that will be brought under cotton, when the Sukkur barrage is finished, has been the main cause of the establishment of the Bank.

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The "Indian Sandhurst" Committee.

Pandit Moti Lal Nehru, leader of the Swaraj Party, has accepted a seat on this Committee. This is the first time that a Swarajist has agreed to serve on a Government Committee. The Pandit was offered a seat on the Reforms Committee last year, but declined it. It is stated that a sub-Committee of the "Indian Sandhurst" Committee will visit England in the autumn in order to study the conditions of training at Sandhurst and Woolwich, and will probably also visit Kingston, Canada. On its return, it will present a report to the Committee, whose recommendations are expected to be made about the end of next March.

Political Parties.

Pandit Moti Lal Nehru, the leader of the Swaraj Party in the Legislative Assembly, has been chosen as the "All-India" leader of the Swarajists: and Mr. Gandhi has announced the abandonment of the "spinning franchise" of the Indian National Congress—under which the electoral qualification was the production of an agreed quantity of hand-spun yarn per month—and has recommended the Congress "to place its whole machinery at the disposal of the Pandit." There are, at present, three Indian political parties in existence—the Swarajists, the Independents, and the Moderates, the latter of whom are not represented in the Indian National Congress, though efforts are being made to persuade them to join it. Both Swarajists and Moderates hope to absorb the Independents, though the latter seem to prefer to retain the position that their name implies; but Mr. Gandhi's surrender to the Swarajists, and the probable transformation of the Congress into an exclusively Swarajist organisation, seem likely to lead to complete coalescence between the Swarajists and Independents: which, if the Moderates can be induced to join the Congress also, would almost certainly extend to them as well. Thus it is at least possible that the near future may bring about a united "Congress Party" which will form "His Majesty's Opposition" in the Indian Councils, prepared to take office for the administration of the transferred subjects and thus to put an end to the present anomalous position in Bengal and the Central Provinces. Though Pandit Moti Lal Nehru, in a published letter to Mr. Gandhi, declares that Lord Birkenhead has "spurned the honourable co-operation offered by Mr. Das," and that it is the "plain duty" of Indians "to challenge irresponsible and insolent authority," it certainly looks as if the Secretary of State's call for co-operation on the part of Indian politicians, and for an honest attempt to work the present constitution as a necessary preliminary to the demand for a further instalment of reform, has not, after all, fallen on deaf ears, and is in a fair way to receive serious attention.

The New Mayor of Calcutta.

Mr. J. M. Sen Gupta has succeeded to the "triple crown" worn by the late Mr. C. R. Das—leader of the Bengal Swaraj Party, President of the Bengal Congress Committee, and Mayor of Calcutta. This is in accordance with Mr. Gandhi's advice, since he gave as his opinion that it was necessary that all three appointments should be held by the same person. As regards the first two, which concerned the Swarajists alone, since Mr. Gupta's fitness to lead the Party in Bengal is not a matter that interests anyone outside it, his selection was a foregone conclusion; but considerable opposition was experienced to the latter, though the Swaraj majority in the Corporation easily carried their man when it came to voting. According to the *Englishman*, the Calcutta Municipal Act lays down that any sitting Alderman or Councillor is eligible for the office of Mayor, and has to be selected by the Aldermen and Councillors from among themselves. The *Statesman* says that Mr. Gupta is not a member of the Corporation; but this does not seem to have made any difference. Mr. Gupta is recognised to be an able speaker, and to have proved a competent leader of the Swaraj Party in the Bengal Council in the absence of Mr. Das; but, outside the ranks of the Swarajists, it was felt that the Mayoralty of Calcutta ought not to be a political appointment at all: and, as regards Mr. Gupta's personal fitness for the post, it was pointed out that he has, so far, taken no part in municipal work, and knows nothing of the duties that it entails.

Production of Indian Cotton Mills.

The report, for the month of April, of the Department of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, shows that the total Indian production of yarn, in that month, was 62 million pounds, as against 50 millions in April, 1924. Almost the whole of the increase was in the lower counts (1 to 25), that in the middle counts (26 to 40) being 170,000 pounds (rather less than 2½ per cent.), and in the higher counts (over 40) 40,000 pounds, or nearly 11 per cent. Imported yarn shows a total decrease of 100,000 pounds, in spite of an increase of 230,000 pounds, or nearly 80 per cent., in the lower counts: the decrease in the middle and higher counts being 120,000 and 210,000 pounds, or 7 and 31 per cent., respectively. In piece-goods, production increased by 21 million yards, or about 14 per cent., while imports decreased by 9½ million yards, about 7 per cent.; though the import of coloured goods showed an increase of two million yards, against a decrease of 11½ million in grey and white goods. In only one instance, that of yarn of higher counts, are imports larger than Indian production: though, to judge from the figures (April 1924, imports 685,000, production 387,000 pounds: April 1925, imports 472,000, production 429,000 pounds) this preponderance is likely soon to disappear. The piece-goods figures were almost exactly equal in April, 1924, production being just over, and imports just under, 149 million yards: in April, 1925, production was over 170 millions and imports under 140.

INDIAN EXCHANGE.

London, July 27.

The past week has shown very little change. Rates in the London market have been steadily maintained round about 1s. 6⅛d. to 5/32 for telegraphic; but on Monday a slightly easier tendency became apparent and 1s. 6⅛d. was about the best.

In India exchange has been very steady in both Calcutta and Bombay, with business done at a shade under 1s. 6⅛d. on the Calcutta side. No alteration has been advised this week; but there is next to no business passing, with more buyers than sellers at 1s. 6⅛d.

Forward rates remain steady, and October to January is called 1s. 6 7/32d. with buyers asking for 1/32 higher.

The last statement of the Imperial Bank of India gives a further shrinkage in the trade demand by nearly 2½ crores of Rupees, and private advices received indicate that, although the Bank rate is 4 per cent., the general money market is much easier.

At a conference in Bombay with the Committee of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Sir Basil Blackett indulged in some plain speaking and appealed for a less suspicious attitude of the Government's efforts to keep the Rupee exchange within reasonable limits.

The New Currency Commission is to be appointed towards the end of the year, and a reference was made to the Cotton Excise Duty which seems fairly certain to be abolished at last.

INDIAN COMMERCIAL NOTES.

The Government of India have recently issued an announcement to the effect that the Indian Tariff Board will re-examine the whole question of the measures required for the assistance and protection of the Indian steel industry. It will be remembered that, in addition to the protective import duties which were imposed with effect from July, 1924, subsidies were granted to the industry to enable it to meet the handicap created by the appreciation of the rupee. Bounties so granted were not to exceed an aggregate of 50 lakhs of rupees during the year October 1, 1924, to September 30, 1925. The Tariff Board is now instructed to consider whether the protection afforded by the enhanced import duties should be supplemented beyond the latter date: if so, for what

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articles further assistance is required, and in what form, and for what period it should be given.

The announcement indicates the extent to which fluctuations of exchange may upset even the best-laid commercial schemes. Obviously the rise which has taken place during the past year from 1s. 4d. to over 1s. 6d., has given a 12 per cent. advantage in price to the overseas manufacturer. It will be impossible for the Tariff Board to estimate the future course of the rupee; and presumably, therefore, they will confine their advice to the recommendation of measures necessary to meet the existing situation. In actual practice, although the protective duties imposed a year ago must have had a sobering effect on imports, they cannot be said to have seriously damaged trade. This is, of course, largely conjecture, for we do not know what course the import trade would have taken without them; but it can safely be said that the trade has not fallen off. Take, for example, the two years 1923-24 and 1924-25, running in each case from April 1 to March 31. It is true that, in the earlier year, before protection was adopted, the imports of iron goods amounted to 17,000 tons and in the latter year 14,000 tons, of which 4,500 were protected and 9,500 were not.. In steel goods, on the other hand, the imports have risen for angle and tee, from 26,000 tons to 37,000 tons, of which 28,000 were protected and 9,000 were not. In steel bars the rise was from 166,000 to 183,000 tons, of which 116,000 were protected, and 67,000 were not. The imports of iron and steel beams, channels, girders, etc., remain unaffected at 81,000 tons, despite protection.

The fact is that India's requirements of iron and steel goods, apart from pig iron, are much in excess of local production. Purchases from overseas have been purchases for immediate consumption and not for stock, and demands for spot use are no fewer than they were before protection was imposed. No doubt the enhanced production of Indian steel works may ultimately supplant much of what is at present imported, but it will take some years to reach this result.

India, like England, and, indeed, like most other countries, is suffering from serious depression in those particular trades which have been most upset by war conditions. The production of iron and steel goods received a tremendous stimulus during the War, and has not yet had time to adapt itself to new conditions. The output of coal was also intensified during the War, but demand has now fallen off, owing partly to the competition of oil, and partly to that of electricity India's coal industry is suffering at present from just the same forces which have affected the industry in this country. Further points of similarity can be duplicated. There is serious depression in the Bombay cotton mills, which threaten either to curtail wages or to curtail hours.

Another industry which has been seriously hit by new conditions developing since the War, is the hides and skins industry. India has always produced large quantities of hides and skins—the former in great demand on the Continent, and the latter in America. Unfortunately for India, the demand for leather shows signs of falling off, owing to the development of cheaper substitutes. Textile goods are replacing leather for belting for machinery; rubber is largely used to save sole leather for shoes, while shoes themselves are taking the place of boots; the development of the motor-car is undermining the demand for harness and saddlery. What is more, the increased consumption of meat nowadays results in larger quantities of raw hides being thrown on the world's markets and for these an outlet is sought in North and South America, Africa, and Australia in markets hitherto supplied by Indian hides. In spite of these tendencies, India's exports as a whole are fairly well maintained. Wheat and rice, cotton and jute, tea, coffee, and oil-seeds are still in demand in the world's markets and India can supply these in large quantities and at satisfactory prices. So much is this the case that India's exports are still far ahead of her imports, and it is this factor which accounts for the gradual and steady appreciation of the rupee. The trade statistics just received for June show that India's exports during that month reached the very high total of 34,14 lakhs of rupees, a figure more than double the value of her imports, 16,32 lakhs.

This wide gap between the values of exports and imports is partly bridged by India's imports of bullion. During the past six months, the net imports of gold and silver into India have been as follows in lakhs of rupees:—Gold, January 749, February 941, March 1499, April 132, May 316, June 236: Silver, January 257, February 297, March 205, April 263, May 107, June 109.

It will be seen that the imports of gold, which increased during the first three months of the year, have now fallen off, showing that satiety point has been reached. Trade in both gold and silver, which was stimulated by the rise of the rupee sterling exchange, has now fallen back to more or less normal figures.

THE INDIAN MAIL.

An Indian on Diarchy.

In an interesting article contributed to the *Englishman* (Calcutta) the well-known Indian politician, Bepin Chandra Pal, says that, when Mr. Gandhi offered to gain Swaraj for India within a year, it did not occur to anyone to inquire how he would do it. The fact that Gandhi was a "Mahatma," and credited with supernatural powers, was enough for the "mediæval faith and politics" of his followers: and this ascendancy of "magic over logic" was the cause of the phenomenal success of the Gandhi campaign during its early months. When a powerful section of Indian politicians decided to enter the Councils, they still could not shake off the obsession of the idea of "non-co-operation," and deliberately decided on the destruction of Diarchy through non-co-operation within the Councils, in the belief that Government would not take the extreme step of resuming the transferred subjects, and that its only course would be the immediate grant of a further advance towards responsible government. But this ignored the fact that, unless the destruction of Diarchy was followed by a general upheaval of popular discontent against a return to "autocratic" government, such a return would be its certain result. The logic of the Swarajist policy of Council wrecking demanded direct action to follow it—mass civil disobedience, or a no-tax campaign: both of which were perfectly well known to be impossible. Government has already announced its willingness to undo its resumption of the transferred subjects if the Bengal Council shows a genuine desire for it to do so: and the only reasonable course now open to the Council is to agree to grant the Ministers' salaries and thus "help the resurrection of the Diarchy that was killed by their own hands. Our immediate duty is to get back that which has been taken away." After that, it will be time enough to discuss what should be the nature of the proposals for its extension and improvement.

I.S.C. Governors.

The *Pioneer*, in commenting on the Honorary Fellowship of Pembroke College, Cambridge, bestowed upon Sir Montagu Butler, says that it is worth noting that the three top men of the final examination of 1896—Sir William Marris, Sir William Keith, and Sir Montagu Butler—are all now Governors, of the United Provinces, Burma (acting) and the Central Provinces respectively: and that they might well have been joined by a fourth had not Sir Malcolm Seton, of the India Office, who passed second to Sir William Marris in the entrance examination, failed to pass the medical test. Sir Montagu Butler became a fellow of Pembroke after taking his degree, but resigned on passing into the I.C.S. This, says the *Pioneer*, "affords an interesting indication of the changed conditions in India, for it may be doubted whether many men to-day would give up a fellowship to take service here." Incidentally Sir "Monty" Butler is perhaps the most diversely decorated of all the King's subjects, since he is a member of all the "ordinary" orders of chivalry except St. Michael and St. George Knight Bachelor, K.C.S.I., C.B., C.I.E., C.V.O., C.B.E. If the *Pioneer* is right about the "changed conditions in India," the facts given above would nevertheless seem to show that India still holds out the prospect of high honours, and a distinguished career, to the young Englishman who combines ambition with "the right stuff."

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The Haj.

Telegraphic information received in India on June 26 shows that the pilgrims had all landed safely at Rabegh and that the caravan arrangements appeared to be satisfactory. The British warship which was supervising the disembarkation of the pilgrims at Rabegh has returned to Port Sudan on completion of its task. A telegram from Jeddah also stated that, on the same date, about 250 pilgrims, mostly Indians, who had drifted to that port by various routes, were allowed by King Ali to pass through his lines in order to proceed to Mecca. This, as the *Pioneer* remarks, seems to show that, if Indian Moslems had brought pressure to bear on those who were carrying on warlike operations in the Hedjaz, many of the difficulties that have faced Indian pilgrims this year might have been removed without the non-Moslem "interference" of which Shaukat Ali and his friends have been complaining.

Slavery in Nepal.

The recent decree abolishing slavery in Nepal has drawn attention to the existence of slavery, not only in that State, but also in other parts of India and Burma: the essence of which, says *The Englishman* (Calcutta) is in fact no more than a contract made by a man who is heavily in debt, to pay the interest by the labour of himself and his family. In India and Nepal the "slave" is generally a man who is so heavily in debt that he can no longer pay the interest on the money he has borrowed. The creditor then takes his services instead of interest; but if, at any time, he can find the money to pay off the capital sum, he is free. In the days of indentured labour in Assam, tea planters were said to "buy" their labourers. What they did was to pay the owner of a "slave" the capital sum owing to him; in return for which the "slave," who had now become a free man, signed an indenture for five years, after which he returned to his home and probably got into debt again and became a "slave" for a second time. "Interfering and ignorant people at Home," says *The Englishman*, "made a great deal of fuss about planters "buying" labourers. An agitation, supported by Indian politicians who knew the real facts but did not intend to disclose them, was set on foot and the indenture system was abolished by law." It was not difficult to do that, because the Indian social system does not include recognition of an indenture system; but it does include recognition of the "slave" system, and no law, that wit can devise, can prevent a landless labourer from selling his labour to his creditor: so that the system will probably persist in the East for many years to come.

The Dark Places of the Earth.

A remarkable case is reported from Mandla (Central Provinces) where a man and his two sons were sentenced to death, and a woman sentenced to transportation for life, for murdering a little girl and causing the death of a boy: of both of whom the man was the father and his two sons the brothers. The girl was killed in order to propitiate the Goddess of Destruction and to save the life of the boy, who was seriously ill: the boy, whose condition was not improved by the sacrifice, died of exposure consequent on being afterwards taken out in bitter cold, naked and bound hand and foot, to be placed at the feet of a holy man. The case was tried with four assessors: who, it is interesting to learn, found all the accused not guilty as regards the boy because his death was not intended, and not guilty as regards the girl because the accused believed that, by offering her as a sacrifice, they were obeying the dictates of a divine being.

Fourth Battle of Panipat.

A Mohammadan divine, annoyed at Hindu attempts to make out that the third battle of Panipat, fought in 1761, was a moral victory, though an actual defeat, for the Mahrattas (on the ground that, since then, the "Kafirs" from beyond the North-West Frontier have never dared to invade India), has issued a challenge to Pandit Malaviya to fight a fourth battle. At the third battle, he says, the Mohammadans defeated a Mahratta army outnumbering them by about six to one: and, to prove the eternal superiority of Mohammadan over Hindu arms, the challenger proposes to "arrive on a fixed date on the plain of Panipat with 700 Musulmans, representing the seventy millions of Moslems in India: and, as there are 220 millions of Hindus, I allow you to come with 2,200 Hindus." He promises to include neither Afghans nor Pathans among his 700, which will consist solely of Indian Musulmans of good families: says it will be proper not to use cannons, machine guns or bombs, but only swords, javelins, spears, daggers and bows and arrows: and calls upon the Pandit to use his well-known influence to induce the Government to permit the battle, at which, if he will not lead the Hindus himself, he should at least appear as a spectator. The challenger expresses the opinion that "the result of the battle will make an end of the present discord and fighting in the country": and presumably hopes that this trial by battle will prove a welcome solution of the communal differences which are now so greatly exercising the Government of India.

A Monkey Detective.

Early in the morning of June 18, passers by in one of the Bombay streets noticed a monkey on a house roof examining a large bundle: and, becoming curious as to what the monkey was doing, some men climbed on to the roof and found that the bundle contained a quantity of valuable silk stuffs. It was then found that burglars had entered a neighbouring cloth-shop during the night, having obtained access to it by breaking a hole in the roof. The proceeds of the burglary were apparently too large to be carried in one journey, and it is supposed that the burglars had hidden part of them on the roof with the intention of removing them later on. The monkey's curiosity led to the recovery of about a third of the stolen property.

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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

170, *Strand, London, W.C.2.*
Tuesday Morning.

Sudan Trade Progress.

The figures for the trade of the Sudan for the first four months of this year make interesting reading. The value of the imports was E1,663,814, while that of the exports including re-exports and transit trade was £E1,783,432. There was thus a balance of trade in favour of the Sudan of £E119,618 as against a substantial adverse balance for the same period of 1924. There are several features of the trade which call for comment. In imports there was a notable increase in cotton piece-goods, while increases are also shown in the imports of soap, petroleum, and some other commodities. As regards exports, there was an increase of £E285,104 in ginned cotton, which was due partly to larger exports and partly to higher prices, while the only item on the export side that showed a considerable decrease was gum.

The British Industries Fair.

Owing to the British Empire Exhibition people have almost forgotten about the British Industries Fair, which proved so successful in promoting trade until Wembley came along as a counter attraction. But there will be no exhibition at Wembley next year, at any rate, not one that will compete with the Fair, and it is to be anticipated therefore that next February or March will see the Fair in full swing again at its two centres. Last week there was a meeting between representatives of the Department of Overseas Trade and the London exhibitors' advisory committe to discuss the future of the Fair, and it is satisfactory to know that the committee were strongly in favour of its continuation. It has certainly proved its value in past years, and the conditions have never yet been such as to enable it to be of the fullest utility. What foreign countries think of fairs as a medium for trade development is obvious from the number they arrange.

A Cotton Shortage.

The latest American Bureau report makes anything but pleasant reading. Before its appearance it was confidently anticipated that the American cotton crop would again be fully equal to the demands likely to be made upon it in the present trading conditions. Now, however, it appears that the crop will be very considerably below last year's yield which may give rise to a very awkward situation. Of course there is plenty of time for the position to improve, the vicissitudes of the American cotton crop are no new feature. The mere fact, however, that the decrease in the estimate should give rise to anxiety serves to show the unreal position in which Lancashire stands so long as she is in the main dependant on the American crop. There can be no real safety until supplies from other sources, and especially from within the Empire, are so abundant that any danger of a real world shortage of cotton is out of the question.

The Rubber Outlook.

It was inevitable that America should make representations with regard to the rubber restriction scheme, but if we have been so foolish as to make a most unwise debt settlement we are scarcely likely to make the error at the request of our neighbour of interfering with a scheme which was designed solely to save a very important British indust· It has been pointed out in reply to these representations that American manufacturers abstained from buying when they could get cheap rubber and the present price of the commodity is largely the result of their attitude. Mr. Amery dealt at length with the question of the restriction scheme in the House of Commons yesterday, and his remarks can give no one any reason for thinking that the Government has the slightest intention of interfering with it at present. He indicated, however, that if in the next few weeks a situation should arise different from that which exists at present careful consideration will be given to the desirability of a change. That is conclusive enough.

Conditions in Roumania.

The present position in Roumania was dealt with at the meeting of the Bank of Roumania by the chairman, General Sir Herbert Lawrence. It has been one of the anomalies of the post-War position in the Balkans that while most of the countries have steadily progressed on the way to economic recovery, Roumania has lagged behind. The reasons for this have been mainly the exceptional difficulties with which the country has been confronted since the War and the unfortunate policy which has been adopted. In recent months there has, however, been a marked improvement in the country's position and Sir Herbert Lawrence was able to give a not unpromising survey of the country's present situation. He pointed out that the financial position of the country on the whole is improving, most of the State debts abroad having been consolidated, while a great part of the old outstanding commercial debts have been arranged. As regards agriculture the area cultivated in 1924 was the largest since the War, but owing to drought the production was less than that of the previous year. For the current season the area sown amounts to 19,690,000 acres, a total considerably below the previous figures, but the agricultural situation of the country in general is said to be good.

General Development of Country.

Commenting on the general development of the country, Sir Herbert Lawrence mentioned that steady progress is being made by the peasant proprietors. "This fact," he added, "which I esteem the most important factor in the development of the country, should, in a few years' time, have a considerable effect on the national well-being and consequent interest in the country from the point of view of British exporters of manufactured articles." Trade

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between Great Britain and Roumania is being maintained on a fairly stable basis. The exports from Great Britain to Roumania in 1924 were 76,170 tons, valued at £2,856,000, as compared with 60,500 tons, worth £2,759,000 in 1923. The imports into Great Britain from Roumania in 1924 were valued at £2,202,000 as against £2,360,000 in 1923. It cannot be argued that these figures are satisfactory for there is no doubt that the volume of trade between the two countries should be much larger than it is. But the trend of the trade, as emphasised at the meeting of the British-Roumanian Chamber of Commerce, is in the right direction, and with improved conditions it may be hoped that it will not be long before the figures of Roumania's trade with this country assume a much more important aspect.

COMMENTATOR.

THE EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended July 16, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has been quiet but rather steady; the net changes on the week are the following:—Sakellarides: 0.20 dollars down for July, 0.38 dollars down for November, 0.50 dollars down for January, 0.55 dollars down for March. Ashmouni: 0.20 dollars up for August, 0.07 dollars up for October, 0.10 dollars up for December.

The feature of the week has been the larger turnover of business on the spot market as a result of a slight increase in the demand from abroad for prompt shipment. This demand, however, has been met fairly freely by holders of existing stocks which are in general unhedged, and therefore the business put through with spinners did not provoke any operations in futures. It is the fact of the approach of the new crop which is so much cheaper than old crop that makes holders rather anxious for the early liquidation of whatever they still hold. At the July 2 tender no dockets were issued. The week's receipts amount to 1,140 crs., against exports 49,477 crs.: the stock stands at 497,290 crs.

Spot: Minet el Bassal has been a little more active this week and there has been some small improvement in the demand from abroad. Sales amount to about 4,900 B/s, of which we estimate 1,700 B/s Sakel, 3,000 B/s Uppers, 200 B/s Zagora and a few bales of Brown and Pilion.

Sakellarides: Has been in rather better request and a moderate business has been done. A few bales of high grades have changed hands but the bulk of the demand has been for Fully Good Fair and the grades below. Spot differences are inclined to harden except for Good and better, which are unchanged.

Ashmouni and Zagora: Have been in good demand and a good business has been done. All styles have been dealt in but the medium qualities have attracted most attention. Spot differences are generally unchanged.

Brown and Pilion: A retail business has been done in these growths. Spot differences are generally unchanged.

White: Is neglected and no business has been reported. Spot parities are without quotable change.

Crop, 1925: Climatic conditions have been favourable. Progress in all districts has been normal. The hot temperature of the last two or three weeks has greatly helped to destroy the leaf worm. Damage incurred by the plant through this pest is not important. Bolls picked from different districts show that the attack of the pink boll worm has so far affected 15 per cent. of the green bolls. Water supply has continued to be adequate almost everywhere; exceptions are very rare.

Sir Arthur Henry McMahon has accepted a seat on the board of the "Shell" Transport and Trading Company.

It is reported that an agreement has been concluded between the Moscow and Angora Governments for the construction of a coastal line on the Samsun-Trebizond-Ezeroum-Erzindian route. The Soviet Union will advance the necessary capital for the construction and will receive the exploitation rights for the branch line from Ezeroum to Kars.

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The Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes

AREA

96,133 sq. miles

POPULATION

(1921)

12,020,000

IMPORTS, 1924

Dinars

8,221,743,552

EXPORTS, 1924

Dinars

9,538,774,432

Rate of Exchange £1 = 280 dinars approx.

Monthly Supplement of "The Near East" : No. 6.

THE RISE OF THE DINAR.

Statement by Dr. M. M. Stoyadinovitch, Minister of Finance.

On the occasion of the recent jump of the dinar, which has now reached the rate of 9 Swiss francs to one hundred dinars, the Minister of Finance, Dr. M. Stoyadinovitch, has authorised the following statement:—

Towards the end of 1922 the question, "Why is the dinar falling?" was constantly repeated. Since 1923 the question has been, "Why is the dinar rising?" If we know the causes of the dinar's earlier fall we shall know at once the causes of its present recovery. The causes are the same, only up to 1923 they affected the dinar to its disadvantage and since that time to its advantage.

The first and strongest reason for the dinar's fall was the inflation of currency, which came as a result of the bad condition of the State's finances, the chronic deficit in the Budget, and the continual indebtedness of the Government to the National Bank. As a matter of fact, the Government debt with the Bank of issue grew rapidly and (without counting temporary changes) amounted to: At the end of 1919 to 214 million dinars; 1920 to 2,905 million; 1921 to 4,084 million; and at the end of 1922 to 4,205 million dinars.

In consequence of this debt the currency in circulation also increased suddenly and gave these results, the figures being for the end of each year:—1919, 664 million dinars; 1920, 3,344 million; 1921, 4,688 million; 1922, 5,039 million dinars.

This inflation of the currency destroyed the value of the dinar, so that the American dollar from an exchange value of 10 dinars to the dollar at the beginning of 1919 rose to the terrific height of 100 dinars to the dollar by the end of 1922 and the beginning of 1923.

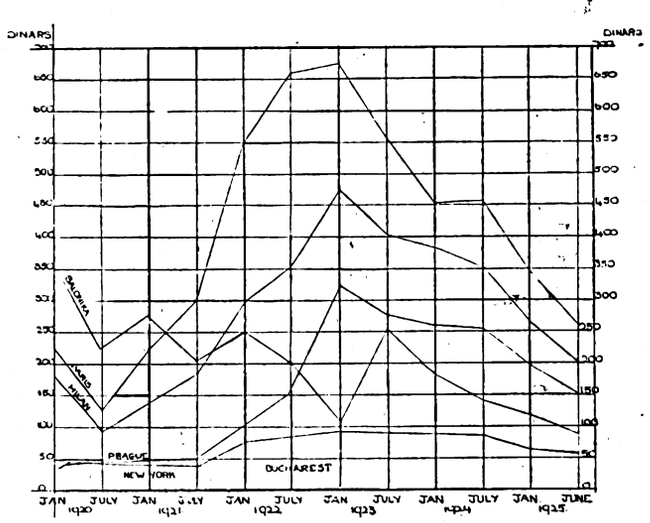
The second reason for the fall of the dinar was the debit balance of international payments. This debit balance arose chiefly as a result of our unfavourable trade balance. In the first days of our union we expended more for domestic purposes than we received, and similarly the whole country imported more from abroad than it produced. Hence the deficit in the trade balance amounted to:—

1919	2.296	Million Dinars.
1920	2.145	„ „
1921	1.662	„ „
1922	2.750	„ „

This deficit in exports means a deficit in foreign currencies, and that automatically affected the value of the dinar.

The third reason for the fall of the dinar is to be sought in the general political situation, internal and external. Numerous unsettled questions—not to enter upon their enumeration—remained to be dealt with and threatened to provoke either conflict abroad or troubles at home.

The fourth reason for the fall of the dinar must be sought in the domain of psychology. The world had begun to lose faith in our national currency. Everyone rejected the dinar, or, as soon as he received dinars immediately turned them into land, house property, factories, goods of all sorts and shares. This loss of faith resulted from the effect produced on the public (both at home and



abroad) by the above-mentioned three causes and also from the official exchange policy of that time. That policy was characterised by the frequent issuing and changing of various regulations of standard rates of exchange, the inquisitorial control of banks and traders, the sale of State gold with a view to the improvement of the dinar rate, and in general by the circumstance that the leaders of our currency policy at that time were treating the symptoms, not the causes of the disease.

Recognising all this quite clearly, at the very beginning of my entry into the Ministry of Finance at the end of

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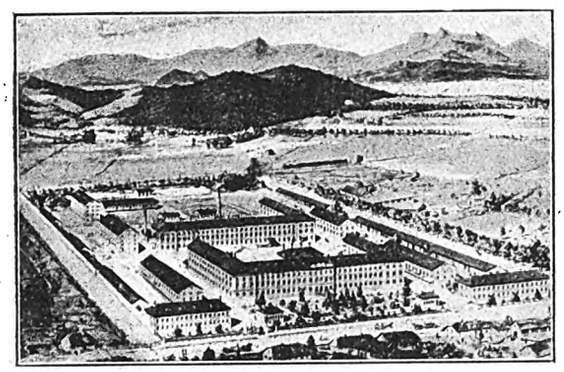
State Monopoly Administration of the Kingdom of Serbs Croats & Slovenes



State Tobacco Factory in Liubliana

Tobacco Culture

The 1924 harvest will yield about 27.000.000 kgs. of leaf. Of this amount about 10.000.000 kgs. will be set aside for export. The tobacco is from Serbia, Macedonia, Herzegovina and Voivodina.

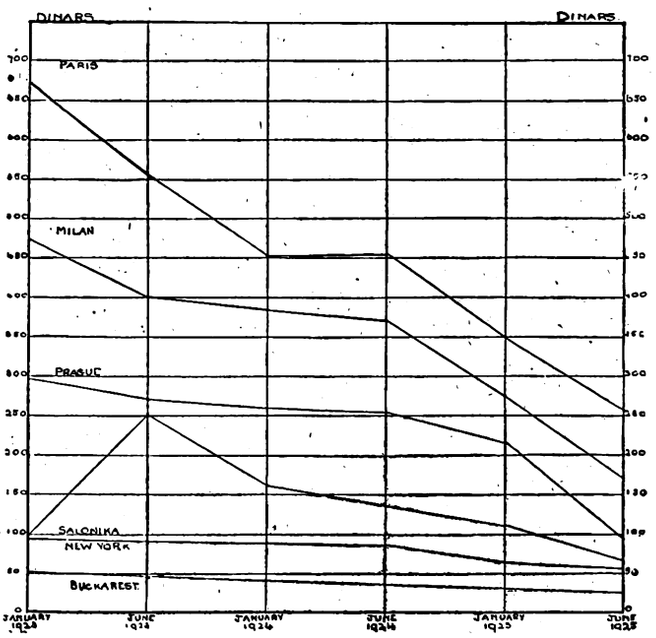
Fermentation and preparation of the crop will be completed in October, when negotiations for sale will begin.

All information can be obtained from:—

The State Monopoly Administration,
— BELGRADE —

1922, I came to grips with the real and main causes of the currency troubles—the condition of the State finances and the strengthening of exports.

In the field of finance we have: the advance of direct taxation by means of the 500 per cent. and the 300 per cent. supplementary taxes, the increase of taxes for the disabled and the introduction of duties on consumption. Further, taxes, costs, tariffs of all kinds and duties have been brought up to gold parity. In a word, all State revenues have been nearly doubled, so that the Government has been in a position to stop incurring debts at the National Bank, and to satisfy a great part of the essential State requirements. By this great financial effort, and it is thanks to that alone, the inflations of currency and the further fall of the dinar resulting from inflation have been checked. It is true the National Bank also took up a decided attitude against the policy of inflation beginning from 1922, but the experience of the whole world proves that Banks of Issue have never been able to save a currency, if Governments follow a bad financial policy. In any case I have always liked to show that in this, as in other questions, I have been in complete agreement with the directors of our National Bank.



In this manner the first and the most important cause for the dinar's fall, the indebtedness of the State to the National Bank, has been removed.

The strengthening of the export trade has received special attention on the part of the Government during the last three years. At the beginning of 1923 prohibitions and limitations on the export trade were removed and export duties lowered. This policy of lowering export duties has been steadily carried out from that time and must be continued also in the future until they are entirely abandoned. This policy with regard to these duties strengthened the productivity of the country and encouraged the people to work and to export.

Further, the Government paid special attention to communications, granting very adequate credits for the building of lines, the extension of junctions and stations, and the repair of engines and wagons. This policy very greatly assisted the strengthening of our industries. The people did indeed work and accomplished much, but the Government aided and facilitated their productive work by every means.

That again is one of its services.

Thanks to all these measures of excise and transport policy, exports in 1923 nearly reached the value of imports, and in 1924 they even surpassed imports to a considerable degree. Also by this means the second important cause of the dinar's fall has been eradicated. It must be added that the Government's success in settling the question of reparations (at the Paris Conference in January of this year and also previously), as well as the State's freedom from debts abroad, has strengthened the credit sale of our international balance of payments.

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Political conditions during the last three years have considerably improved. The frontiers of our State have been definitely fixed, relations with neighbouring Powers improved, and the reputation of our State abroad has grown. The settlement of the internal political situation is progressing by rapid strides. All this has favourably reacted on the rate of the dinar. Thus the third unfavourable influence has been largely removed.

Finally, we had to await the psychological moment. It began in 1923, openly and frankly, when the true state of affairs was realised and the facts were faced. At the same time means of saving the currency were proposed, but these measures did not include an attack on certain "speculators," bankers, etc., nor the sale of gold and similar prescriptions. In this way the faith of the public was also won back again in favour of the dinar. The salvation of the dinar had begun and faith in it grew.

This, moreover, is also the reason of the dinar's sudden rise. It must not, however, be lost sight of, in this connection, that, at the present time, when the dinar has already jumped from 5.40 (at the beginning of 1923) to 9 Swiss francs for 100 dinars, it is no longer of primary importance that the dinar should improve quickly, but that it should be kept stable for a longer period. The greater part of the industries would prefer the dinar to remain stable rather than to improve too suddenly. I regard the speedy return of the gold dinar, its recovery in a year and its return to pre-War gold parity in two, as some suggest, as the greatest misfortune which could happen to our industries, and I could never propose to follow such a policy. The experience of other States in settling the same problem is the best proof that our currency policy has been on the right road up to the present. The wise politician in dealing with currency matters must take the experiences of others into account and not elaborate fantastic schemes, completely shut off from the rest of the world.

YUGOSLAV MARITIME POLICY.

Continued from p.686 (June 25).

As a result of the union of Southern Slav territories, with the Kingdom of Serbia serving as a firm and vigorous centre, a political and economic unit has come into being, wide in extent and rich in natural wealth. Owing however, to the fact that union was effected at the cost of the economic detachment of certain territories from the political and economic units in which they had long been incorporated, there followed a shifting of economic centres and a change in the direction of economic-commercial currents, in regard to both import and export trade.

Pre-War Serbia, deprived of her seaboard and coastal traffic, had stubbornly endeavoured for decades to open up some kind of road to the Adriatic for her economic produce. Yugoslavia of to-day, stretching to the Adriatic and within reach of the Aegean and the lower stream of the Danube, has inherited from Serbia the great task of establishing, and establishing on a solid basis, a road in the direction from the Danube to the Adriatic, as the most important, although not the only, artery of her economic and commercial expansion. But since the foundation of that main trade route implies the establishment of a great Adriatic port, it is clear that a few decades, at least, must elapse before the task is completed, and even when that main commercial artery has been established all the needs of our export trade will not have been satisfied, inasmuch as some of the districts remote from the Adriatic will still naturally turn towards the openings to the sea which are nearest to them. The economic life of the principal economic centre, formed by Serbia and the Posavina and Danube districts, concentrated in Belgrade, turns to-day in another direction, seeking roads and outlets for its produce on a seaboard which can no longer now be that of the Adriatic. Its trade gravitates partly towards the mouth of the Danube and the Black Sea, and partly—indeed, the greater part—towards Salonika and the Mediterranean. This must be seriously taken into account, because the natural trend of gravitation will not change to any great extent in the future, nor even when the Adriatic route has been completed, for the law of distance will *ipso facto* impose itself.

In the first direction the services of the shipping syndicates along the Danube to Galatz may serve and assist our export trade; in the second direction trade will be facilitated by the opening up and exploitation of the Yugoslav Free Zone at Salonika. Much has already been achieved in both these directions, when it is considered that up to now Serbia has had no outlet or roads leading to the sea; but judged by the real needs of commercial expansion that much must be regarded as all too little. To bring produce to a foreign or even to one's own seaport means little, if that produce is to remain there and become the object of the economic struggle of rival Powers and competing factors; it may be a step in the right direction, but it is only the first step, that can become of full use to commercial expansion only when permanent lines of communication are introduced and adequately maintained, so that the products of industry on reaching the sea can be carried on at once to their place of destination, the world markets.

If these lines of communication are to serve the development of our export trade adequately, they must be regular, permanent and in our own possession. Should our produce pass into foreign hands when it reaches Galatz or Salonika or have to rely for its further transport on international shipping, it is more than certain that the foreigner would very easily succeed in stealing our export trade at its very first step, and in preventing it from getting that success on the international markets which in view of its importance, it might justly expect. It was not without good reason that small pre-War Serbia during the economic struggles with Austria-Hungary, paid a regular subvention to the French shipping company of Fressinet and Co., only to reserve 500 tons of ship space on the company's regular lines touching Salonika twice a month for Serbia's export trade, should there be any. Nor was it without reason that the Government of the Kingdom of Serbia, in addition to the services which the said French company was able to offer and guarantee, tried to form a surer means of transport for the export of her products in the beginning of 1914, when the economic war with Austria-Hungary was in full swing and that she delivered her ultimatum to Austria on the very day that she signed an agreement with one of our coastal groups, which was to furnish and put at the disposal of the Kingdom of Serbia special boats for the transport of Serbian goods, especially live stock, from Salonika to Mediterranean ports. The War changed all that, but it has left an example of wise commercial policy which ought to be followed to-day. If the purpose is to develop Yugoslavia's export trade from the strongest economic centre of the State and to achieve success in face of world competition, it is necessary that Yugoslav products on reaching the coast, should be met and taken over by our own regular steamship lines at Galatz and Salonika, and carried to the world markets, so that they may remain in our own hands from the place of origin to the point of final delivery to the foreign consumer, whether this be on our railways, on our high seas, on our steamship service or on our coastal steamers.

We have numerous coastal steamship services, and they should be drawn into the service of our export trade. Coastal steamship owners should voluntarily undertake the part of transporting the produce of our chief economic centre. The task of organising this steamship service as a permanent system in order to serve the needs and interests of our commercial expansion falls to the State itself. Only in this way can strong and firm connections between the different districts of our country and between the State centre and its outlying districts be created and kept up, so that the unity of the State and the nation may be felt and shown clearly and convincingly. This connecting of economic factors which are working in the outlying districts with the centre of the State, which is the basis of our economic life, has a special meaning and importance at this time when foolish separatist tendencies appear now in one, now in another district.

At such a time as the present our coastal steamship lines ought to place themselves at the service of our ex-

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port trade and to regard this as their duty to the nation. The only point open to question is whether or not the existing lines are capable of undertaking this important work and of carrying it out.

The shipping companies of Yugoslavia were founded and built their ships at a time when the needs of commerce and communications were different from those of to-day, when the Austrian Lloyd had a monopoly of shipping in the Mediterranean, the Aegean and the Black Sea, and when consequently no field remained for Yugoslavia steamship lines unless it were in the Adriatic. Existing vessels, therefore, may be said to have been built for commercial requirements which ended with the formation of the S.H.S. Kingdom, and neither correspond to our commercial needs nor are able to satisfy them. There is far more shipping than is required, in view of the length and development of our coast, but in spite of the number of vessels, the mercantile fleet from the point of view of type, tonnage and construction is not adapted to the requirements of commerce seeking an outlet at the mouth of the Danube and through Salonika. A regular service of steamers of two thousand tons, of a mixed cargo-passenger type, will be necessary for that trade when it develops, while at the start boats of 1,000 tons would serve quite well. At the very least ten boats of that kind will be necessary for a regular steampship srevice to be established and maintained in the interests of our export trade on the Black Sea, the Aegean, the Mediterranean and the Adriatic, whereas there are only four or five which could be put into use for that service at the beginning.

Owing to the change to which reference has already been made in the economic and industrial currents, the greater part of Yugoslavia's maritime fleet as a result of its small tonnage, and its unsuitable type and construction, has become useless, and cannot satisfy the new requirements and the new routes. For the moment it is not a question of great trans-oceanic steamers for service in widely distant parts of the world; we are considering only the question of small coastal steamers which may be called "Adriatic," and that greater coastal shipping which we will call "Mediterranean."

(To be continued.)

THE BUDGETARY "TWELFTHS."

Statement by the Minister of Finance.

At a recent meeting of the Finance Committee, Dr. M. Stoyadinovitch, Finance Minister, made a comprehensive statement on the "twelfths" carried over from the last Budget and on the general financial situation.

The Minister emphasised the fact that the "Twelfths" showed a saving of 85,000,000 dinars in comparison with those for April-June, i.e., 4,015,000,000 dinars as compared with 4,101,000,000 dinars. This means that attention has been paid to the Finance Minister's appeal for economy. Credits are expended more carefully, so that when something new has to be introduced on the one side an economy is possible on the other.

As regards personal expenditure it has been ascertained that the new law dealing with State officials is costing more than was foreseen. Officials' salaries have been raised, but credits have been likewise increased, in the present "twelfths" at the rate of 45,000,000 dinars. There is also a great increase in pensions, about 70,000,000 dinars. It should be possible to adopt certain measures in regard to the great number of younger pensioners with a view to reducing credits and to enabling them to return to Government service. Effective measures against those who return only in order to receive pensions under the new law have already been proposed in these "twelfths." In regard to widows' pensions it is expected that recourse will again have to be made to the special officials' fund, as previously in Serbia. For

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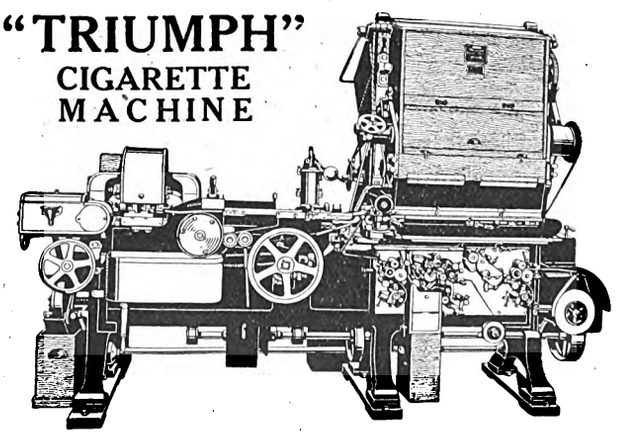

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the disabled, also, a further extraordinary credit of 100,000,000 dinars is still open.

Special attention is being directed, as regards material expenditures, to credits for building railways, repairing roads and the renewal of army equipment which was damaged and destroyed in the War. In the case of railways, besides the lines which have already been laid, provision is made for the laying of the Slavonian Raca-Sava lines and for building a tunnel under Ivan Planina.

Credits have been increased on nearly all roads, and especially for the main Belgrade-Kragujevatz-Petch-Kotor road, where in these "twelfths" alone credits have been raised to the extent of 20,000,000 dinars.

Economies have reached the sum of 142,000,000 dinars in four months. The recovery of the dinar has made it possible to decrease the National Debt by 100,000,000 dinars annually.

The floating debt is not large, and it is being gradually paid off. On March 31 of the current year Government bonds in circulation amounted altogether to 96,000,000 dinars. All these bonds are being paid off regularly and to date. There are no bonds still in circulation through not being paid off when they fell due. The largest debts have been incurred in the Ministry of Communications—a total of 537,000,000 dinars. These debts, also, therefore are now being paid off to a large extent. The rumour that the floating debt has reached 2 milliards is entirely unfounded and does not correspond with the facts.

Cover for these "twelfths" is to be found in the ordinary State revenues, which almost all along the line show good progress. During the eleven months of the financial year 1924-25 307,000,000 dinars more than the Budget provided for were paid in. At the same time economies in expenditure amount to 101,000,000 dinars. It cannot be said however, that that Budget was not properly drawn up. The surplus from revenues and cuts will make it possible to cover the "twelfths." Moreover, the consumption duties, increased taxes for the disabled, and increase in the price of salt will furnish new revenues of 220,000,000 dinars yearly. Finally the new customs tariff will render it certain that the revenues from duties will not fall in the future.

Currency policy remains the same as before—anti-inflation. The dinar shows a strong tendency to recover, but care has to be taken against a sudden jump of the dinar, since that would be baneful to national production.

Finally the Minister gave information on the new customs tariffs, the negotiationes for commercial agreements and the state of the National Debt and the spending of the 7 per cent. and 8 per cent. loans.

The whole statement set out a policy for the satisfying of State needs with economy, but with faith in the constant progress and improvement of the State's finances.

THE STATE MONOPOLIES.

The State monopolies, the revenues from which served in the first place to pay off earlier State loans of the Kingdom of Serbia only, but now, since the loan from the Blair Group of 1922, are being used to pay off all the Governmental loans of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, show very good progress for the last years. The State receives an annual gross revenue of about 2,400,000,000 dinars from the tobacco, salt, petroleum, matches, cigarette paper, and saccharine monopolies, which in their aggregate figure at the head of all sources of State revenue.

A summary of the revenue received from the monopolies for the period from January 1 1919, to March 31, 1925, will best show the results of the exploitation of the State Monopolies in the Kingdom.

	1.6.1919 to 31.5.1920	1.6.1920 to 31.5.1921	1.6.1921 to 31.7.1922	1.8.1922 to 30.6.1923	1.7.1923 to 31.3.1924	1.4.1924 to 31.3.1925
Tobacco ...	87,114,696	420,329,228	888,593,116	1,052,456,017	1,141,715,451	1,608,947,501
Salt	16,153,599	74,198,575	199,508,160	249,765,366	197,998,629	301,962,655
Petroleum..	39,169,120	40,180,265	43,094,742	115,415,568	97,811,673	154,476,639
Matches ...	3,996,593	22,737,946	77,024,243	87,944,661	90,645,846	153,948,963
Cigarette Paper ...	4,243,034	12,658,917	38,130,734	69,329,252	108,537,883	130,094,698
Alcohol ...	4,386,459	526,376	3,346			
Saccharine		130,525		225,623	258,021	238,211
Various ...	1,028,705	2,230,113	2,827,171	2,304,060	3,611,009	7,512,693
Total	156,092,206	572,991,945	1,249,271,512	1,577,440,547	1,640,578,512	2,357,181,360

The first column, for the period ending May 31, 1920, represents the revenue from the monopolies in Serbia, Montenegro, the Banat, Bachka, and Baranja only; the other columns show the revenues for the whole Kingdom.

It will be seen from the above table that revenues from the monopolies, especially from the tobacco monopoly, are susceptibly increasing from year to year. Up to 1923 throughout the country there was a general shortage of tobacco products, which resulted from the insufficient production of raw tobacco as compared with the demands of the consumer. From that year on, that shortage has been met, so that in recent years the production of tobacco actually provides a surplus, over and above the demand of consumers, that is exported abroad. Consuming districts have been kept well supplied lately with tobacco products by the opening of many depôts to supply retailers.

The sale of salt, matches, and cigarette paper is also carried out through State monopoly depôts and gives excellent results.

The sale of petroleum, alone, is for the most part carried out by private firms, with the payment of the import monopolies tax.

The alcohol monopoly, which existed only under the monopoly laws of the Kingdom of Serbia, was abolished in 1921.

The saccharine monopoly has up to the present not provided any considerable revenue. It existed formerly only in Bosnia and Herzegovina and has only just been introduced into the other provinces.

EXPORTS IN MAY.

According to the Customs' statistics, exports from Yugoslavia for the month of May of the past and present year amounted to:

	Tons.	Gold Dinars.
May, 1924	318.973	51.418.084
May, 1925	448.836	75.763.366
Excess in 1925	129.863 (40·71%)	24.345 362 (47·34%)

For the first five months of the past and present years the exports of Yugoslavia amounted to:

	Tons.	Gold Dinars.
1924	1,295.157	245.376 567
1925	1,786 640	320.540 594
Excess in 1925	491.483 (37·94%)	75.164.027 (30·63%)

The chief commodities exported in May of this year were: maize, building timber and wood fuel, eggs, beef, copper ore, wheat and wheat products, cement, live horses, lead plates, pigs, and small live stick. Of the new maize harvest, which began on November 1, 1924, 72,612 wagons have been exported so far.

CROP CONDITIONS IN YUGOSLAVIA.

Report for Period June 1 to 15.

The general condition of the crops is very good, both as regards winter and spring sowings. The general condition of the orchards is between good and very good, that of vineyards very good.

Winter Sowings.

Excellent and very good in the Valjevo, Nish, Vranja, Rashka districts. *Very good* in the Maribor, Osek, Bachka, Liubliana, Kosovo, Danube, Drina, Sumadija, Pozharevatz, Timok, Bitolj, Uzitze, Krushevatz, Tuzla, Travnik, and Bihatch districts.

Good and very good in Srem, Skoplje, Zeta, Dubrovnik, and Vrbas districts.

Good in Primorje, Krayish, Zagreb, Bregalnitza, Split, Sarajevo, and most districts.

Spring Sowings.

Spring sowings are developing well in general, with local setbacks in certain districts, where their development has been hindered by wet and cold weather. In other districts plenteous rain would greatly have contributed to the success of spring sowings.

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Field Work.

Maize, potatoes, and sugar beet were dug over in the first half of June. Some places where there have been floods were reploughed, and late maize and potatoes sown. In the vineyards binding and digging is reported, also a second and in some places a third spraying with Bordeaux mixture against peronospora, as well as sprinkling with sulphur against oidium. In the orchards the cherry, the sour cherry, and early pear harvest is in full progress. Measures to destroy pests are still being undertaken. Meadows are being mown, both clover and lucerne, and here and there even a good second mowing has been obtained. Winter sowings of barley are being reaped here and there, and there are prospects of an excellent harvest (Nish district). In the Bregalnitza district the harvest of winter barley has been completed, and work is being begun with reploughing the stubble, while maize, rice, sesame, and cotton are being sown in damp places. The poppy (opium) harvest is in full swing.

Atmospheric Changes.

In the first half of June the rainfall was by no means uniform in the different parts of the kingdom. As an illustration of the disparity in rainfall it may be mentioned that in the Drina, Valjevo, Timok, Vranja, Primorje, and Krayish districts the land has been soaked with water, while in the Split, Dubrovnik, and Sarayevo districts a great shortage of water has been felt; moreover, in Liubushka (Mostar district) there is a great drought. In the majority of districts the weather has been cool for this season, so that the vegetation is backward in some places (maize is beginning to turn yellow) and warm days will be necessary for ripening the crops. There has been frost in the Vranya district in the parish of Giljan. Cloud bursts, hail, and floods have not been so frequent as in the second half of May; they were only local and involved no special loss.

Pests.

Cryptogamic pests are appearing in somewhat larger numbers. Among the most important is the smut-ball on the wheat ears, especially in the districts where the precaution of soaking the seed in sulphate of copper was not taken. Rust has appeared, mostly on barley on soil under water or on low-lying ground; Ustilago chiefly on barley, in certain districts of the Sandjak, i.e., in the Uzitze district. The proportion of crops affected by disease varies from 15-20 per cent., with even more in places.

Entymological pests are reported on commercial, oil, and textile plants; garden plants are affected to a less degree with blight. Fruit trees have also suffered to a somewhat greater degree in the Mostar and Timok districts. Locusts have appeared in large numbers in Breglana district and are doing considerable damage. Mice are causing considerable damage in the Travnik district, but the necessary measures for dealing with the plague are being taken.

Health of Stock.

The condition of stock is favourable. There is an efficient supply of fodder, and the pastures are particularly productive. Of contagious diseases there is a certain amount of local swine fever, distanum in cattle, pox and scab among sheep and goats, and cholera is present among poultry.

PAYMENT OF CUSTOMS DUTY.

The British Minister at Belgrade has reported that the surtax levied when Customs duties are paid in paper has been reduced from 1,100 to 1,000 per cent. as from July 16, so that eleven paper dinars (instead of twelve, as formerly) must now be paid for each gold dinar of the Customs Tariff. The export duties on cereals, cattle, horses, hides and skins, certain timber, hay and beans were considerably reduced on July 16.

GREEK REFUGEE LOAN.

Hambros Bank, Ltd., have issued the following:—

At the time when the prospectus of the Greek Government 7 per Cent. Refugee Loan of 1924 was issued last December, the surplus of the old revenues applicable to the service of the loan was estimated at Dr.669,834,479 and £20,000 per annum (viz., Dr. 1,304,466,544 and £20,000 subject to various prior charges), and the new revenue (upon which the loan has a first charge) at Dr.514,610,694, making a total of Dr.1,184,445,173 and £20,000. The actual surplus of the old revenues for 1924 (which reached Dr.1,428,681,881 and £19,482) was Dr.735,819,000, and the actual receipts from the new revenues was Dr.569,611,704, making a total of Dr.1,305,430,704.

For 1925 the receipts were estimated at a total of Dr.1,365,028,540 from the old revenues—to yield a surplus of Dr.730,396,465—and Dr.651,327,000 from the new revenues. For the first five months of 1925 the receipts have been: From the old revenues Dr.654,000,016, viz., at the rate of Dr.1,569,600,038 per annum; from the new revenues Dr.277,758,461, viz., at the rate of Dr.666,620,306 per annum.

The yearly service of the Refugee Loan—exclusive of extra drawings dependent upon repayments of capital—requires a sum of about £922,500. For the first five months of 1925, taking as a basis the approximate average rate of exchange for this period of Dr.284 per £, the yield from the new revenues alone would amount to £978,022, viz., at the rate of £2,347,253 per annum, to which sum must eventually be added the surplus from the old revenues referred to above.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF THE S.H.S KINGDOM.

BELGRADE, June 30th, 1925.

ASSETS		
Cash—		
Gold	72.599,572 —	
Silver	17,478,890 —	
Foreign Bank Notes	4.945,762 —	
At Call in Foreign Countries	366,692,269 —	
		461,716,493 —
Portfolio Bills	933,699,224 —	
Advances on Securities	197,798,845 —	
		1,131,498,069 —
Account for the Conversion of Crown Bank Notes		1,186 367,907 —
Account of the Prov. Exchange		366.238,789 —
Advances to the State—		
Treasury Bonds discounted for Budgetary purposes	966,355,034 —	
Extraordinary advances guaranteed by Treasury Bonds	2,000,000,000 —	
		2,966,355,034 —
State Domains—		
For cover of Bank Notes issued for conversion of Crown Notes		2,138,377 163 —
Sundries		695,248,653 —
		8.945,802.108 —
LIABILITIES.		
Capital — Dinars 50,000,000 in gold of which paid up		27,982,900 —
Legal Reserve		6,227,988 —
Bank Notes in Circulation		65,644,080,210 —
Account of the Prov. Exchange		366,238,789 —
Government's Accounts—		
Sundry Accounts		9,068,996 —
Sundry Obligations—		
Current Accounts	527,691,913	
Special Accounts	151,791.719	
		679,483,632 —
Account of the State Domains		2,138,377,163 —
Agio for the purchase of gold for capital and funds		74,342,430 —
Sundry Accounts		8,945,802,108 —

Under the heading "Cash" a gold dinar is reckoned as a dinar, an English pound as 25 dinars, a dollar as 5 dinars, an Italian lira as one dinar, a Swiss or French franc as a dinar, a coined silver dinar as one dinar, etc.

Discount rate 6 per cent. loans on securities 8 per cent.

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Near East Markets.

BRITISH TRADE WITH ROUMANIA.

Railway Material Required.

At the annual meeting of the British Roumanian Chamber of Commerce on July 23, Lord Oranmore and Browne, K.P., the chairman, in presenting the statement of accounts for the past year, said that British trade with Roumania continued to expand during 1924. The exports from the United Kingdom, including re-exports, were £2,856,460, an increase of £84,000 compared with 1923, the largest item being, as usual, cotton goods to the value of £1,534,800. The exports of iron and steel goods had increased from £230,600 to £463,200. The imports from Roumania into the United Kingdom amounted to £2,202,537, which shows a slight decrease of £151,350 on the figures of 1923. The chief items were:—Grain, £1,423,000; oil, £537,000; timber, £341,000.

It might be noted that the volume of trade between the two countries was maintained, to which, of course, the comparative steadiness of the exchange was a contributory factor. An arrangement had recently been concluded between the Government of Roumania and the National Bank for the liquidation of the Government's debts to that institution, and it was hoped in Roumania that with the carrying out of this progrmme a sensible improvement in the exchange will result. The country was still actively continuing the consolidation of its position and in particular the beneficial effect of the distribution of the land among the peasants was beginning to be felt in a more general and real prosperity of the country taken as a whole.

The principal difficulty at the moment in Roumania was the inadequacy of the transport facilities afforded by the railways, which required large sums for new lines and stock in order to cope with the big traffic which actually awaited. Lord Oranmore paid a tribute to the efficiency of the technical side of the railways, which obtained very good results with the means at its disposal. The prospects for British trade were much brighter than they had been for some time past.

Members of the Chamber were aware of the difficulties experienced by the European Commission of the Danube in carrying out their work during recent years. They had been hard pressed to meet the expenses of dredging operations and lengthening of the piers necessitated by natural cause which had operated to silt up the mouth of the river. The Powers which had previously advanced money to the Commission were now unwilling to put up the required capital, and the Commission had therefore been obliged to finance capital expenditure out of revenue and to raise the dues for the purpose.

M. Titulesco, Roumanian Minister in London, was re-elected hon. president and Lord Oranmore and Browne, K.P., was re-elected vice-president for the ensuing year.

IVORY PRICES IRREGULAR.

Messrs. Hale and Son's report on the quarterly ivory sales held on July 21 and 22, states that they comprised 42¾ tons (against 55 tons same time last year), viz.: 17½ tons Zanzibar, Bombay, Mozambique, East African and Siam, 2¾ tons Abyssinian, 6¾ tons Egyptian (6½ tons Alexandrian, ¼ ton Malta description), 10¾ tons West Coast and Central African, ½ ton Lisbon, and 4¾ tons land carriage; also 1¼ tons sea horse tusks and boars tusks, and ¼ ton mammoth tusks and rhinoceros horns. Total 44¼ tons. Of the above quantities 8½ tons consisted of lots previously offered or indirect import, viz.: 1¼ tons East Indian, ¼ ton Abyssinian, ½ ton Egyptian, 1¾ tons West Coast African, 4¾ tons land carriage.

The following was the assortment of the East Indian description: 11 tons soft tusks, ½ ton hard and Siam, 1 ton billiard ball pieces, ¼ ton bagatelle pieces, ¾ ton cut points for balls, ½ ton cut points off large tusks, ¼ ton under-size and defective points, etc., ¾ ton billiard ball scrivelloes, ¼ ton bagatelle scrivelloes, ¾ ton scrivelloes, 1¼ tons cut hollows, and ¼ ton mixed defective pieces, etc. During the progress of the sales the following quantities were bought in, viz.: 8¾ cwts. East Indian, 3½ cwts. Abyssinian, ¾ cwt. Egyptian, 22¼ cwts West Coast African, 50¾ cwts. land carriage. Total 4¼ tons. The quantity catalogued was moderate, being about the same as at the previous auctions. There was the usual attendance of buyers and with good competition prices generally were well maintained for large and medium tusks, both of the hard and soft descriptions. Ball ivory again showed much irregularity in prices, some lots bringing last sale rates, but in some instances prices showed a decline of £5 to £10 per cwt., and some quantity was bought in. America, the Continent and the Home trade bought as usual.

Egyptian.—Soft, large and medium tusks were steady

Abyssinian.—Large and medium tusks and scrivelloes steady. Hard scrivelloes £3 to £4 per cwt. lower. Ball scrivelloes sold rather in buyers' favour.

An Exhibition of Oil Well Equipment is to be held at Bucharest from September 21 to October 31.

It is reported that the Roumanian Government has agreed to permit the refineries to export fuel oil, the export tax being provisionally fixed at 5 dollars a metric ton.

A sample Fair is to be held at Gorna Orekhovitsa in Northern Bulgaria from September 17 to 27. The British Commercial Secretary at Belgrade states that as this year's harvest is a remarkably good one the Fair may offer an exceptional opportunity for British manufacturers of agricultural machinery to display their goods.

Ottoman Railway (Smyrna-Aidin).—The half-yearly meeting will be held at Winchester House, 100, Old Broad Street, E.C.2, on September 29, at noon. Shareholders intending to attend must deposit their share certificates with the secretary at 100, Old Broad Street, E.C.2; or at the company's offices at Smyrna; or with the Imperial Ottoman Bank, Constantinople, at least 14 days before that on which the meeting will be held.

IMPORTS & EXPORTS

The financing of the world's commerce has become one of the most intricate of machines ever constructed, and under the banker's hands lie all the cogs and controls necessary for its efficient running. It is of the utmost importance that the merchant should clearly understand the working of its mechanism in order that he may make the fullest use of the bank's facilities, not only for his personal benefit, but also for the increased commercial prosperity of the country. To assist its customers, the Westminster Bank has now prepared a booklet explaining the many ways in which the commercial man may use the bank for the furtherance of his business, and how he should proceed so as to take the utmost advantage of interest, rebate, discount, rates of exchange, etc., and combine with progress and enterprise the necessary security and caution.

Copies will be issued on application to the Secretary, Head Office, Westminster Bank Limited

41 LOTHBURY, LONDON, E.C.2

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Company Meetings.

FURNESS WITHY AND CO.

The Shipping Position.

The thirty-fourth annual general meeting of Furness Withy and Co., Ltd., was held on July 22 at the registered office of the company, Furness House, Leadenhall Street, E.C. Sir Frederick W. Lewis, Bart., presided.

The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting. Mr. Ralph T. Warwick, of Messrs. W. T. Walton and Son, read the auditors' report.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: In the midst of the very depressing conditions in which the trade of the country is being carried on, it is a source of satisfaction to your directors to be able to present to you what I think may be regarded as a comparatively satisfactory balance-sheet. It is but natural that our profits should show a reduction, and those of our shareholders who are in close touch with the shipping industry will not be surprised at that fact.

So far as the profit and loss account is concerned, the credit balance as the result of the year's operation is £528,742 5s. 4d., which, of course, is arrived at after paying all expenses and making provision for taxation. As there are no prior charges in the shape of debenture interest, the total disposable amount, which includes the balance brought forward from the previous year, amounts to £745,379 3s. 2d., and, as shown in the accounts, there have already been distributed the two half-yearly dividends on the preference shares, as well as two dividends at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum upon the ordinary shares. As will be seen from the directors' report, we have thought it prudent to transfer £200,000 to depreciation, as, while our assets are of greater value than the amount at which they stand in our books, the steamers and other similar wasting assets should, of course, gradually be written off over the period of their estimated life. After making these allocations we propose to distribute a bonus of 2½ per cent. to the ordinary shareholders, which, with the interim dividends already paid, will make a total distribution of 7½ per cent. per annum, free of income-tax. The balance of £187,259 9s. 1d. will be carried forward to the current year.

Our steamship services have been well maintained, and wherever developments have justified expansion we have not hesitated to provide additional tonnage, even at the cost of building at present high prices. We have just taken delivery of a new pasenger and cargo vessel built by Messrs. Vickers, of Barrow-in-Furness, for the Liverpool, Halifax and St. John's trade. This vessel has been named the Newfoundland, and while, of course, she is not of the same size as the largest Atlantic liners, she is beautifully appointed, and her public rooms and cabins have been designed to give passengers the maximum pleasure and comfort on a boat of this description. She will make the passage between Liverpool and St. John's in five and a-half days, and in order to encourage travel by this route we have within the past two or three weeks placed with the same builders an order for a second duplicate ship. The Digby, which has been a most popular ship in that service, will be transferred to the New York-West Indian service, and is now being overhauled and refitted for that purpose.

Our fleet, including the vessels owned by our associated companies, now totals over 1,000,000 tons, including 100,000 tons of motor vessels and 150,000 tons of refrigerated tonnage. Part of the tonnage we have under construction is engined by Diesel engines and part by steam engines. This does not mean that we have been dissatisfied with our experiments with Diesel engines, but the fact is that, taking everything into consideration, the steam engine is still the most economical in certain trades, particularly in short voyages and dead-weight trades and in trades where oil is expensive. We have among our fleet five different types of Diesel engines, and, notwithstanding the fact that it is now some thirteen years ago that we constructed our first vessel with British-built Diesel engines, we are still more or less in the experimental stage, and one of the most important factors standing in the way of the further development and use of the Diesel engine for marine purposes is the very high first capital cost. Apart from this problem, which will no doubt be solved in due course, and also the question of the cost and supply of oil, our experience leads us to the conclusion that the efficiency of the Diesel engine is firmly established.

The year just past has been one of unprecedented difficulty and depression. Fortunately, we have our interests well spread, and, as is obvious from our balance-sheet, a considerable part of our assets consists of investments in British and Colonial Government and general securities, from which a great part of our revenue has been derived, and which are not so much affected by the depression in our own especial industry. At the same time, while the past year's results of our company have been so far satisfactory, it is impossible to disguise from ourselves that conditions at present governing our principal industries are so acute that they are causing national concern, and the problem of determining what single circumstance or group of circumstances is at the root of the situation, and what is the right solution, is probably the biggest industrial problem with which this country has been faced since the Napoleonic wars.

The resolution was carried unanimously, and after the usual formal business the proceedings terminated.

BANK OF ROUMANIA.

Business Continues Satisfactory.

The annual general meeting of the Bank of Roumania, Ltd., was held on July 22, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., General the Hon. Sir Herbert A. Lawrence, K.C.B., presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. P. Carrington) having read the notice calling the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: The balance available, after making provision for bad debts, income-tax, and corporation tax, amounts to £18,551 8s. 6d. An interim dividend of 3s. per share, less income-tax, was paid on December 17 last, and the Board now recommends the payment of a dividend of 3s. per share, less income-tax, which together with the interim dividend absorbs £11,625, and recommends that the balance of £6,926 8s. 6d. be applied as to £3,226 17s. 6d. to the contingency account, and as to £3,699 11s. to the reserve account.

I very much regret to inform you of the death of our manager in Bucharest, Mr. Alexandre Lucasiewicz, at the age of 71. Mr. Lucasiewicz had been a faithful servant of the bank for 56 years and his loss is one which we very much deplore. His high personal qualities and attainments were such as had placed him in the front rank of business men in the city of Bucharest; a fact which I am pleased to find has been recorded in the Roumanian Press in the references to his demise. The Board has appointed Mr. H. R. Saltmarsh, whom we have known for many years, to the post vacant through Mr. Lucasiewicz's death.

I am very pleased to be able to say that the business of the bank continues to be satisfactory, although the stringency of money during the second half of the year 1924 somewhat restricted the scope of our operations.

The exchange on London remained comparatively steady throughout the year, commencing at 850, touching its highest point—just over 1,000—in the middle part of the year, and ending the year at 925.

The financial position of the country on the whole is improving, most of the State debts abroad having been consolidated, and a great part of the old outstanding commercial debts having been arranged.

There has also been concluded recently an agreement arising out of the renewal of the charter of the National Bank of Roumania for a further period of 30 years, by which the Roumanian Government has set out a programme for the liquidation of its debt outstanding to the National Bank. It is hoped that by this arrangement a gradual improvement will be effected in the exchange value of the leu.

The State revenue for the year 1924, which had been estimated in the Budget at 24,000 millions of lei, actually reached 28,000 millions, and 24,390 millions having been expended as estimated in

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the Budget, the surplus of 4,518 millions has been utilised for extraordinary credits for the Ministry of Communications, Education, etc. The new Budget for 1925 estimates expenditure at 28,648 millions and revenue at 31,750 millions.

Taking the most important industry first—that is, that of agriculture—we find that in 1924 although the area cultivated (25,381,000 acres) was the greatest since the war, the production was less than that of 1923, owing to the drought in the months of April and May. Less than the usual quantities of wheat, oats, barley, and rye have been exported, but the maize crop was better than that of the previous year. The total export of agricultural products for the year was 1,458,255 tons.

The sowings for the present year cover 19,690,000 acres, which area shows a falling off from the figures of the previous year. From a report issued by the Ministry of Agriculture it appears that the general agricultural situation of the country is good.

With regard to the general development of the country, I am very pleased to record the fact that steady progress is being made by the peasant, who forms such a large percentage of the population of Roumania. The peasant is slowly accustoming himself to his change of status from that of a paid labourer to that of a small landed proprietor, and he has applied himself assiduously to the cultivation of his property. This fact, which I esteem the most important factor in the development of the country, should, in a few years' time, have a considerable effect on the national well-being and consequent interest in the country from the point of view of British exporters of manufactured articles. The possession of the land by so many small proprietors is also a great safeguard against political disturbances, the peasant as proprietor tending obviously to become more and more conservative.

The production of oil in 1924 reached 1,850,751 tons, which figure has only been exceeded once in the history of Roumania—that is, in the year 1913, when 1,885,225 tons were produced. Exports were also the best since before the War—namely, 435,468 tons.

The timber industry reduced its output during 1924, owing to the increased cost of production and high railway tariffs and export taxes; but notwithstanding this, exports have improved and 2,662,700 tons were exported, as against 1,957,586 tons in 1923. Recent reports received from Galatz state that the export grows day by day, and this section of the business at the port of Galatz is quite animated.

The continued comparative steadiness in the exchange has enabled trade between Great Britain and Roumania to be maintained at the 1923 figure. According to British Customs returns, the exports from Great Britain to Roumania in 1924 were 76,170 tons, valued at £2,856,000, as compared with 60,500 tons, worth £2,759,000 in 1923. As usual, the largest item was cotton goods to the value of £1,534,000.

Imports into Great Britain from Roumania in 1924 were valued at £2,202,000 (367,500 tons), as against £2,360,000 (404,800 tons) in 1923, the principal items being: cereals £1,423,000, oil £357,000, and timber £341,000.

The total exports from Roumania to all countries for 1924 reached 4,725,000 tons, valued at nearly 28 milliards of lei, as against 4,878,000 tons, valued at just over 24 milliards of lei in 1923. The total imports from all countries in 1924 amounted to 802,500 tons, valued at over 26 milliards of lei, as compared with 703,000 tons, worth nearly 18 milliards of lei in 1923.

The resolution was seconded by Lord Oranmore and Browne, K.P., P.C., and was unanimously approved.

The retiring director, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Albert Stern, K.B.E., C.M.G., was re-elected, and the auditors, Messrs. Jackson Pixley and Co., were reappointed.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

The annual ordinary general meeting of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, Ltd., was held on July 24 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Sir Montagu Sharpe, K.C. (the Chairman), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. J. Horne) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: With your approval I propose, as usual, to take the directors' report and accounts for the year ended March 31, 1925, as read.

In presenting these to you I am pleased to say that, notwithstanding the difficult political position in Egypt, to which I will refer later, and the labour troubles with which we had to contend in July, 1924, which I reported to you at the last general meeting, the traffic receipts for the year show a substantial increase.

This improvement can, I think, be directly traced to a good cotton crop, both as regards quantity and prices realised, and to our policy of reducing fares and increasing the train service on sections where motor-car competition was keenest.

A good cotton crop, as you are aware, always reacts favourably on passenger traffic, as additional money is circulated through the provinces, which enables the fellaheen to travel more freely, and also on the goods traffic, since there is a larger tonnage to be lifted.

As regards motor-car competition, there are, unfortunately, no regulations in Egypt for controlling either the number of passengers which may be carried on any one vehicle or the condition of the vehicles, which are more often than not in a dilapidated and dangerous state. Since only nominal taxes of about £2 per annum per car are collected, every person who possesses a car, in whatever condition it may be, is qualified to run it on the road for passenger service until it is worn out and becomes useless.

It was very difficult in the past years to form a reliable estimate whether this form of competition would become permanent or, as the cars became unserviceable, they would drop out and not be replaced. So far experience shows that competition is increasing, since the condition of the public roads has been so much improved in the last few years. In a recent number of the *Economist* I see that the latest return of the number of motor vehicles imported into Egypt is 2,784, as against 1,586 in the previous year. We have therefore continued the policy of reducing fares and increasing the train service on sections where we are feeling the effects of motor-car competition, and with what we consider to be satisfactory results.

As a consequence of better economic conditions, an improved service, and with a reduction in fares, we have carried an aggregate of 6,679,666 passengers, nearly half the population of the country, or 544,212 more than during the previous year, and our gross receipts total £227,632, as compared with £207,169, an increase of £20,463.

Goods traffic also shows some improvement, the total lifted being 530,217 tons, an increase of 78,501 tons. The gross receipts were £128.610, an increase of £5,111, this being principally in the carriage of unginned cotton and manures. This advance is largely due to drastic reductions in rates over sections where competition by road and water is severe.

As you will have seen by reference to the revenue account, the final result is that our gross earnings for the year amount to £364,557, as compared with £339,475 for the previous year, an increase of £25,082; while by careful and economic working our expenditure has only increased by £1,078, being £249,401, as compared with £248,323, notwithstanding the greater kilometrage run. The percentage of expenditure to gross receipts has been reduced from 73.15 to 68.41.

You will observe that reference is again made in the directors' report to the payment by the Egyptian Government of the balance of the Helouan Railway purchase money, and to the subject of the revision of the Government's proportion of profits.

In February of this year I visited Egypt with a view to investigating the reasons for the long delay in the negotiations with the Government upon these two subjects, and, by personally making the acquaintance of Government officials, to urge them to give our affairs their early consideration. I have every reason to be satisfied with my reception by these gentlemen, who were very kind and courteous, and listened to all I had to say to them. Unfortunately, pressing affairs of State, consequent upon the dissolution of Parliament on the day of its being opened, rendered it impossible during my stay to make definite progress towards a settlement.

You will realise how essential it is that Ministers and their Under-Secretaries and staff should be fully conversant with the details connected with our railway, and a difficulty with which both they and we have had to contend is that, owing to the recent changes in the personnel of the Egyptian Government, questions which we are seeking to have settled have to be resubmitted and again discussed.

Although an immediate solution of our troubles was not possible, I feel that my visit has resulted in bringing the directors into closer and more intimate relation with the Ministers and their officials, to whose friendly reception I have already referred.

While in Cairo, I was presented to His Majesty King Fuad, after which he graciously granted me an interview, which enabled me to draw his attention to matters connected with our railway. The King stated that he was aware of the value of our agricultural lines in the development of the Egyptian delta, and was pleased to hear that we proposed to establish a more frequent train service in several districts.

The impression with which I returned home is that, generally speaking, the political atmosphere of Egypt is clearing, that the anti-foreign agitations from which the country has so long suffered are dying out, and that under the administration of the present Ministry, which, in my opinion, is the best which has yet been formed, we may hopefully anticipate a coming regime of peace and prosperity.

Since my return, we have been informed by our agent and general manager that the Minister of Communications has promised to request the Finance Department to pay us the balance of the Helouan railway purchase money, so I hope we may shortly receive this sum.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97⅞—9 16
Athens	Drachmæ to £ ...	25 22½	306-313
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	275—280
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.39—20.41½
Berne	Francs to £.....	25.22½	25.00-25.02
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 3/32 - 18⅛
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	104.85—105.65
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	940 965
Budapest	Kronen to £	24 02	345-347,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 3/32—18⅛d
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	870
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2 3	4.85 5/16—4.85⅞
Paris	Francs to £.....	25.22½	102.60—102.90
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	164
Rome	Lire to £	25 22½	132
Sofia.....	Leva to £	25.22½	670
Teheran	Krans to £	50	42.15
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	34.45-34 55
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	25.35-25 50

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COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

BOMBAY BARODA RAILWAY.

The report of the Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway Company for the year to March 31, 1925, states that the capital expenditure since December 31, 1911, to March 31, 1925, including suspense accounts, but excluding payments on account of liabilitieis incurred prior to January 1, 1912, amounted to Rs.16,90,68,981. Funds to meet this outlay have been advanced by Government to the extent of Rs.16,70,58,981 and by the company to the extent of Rs.20,10,000 and these amounts constitute temporary additions to the preferred capital of the Secretary of State and of the company respectively. The capital expenditure charged off during the year was Rs.1,95,37,844 for the broad gauge and Rs.67,38,790 for the metre gauge, of which Rs.28,46,058 and Rs.30,37,827 respectively are on account of rolling stock. The gross earnings totalled Rs.12,32,28,850, an increase of Rs.41,58,064, and the net earnings were Rs.5,22,94,425, an increase of Rs.42,03,982. The coaching traffic shows a decrease of Rs.4,07,775 on the broad gauge and an increase of Rs.7,39,454 on the metre gauge; the goods traffic shows a decrease of Rs.7,47,703 on the former and an increase of Rs. 41,59,335 on the latter; sundries, increase of Rs.2,58,290 on broad gauge and Rs.1,54,907 on metre gauge; and telegraph, decrease of Rs.1,902 on former and increase of Rs.3,518 on latter. The net earnings amount to Rs.5,22,94,425, but for the purpose of arriving at the share due to the company this sum has been increased by Rs. 31,34,773, representing revenue portion of total refund of Rs. 14,59,454 on account of Customs duty paid from 1920-21 to 1923-24. Out of the surplus of Rs.11,81,326 due to the company in respect of the year Rs.1,78,022 was remitted to England in November, 1924, producing £13,374, and the balance, Rs.9,83,304, May, 1925, producing £73,491. The directors recommend the payment on July 31 of a final dividend of 1¼ per cent., making together with the guaranteed interest of 1¼ per cent. for half-year a total payment in July of 3 per cent., and the return for the year of 6 per cent., compared with 6 per cent. for each of the years 1921-22 to 1923-24.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at May 31, 1925, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes. Banking Department: Liabilities:—Share capital (300,000 fully paid shares of £10 each), £E2,925,000. Reserve Fund: Statutory reserve, £E1,462,500; special reserve, £E901,875; current, deposit, and other accounts, £E14,219,292; Egyptian Government, £E19,988,997; Sudan Government, £E430,706; Mixed Tribunals, £E1,693,998; bankers accounts, £292,922; cheques and bills payable, £E323,956; sundry other accounts, £E578,524—£E42,817,770. Assets: Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government, £E28,404,011; sundry securities, £E295,477; advances on merchandise, £E875,296; advances on securities, £E1,949,080; advances otherwise secured, £E379,234; sundry other advances, £E856,772; bills of exchange, £E2,305,834; local bills discounted, £E350,072; buildings and furniture, £E231,005; money at call and at short notice, £E628,875; bankers accounts, £E4,485,493; sundry other accounts, £E140,043. Cash: notes, £E1,376,658; gold, £E34,457; silver, nickel, etc., £E505,463 — £E1,916,578— £E42,817,770. Issue Department.—Notes issued, £E34,000,000— £E34,000,000. Gold, £E3,339,576; *British Treasury Bills, £E13,660,424—£E17,000,000. Securities: Egyptian Government securities and securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government, £E420,262; British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds, £E16,579,738—£E17,000,000—£E34,000,000.

* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See *Journal Officiel* of October 30, 1916.)

MORUMS STORES.

The report of Morums Oriental Stores for the year to March 31, 1925, states that the policy referred to by the Chairman at the last meeting, of concentrating all attention on the two large stores in Cairo and the one in Alexandria, has been carried out and has been justified by trading results, but it has been necessary to write off a substantial sum in respect of removal expenses, etc. The loss on trading for the year amounts to £18,523, which, however, is a reduction of nearly £1,000 on the figures in the previous accounts, which covered only nine months' trading. The directors add that they have been approached by various parties with a view to the purchase of the whole or part of the company's business, and negotiations to this end are still in progress.

HANIPHA TEA.

The Hanipha (Ceylon) Tea and Rubber Company has declared an interim dividend of 10 per cent. (actual) (2s. per share on the old shares and 1s. 4d. per share on the new shares), less tax, payable on August 29 to shareholders on the register on August 14.

Before leaving for abroad, M. Vintila Bratianu, Roumanian Minister of Finance, made a statement in which he declared that the Government was drawing up a detailed memorandum on reparations and inter-Allied debts, setting forth the Roumanian point of view (says a Reuter message from Bucharest). The Government, he said, is of opinion that there is a connection between debts contracted in a joint war and reparations, because whenever the time for settling up debts comes each country's capacity to pay will depend a great deal on the political results of reparations.

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C.P.H. 794

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MANCHESTER COTTON MARKET.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended July 25 states:—

A somewhat improved tone has been evident this week. Business is still very unevenly distributed over the various classes of goods, but inquiry has shown a tendency to broaden both in respect of quantities and qualities.

Yarn.—During the early part of the week the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners decided to recommend the owners of mills spinning American cotton to stop their machinery for a complete week in addition to the stoppage of one day per week which is at present in force. This decision is, of course, in itself sufficient evidence of the very bad position into which spinners of this kind of yarn had drifted. The news had a strengthening effect but operations are still very curtailed. Egyptian spinnings have been in small demand and there is in some quarters a call for organised short time in this section slso.

Cloth.—Nothing of special interest has transpired. Inquiry has been on a better scale than recently and on the whole a fair trade, for these times, appears to have been done. For India some good lines have been booked and China again has given a certain measure of support; the minor outlets have also contributed their quota.

Raw Cotton.—During the early part of the week there were slight falls in "spot" cotton daily. The figures published by the American Agricultural Bureau on Thursday evening, however, caused a complete change in feeling. The condition of the crop on the 16th instant was given as 70.4 per cent., a decline of 5.5 per cent. since June 25. The yield estimated is 13,588,000 bales as compared with 14,339,000. The deterioration is attributed to drought in Texas and Oklahoma, but it is added that good rainfalls might make a very great improvement in the outlook. Following the publication of these figures there was a rise in prices of a little over ½d. per lb., leaving quotations slightly higher on the week. Reports regarding the Egyptian crop are satisfactory. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows:—American Middling, 14.08; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 32.65.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Scindia for Bombay (Liverpool, August 7). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Imani for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 8).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Lancashire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, August 12).

British India Line.—S.s. Hatimura for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 1); s.s. Warfield for Bombay and Karachi (London, August 1).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Cypria for Oran, Algiers, Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, August 1).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of York for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 17).

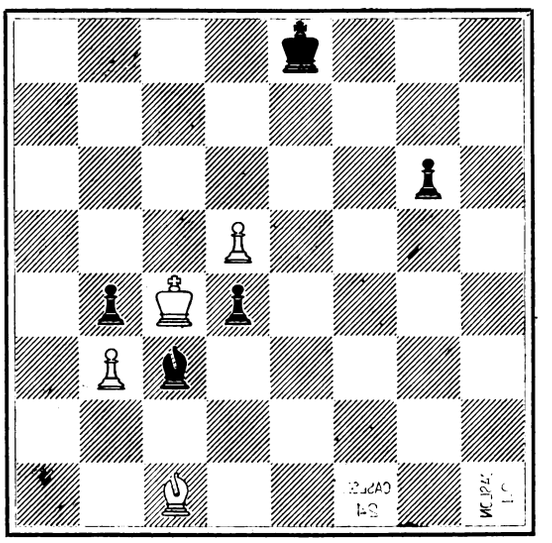
Johnston Line.—M.v. Sycamore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, August 8); s.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 5); s.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 12).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Kaisar-i-Hind for Bombay (London, August 7); s.s. Nankin for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 8).

Prince Line.—S.s. Soldier Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Alexandretta (London, August 12).

CHESS.

By "CARO-KANN."



END GAME No. 8.

White to play and draw.

Solution to end-game No. 7:—1, K—Kt4, K—B; 2, K—R5, K—K2; 3, K—Kt6, K—K; 4, K—B7, K—K2 and draws. If Black plays 2. . . K—K; 3, K—Kt6, K—K2; 4 K—B7, K—K; White loses if he plays, K—Q6 for at his next move he will be forced to play P—K6.

SPECIAL MARKET REPORTS.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank:—

Teheran, June 20.—The market continues very quiet with prices steady. This year's wheat is already being marketed. There is a shortage of water in Teheran town, and the fruit and similar crops are not expected to be up to expectations. Sugar is steady. Opium shows a slight fall in price on the diminution of demand. June 27.—There has been almost complete stagnation during the past week. Belgian sugar is 22½ krs. per batman, while Russian is 21. The market is weak, and a fall in prices is considered possible. Other prices per batman are: tea 44-48 krs., coffee 30-30½ krs.; opium: Tchouneh 345 krs. There are no buyers at these rates.

Basrah, June 27.—The market is quiet. There is nothing particular to report as regards transactions in imported goods. Some sales of dates have been transacted on the London market and at Oran.

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KARACHI via Bombay, calling at Gibraltar and Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS UPPER DECK CABINS.
MODERATE FARES.
RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT,
Indian Government Vouchers accepted.

Passenger sailing dates:—

*SCINDIA, Aug. 11.	CALIFORNIA, Oct. 14.
*MASSILIA, Sept. 1.	*CASTALIA, Oct. 27.
*ELYSIA, Sept. 11.	*OLYMPIA, Nov. 13.
*CIRCASSIA, Sept. 29.	*SCINDIA, Nov. 27.

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NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA, 17,000 TONS, carrying 1st, 2nd and 3rd class passengers, sails from LIVERPOOL Oct. 14. MARSEILLES Oct. 20. All 1st and 2nd class state rooms are fitted with Punkah Louvres and with Fans. This vessel has exceptionally fine 3rd class accommodation.

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(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889.)

CAPITAL (fully paid) - £650,000 | RESERVE - - - £390,000

Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

Branches in Persia :— *Chief Office, TEHERAN.*

Ahwaz	*Hamadan*	*Maidan-i-Naftan*	*Resht*
Barfrush	*Isfahan*	*Meshed*	*Shiraz*
Bunder Abbas	*Kazvin*	*Mohammerah*	*Sultanabad*
Bushire	*Kerman*	*Nasratabad*	*Tabriz*
Duzdah	*Kermanshah*	*(Seistan)*	*Yezd*

Branches in Iraq (Mesopotamia) :—Bagdad, Basra.
Branch in India :—Bombay.
The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia ; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

London Office : 33-36, KING WILLIAM ST., E.C.4 ; Chief Office in Persia, TEHERAN

IONIAN BANK, Ltd.

Established 1839.

Capital Authorised - - - £600,000
Capital Paid up - - - £485,580
Reserve Fund - - - - £190,000
Total Assets- - - - £6,536,314

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Basildon House Moorgate, LONDON.

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Central Office
ATHENS.
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EGYPT.
Central Office :
ALEXANDRIA.
8 Sub - Branches.

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(Galata, with Sub Branch at Stamboul).

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Local Head Offices:—

CALCUTTA, BOMBAY, MADRAS

Managing Governors in India:—
Sir NORCOT WARREN, K.C.I.E
N. M. MURRAY, Esq.
Manager in London :—
Sir S. A. H. SITWELL.

Authorised Capital **Rs. 11.25.00.000**
Paid-up Capital - **Rs. 5.62.50.000**
Reserve - - - **Rs. 4.77.50.000**

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Branches in all Principal Towns in India.
London Branch - - 5 Whittington Avenue, E.C.3.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866.
Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN KENYA COLONY AND UGANDA.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL ... ... **£4,000,000** | **Paid-up Capital** **£2,000,000**
Subscribed Capital ... ... **£4,000,000** | **Reserve Fund** **£2,800,000**

HEAD OFFICE : 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

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Aden	Calcutta	Colombo	Lahore	Rangoon	Kisumu	Kenya Colony (Brit. E. Africa)	Entebbe	Uganda
Aden, Steamer Poin	Cawnpore	Delhi	Madras	Tuticorin	Mombasa		Jinia	
Amritsar	Chittagong	Kandy	Mandalay	Zanzibar	Nairobi		Kampala	
Bombay	Cochin (S. India)	Karachi	Newera Eliya		Nakuru			

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The Bank purchases, grants advances against or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms.
The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfer on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.
The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon.
Powers of Attorney or other forms and any information required may be had on application to the Bank in London or any of its Branches.
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RESERVE FUNDS - Drs. 38,150,045.40

The Assets include securities worth £1,000,000, which are valued at Drs. 25,000,000: that is at the rate of Drs. 25 per £1 only.

Head Office: ATHENS,

Branches: Piraeus, Argos, Pyrgos, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Nauplia, Vostizza (Aegion), Calamata, Syra, Chio, Candia, Volo, Salonica, Larrissa, Triccala, Mitylene, Canea, Zante, Plomari, Tripolitza. Associated Bank in London:

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The Bank conducts every kind of Banking and Stock Exchange business, and extends special facilities to merchants and traders interested in business with Greece. It acts Agent for many Foreign Banks. It is especially organised for Exchange transactions, the execution of mail and cable transfers throughout Greece, and for the collection of clean and documentary Drafts and Bills.

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The Bank undertakes the warehousing and sale of goods consigned.

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ESTABLISHED 1893.

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38, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.

CAPITAL £3,000,000. RESERVE FUND, £4,000,000

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COLIN FREDERICK CAMPBELL, ESQ.
THOMAS CUTHBERTSON, ESQ.
SIR WILLIAM HENRY NEVILLE GOSCHEN, K.B.E.
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THE RIGHT HON. SIR JOHN NEWELL JORDAN, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., K.C.B.
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Managers—J. S. BRUCE and G. MILLER.

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BANGTOK	HAMBURG	MANILA	SINGAPORE
BATAVIA	HANKOW	MEDAN	SOURABAYA
BOMBAY	HONGKONG	NEW YORK	TAPING (F.M.S.)
CALCUTTA	ILOILO	PEKING	TAVOY (Lower Burma)
CANTON	IPOH	PENANG	TIENTSIN
CAWNPORE	KARACHI	PUKET	TOKYO
CEBU	KLANG	RANGOON	YOKOHAMA
COLOMBO	KOBE	SAIGON	ZAMBOANGA
	KUALA LUMPUR	SEMARANG (Java)	(Phillipine Islands

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WESTMINSTER BANK, LIMITED.
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THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

The Corporation buy and receive for collection Bills of Exchang grant Drafts and transact general business connected with the East.
DEPOSITS OF MONEY are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application. Interest payable half-yearly, 30th June and 31st December.

The Bank is prepared to undertake Trusteeships and Executorships.

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Head Office: 2 & 3, CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Authorised Capital (200,000 Shares of £10 each) - £2,000,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - - - - - £1,000,000
Paid up Capital - - £1,000,000
Reserve Fund - - £360,000

Branches: BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, KARACHI, MADRAS, COLOMBO, BAGDAD, BASRA, AMARA, HILLAH, MOSUL, BAHREIN.

Board of Directors:

J. S. HASKELL, Esq (*Chairman*).
SIR JAMES LEIGH-WOOD, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G. (*Deputy Chairman*).
G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq.
J. H. BATTY, Esq. EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq.
SIR PERCY WILSON NEWSON, Bt.
Captain R. E. SASSOON, M.C.

The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, purchases, grants advances against or collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency Business in connection with the East.

Deposits are received for one year and for shorter periods at rates which can be ascertained on application, and Current Accounts are opened by the Bank in London and at its Branches.

F. H. SUTTON, *Manager*

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Head Office: LONDON.

(Affiliated with Barclays Bank, Ltd.)

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SUDAN.—Makwar, Omdurman, Khartoum, Port Sudan, Wad Medani. PALESTINE.—Haifa, Jaffa. Jerusalem, Nazareth
MEDITERRANEAN. Malta, Gibraltar.

Subscribed Capital - - - - £1,800,000
Paid-up Capital - - - - £600,000
Reserve - - - - - - £720,000

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

FULLY PAID CAPITAL - - - - - - - - - £3,000,000
RESERVE FUND - - - - - - - - - - - £2,425,000

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EGYPT and the SUDAN.

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Towage and Lighterage Port Said. Inland Water Transport throughout Egypt. The Company possesses 2,000 tons cargo lighterage.

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41

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The NEAR EAST AND INDIA

A Weekly Review of the Politics and Commerce of the Balkan Peninsula, Turkey, Egypt, and the Sudan, Syria, Palestine, Arabia, Iraq, Persia and India.

No. 743.—Vol. XXVIII. Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper. THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 1925. Price 6d. Postage 1½d.

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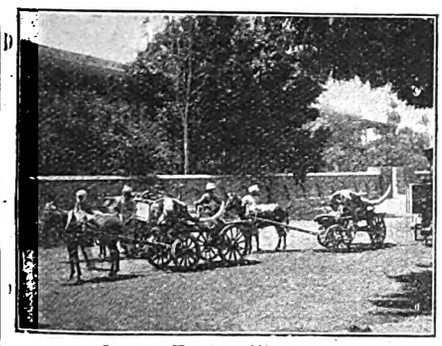

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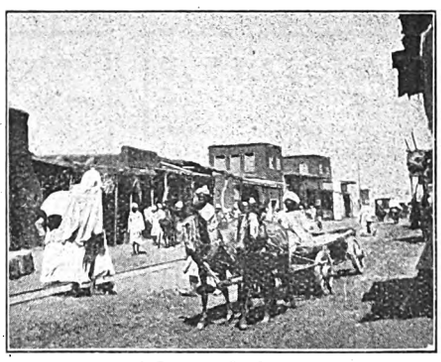

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No. 743.—VOL. XXVIII. THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 1925.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	Page
NOTES OF THE WEEK	159
SPECIAL LETTERS—	
Egypt	162
Bulgaria	163
Greece	163
Iraq	164
SPECIAL ARTICLE—	
The Stability of Iraq	166
LEADING ARTICLE—	
The Mosul Report	161
THE WEEK AT HOME	165
PERSONAL AND GENERAL ...	169
INDIAN AFFAIRS—	
Special Letters : Calcutta ...	172
Bombay ...	172
Bolshevism in India	171
Current Topics	173
Indian Exchange	174
COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
Notes and News	175
Company Meetings—	
Imperial Ottoman Bank ...	182
British Consular Reports—	
1. Turkey	177
Near East Markets	181
Shipping Intelligence	181
Chess	183
Tenders Invited	176

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

The Greek Refugee Commission.

A curious situation has arisen in connection with the League of Nations' Refugee Settlement Commission, which is in charge of the arrangements for housing refugees in Macedonia. Several of the higher officials belonging to the staff, of Greek nationality, have been suddenly arrested on the charge of peculation of State funds, and the Commission has suspended for the time being its operations. The Commission takes exception to the manner in which these arrests have been effected. From the fact that one official was kept in prison for seven weeks and then discharged as being innocent of any offence there would seem to be some ground for suspecting arbitrary action. The authorities are not acting under the ordinary criminal law, but have availed themselves of a hurriedly passed measure sanctioning an extraordinary procedure in cases of peculation, or suspected peculation, by State employees. Under this procedure charges may be laid by anyone, whose name need not be made known to the accused; arrest may follow, without any proof of the accused's guilt, and bail is not allowed. The Commission suspects that its officials may have been the victims of dissatisfied contractors or possibly discharged employees. It is not prepared to guarantee the impeccable honesty of all the sixteen hundred Greek employees on its staff, but it does not believe that any serious defalcations could have taken place over any period of time without its knowledge. In any case, it has offered to collaborate in the fullest possible investigation of the charges, but its offer has not been accepted. Sympathy will be felt with any Government anxious to put a stop to a state of affairs in the Civil Service, which, if unchecked, renders good government impossible, but, as far as can be gathered, M. Pangalos' Cabinet have been ill advised in resorting to arbitrary procedure in dealing with an International Commission, in particular one charged with the administration of the Refugee Loan.

The New Yugoslav Government.

There has not been time as yet for Yugoslavia to feel the full effects of the Radical-Raditch coalition in the conduct of public affairs. M. Stefan Raditch, indeed, is still occupied in running after M. Pashitch, with whom he hopes to have a meeting at Carlsbad. Until, therefore, the Prime Minister is able to resume his duties in Belgrade, it will be premature to look for any striking changes in Yugoslav policy, either at home or abroad. The light now thrown by M. Nintchitch on his Government's intentions in regard to Salonika will afford relief to Greece, where considerable uneasiness has prevailed on account of reported troop concentrations on the Greek border for the purpose of manœuvres. The Yugoslav Foreign Secretary not only disclaims any hostile intentions against Greece, but declares that his country genuinely desires to re-open negotiations for an alliance to the mutual benefit of the two countries. It seems most unlikely that Yugoslavia has received encouragement in any quarter to persist in her demands for the handing over of the Ghevgheli-Salonika railway. France is stated to have suggested a compromise with the formation of a joint Serbo-Greek company to be responsible for the administration of the line. No less useful is the admission now made by M. Nintchitch that, "it is generally necessary, when drafting international agreements, to be prepared to make some sacrifice." Unfortunately, the practice of making excessive demands, when intensified, is apt to gain for the country indulging in it the stigma of aggressive imperialism which may not be shaken off before grave harm is done to the country's interests.

Montenegro.

An early change in the British Vice-Consular representative at Cetigne, who was appointed to the newly-created post only last year, has given rise to misgivings in the House of Commons lest the transfer of Mr. Monck-Mason has been undertaken at the request of the Yugoslav Government. Mr. Robert McNeill, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, was rightly reticent in his reply, on the ground that it would be unwise to state in public the reasons for appointments or transfers in the

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Diplomatic or Consular services. We find it difficult to suppose that the Yugoslav Government would place itself in the wrong by asking for the removal of a British Vice-Consul except for very grave reasons; on the other hand, it is unfortunate that Mr. Monck-Mason should have qualified quite so soon after his appointment to Cetigne for another post. The position of a British Consular official in Montenegro cannot in existing circumstances be an easy one. In spite of any good intentions at the seat of government in Belgrade, local officials are apt to interpret their duties in different ways, and nowhere in the Balkan Peninsula at present is the art of winning over people with grievances understood. To the simple-minded Montenegrins a British representative in their midst will appear as a heaven-sent recipient for the recital of all their woes, whether real or imaginary. Now, with wider administrative experience and knowledge of the world, the Yugoslav official would welcome such a perfectly safe safety-value, in the knowledge that the Montenegrin suppliant would be given nothing but sound advice on constitutional lines. The unsophisticated official, on the other hand, scents a conspiracy in every visitor to the British Vice-Consulate, and the presence of Great Britain's representative, who may be performing most conscientiously his duty to the country to which he is accredited, has the effect of adding to the woes, this time real woes, of the Montenegrins. As there is not likely to be much difference betwen one British Vice-Consul and another in regard to interpretation of the duties of the office, we can only hope that one effort of the new Coalition Government in Yugoslavia will be that a fiat will go forth from Belgrade enjoining a more generous attitude on the part of local officials towards the Montenegrins with a view to making that part of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes as contented as Croatia and Slovenia now promise to be.

King Faisal.

As King Faisal's health has for some time past left much to be desired, it is not a matter of surprise that he has at last determined to obtain the best medical advice available in Europe. His visit to England, where Jaafer Pasha al Askiri, the first representative of Iraq under the Anglo-Iraqi Treaty to be accredited to the British Government, has recently arrived, will inevitably give rise to speculation regarding the Treaty; the more so, as the findings of the Commission appointed by the League of Nations to investigate the question of the Turko-Iraqi frontier have drawn attention to the indeterminate position that may be created when the Treaty lapses. For reasons that are explained elsewhere in this issue there would seem to be no ground for discussing the Treaty or possible developments in 1928 at this time. The purpose of the short agreement was to provide an opportunity for adjusting Anglo-Iraqi relations to actual conditions. There has not been time yet for the state of affairs in Iraq to become sufficiently crystallised to call for a radical revision of the Treaty. The chief trouble centres in the question of finance, and a remedy has been proposed in the Report issued by Mr. Hilton Young's Mission. It will be necessary to have Iraq placed on a sound financial basis before there will be any occasion to reconsider her relations with Great Britain. In the meantime modifications are constantly taking place, with the object of strengthening the position of the Iraqi Government and of relieving the burden on the British taxpayer. A reorganisation of the Army is on foot with a view to reducing the strength of the Iraq Levies, which are a charge on the British Exchequer, and to improving the efficiency of the Iraq Army, of which some of the units will have British officers.

Egypt in England.

Although Zewar Pasha's visit to London was of an informal character, it was impossible that Egypt's Prime Minister should be for more than a fortnight in this country without influencing Anglo-Egyptian relations. It may be said without fear of challenge that his visit has done much to confirm the excellent opinion already formed of him from his handling of Egyptian affairs since his advent to office. Zewar Pasha has the courage of his conviction that friendly relations between the two countries are essential for Egypt's prosperity and her successful development; but he recognised that there are difficulties ahead, which can be overcome only by good will on both sides. No less important, he has a sense of humour, which has been sadly to seek in his political opponents. Thanks to the high esteem in which the Egyptian Minister to the Court of St. James's is held as a result of his tactful handling of a difficult situation, and ably supported by the personal hospitality of Aziz Izzet Pasha and Madame Aziz Izzet, Zewar Pasha has been brought into touch under the happiest conditions with the official world in London, and it is to be hoped that he will return to Egypt with the knowledge that whatever may be unpalatable to the Egyptian way of thinking in the British attitude on questions awaiting settlement between the two countries, it will be urged under a conviction of stern necessity and not from a frivolous point of view or from an unfriendly desire to abuse Britain's strength.

THE EMPIRE AT WEMBLEY.

Although the attendance at Wembley is slow in recording the successive millions this year, the exhibition remains a fine embodiment of the British Empire, magnificent in conception, planned with vision. Even its entertainments are on a heroic scale; witness the Circus with five rings in progress simultaneously, and every "turn" a success in itself. There has been vision too behind the Wembley Garden Club, the social centre of the exhibition, situated in attractive grounds, with luxurious Club rooms and a Restaurant not only spacious but able to vie with anything that London itself can provide of the kind. Visitors from overseas may be reminded that membership of the club for the remainder of the Exhibition period costs thirty shillings, and weekly membership 7s. 6d. A ticket for a single day through a member or by direct application to the Secretary costs 2s. 6d., exclusive of the cost of entrance to the Exhibition. From being the social centre of the Exhibition, the Club has qualified as the social centre of London of an evening.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The following appointments in the Consular Service are announced in the *London Gazette:* Mr. Arnold E. Watkinson, Vice-Consul at Smyrna. Mr. Robert W. Urquhart, O.B.E., Vice-Consul at Athens. Mr. Daniel F. H. Brickell, Vice-Consul at Cairo.

The Alliance Francaise in Bulgaria, which was created in 1919, has opened a new building in the centre of Sofia. On the occasion of the opening King Boris sent a telegram of good wishes.

Presentations of books have been made by the Anglo-Hellenic League and the Greek Minister to the Hon. W Pember Reeves on his retirement from the chairmanship of the League. Mr. Reeves, who is chairman of the National Bank of New Zealand, is about to visit New Zealand.

Major William Morgan Hunt, D.S.O., M.C., died at Kohat, on the Indian frontier, on July 19 from acute peritonitis. A son of Mr. Longford Hunt, he entered the army in 1900, and served in Mesopotamia during the first half of the Great War and on the North-West frontier for the later half.

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THE MOSUL REPORT.

The report of the Commission of Inquiry appointed by the League of Nations to examine the question of the Mosul boundary, as far as its contents are known before the actual publication, promises to be a tribute to the industry of the three delegates, even if it prove not to have enhanced their reputations. They were invited to assist the League's Council in arriving at a decision as to where the frontier between Turkey and Iraq should be drawn, in view of the fact that both countries claimed, for quite different reasons, possession of the vilayet of Mosul, and no satisfactory settlement of the subject could be reached between Turkey and Great Britain, the Mandatory Power in Iraq. It should have been possible, one would have imagined, to come to a definite decision on the point at issue. Either the Turkish claim was valid, on ethnological grounds, on historical grounds, or because the bulk of the population of the vilayet desired to be incorporated within Turkey and to be ruled by the Turks; or the Iraq claim held good, for economic or geographical reasons, or because the League of Nations, having accepted responsibility for the creation of the new State of Iraq, could not play false to its trust by imposing on its *protégé* conditions which rendered its continued existence problematical or impossible. The contentions on both sides had been elaborated with a great show of conviction at Lausanne, and it was probably in the minds of the Council of the League, when they appointed the Commission, that the delegates from their investigations on the spot would be able to indicate to which line of argument the more weight ought to be attached in the light of actual conditions. As far as can be gathered from the Commission's findings, the members derived no enlightenment on a complicated subject from their personal inquiries, and contented themselves with an heroic effort to reconcile their own antecedent prejudices. It is certainly difficult to interpret in any other way a Report which makes its solutions dependent on extraneous circumstances. Instead of deciding that the Mosul region belongs strictly to Turkey or to Iraq, the Commission finds that, if it becomes an integral part of Iraq, there must be no question of Great Britain's abandonment of the Mandate at the end of the four years referred to in the Anglo-Iraqi Treaty; if, on the other hand, the British Mandate is to come to an end, then it will be better, acording to the opportunist Commission, for the Mosul region to revert to Turkey. In this latter case the frontier, it is suggested, should follow the course of the Lesser Zab, leaving Mosul and Erbil to Turkey, but Suleimaniyeh and Kirkuk to Iraq.

The net result of a Report of this nature, it may be supposed, will be to throw the Council of the League of Nations back on its own resources. It could well have decided without recourse to a Commission that it would not do to allot the Mosul region to Iraq and to allow Turkey to take it away by force immediately afterwards. The only way to prevent this would be to guarantee Iraq support which would afford her adequate protection against the Turks, in the case of necessity. To this extent the Commission may take unction to itself for having anticipated the obvious, but neither the Council nor Great Britain will regard its recommendations as an adequate offset to the mischief done by the manner in which the Commission discharged its functions. What was required by all parties was a definite ruling based on careful inquiry as to the validity of the rival claims. What the Commission appears to have achieved is, by dabbling in political matters outside its terms of reference, to reopen for Great Britain in 1925 instead of in 1928 the purely domestic question of her relations with Iraq. As is known, the Iraq Treaty, signed at Baghdad on October 10, 1922, stipulated in Article 18 that the Treaty should remain in force for twenty years, "at the end of which period the situation shall be examined, and, if the High Contracting Parties are of opinion that the Treaty is no longer required, it shall be terminated." A subsequent Protocol modified this Article to the extent of providing that the present Treaty should terminate upon Iraq's becoming a member of the League of Nations, "and in any case not later than four years from the ratification of the peace with Turkey." As far as we are aware, there is no authority for the assumption prevalent in certain quarters that at the end of four years Great Britain is committed, either actually or by implication, to evacuate Iraq. All that has been agreed upon between the Iraqi and British Governments is that at the end of four years, instead of at the end of twenty, "the situation shall be examined, and if the High Contracting Parties are of opinion that the Treaty is no longer required, it shall be terminated." Clearly, some other instrument will have to take its place, which will either record the rupture of all relations between Great Britain and Iraq or determine the nature of future relations.

As far as Great Britain is concerned there are two distinct issues in connexion with Iraq, and care should be taken not to confuse them. The first concerns Great Britain and Turkey, the second Great Britain and Iraq. We find it difficult to believe that the Council of the League of Nations will not be able to command a higher degree of intelligence than its Commission could, and that it will issue a ruling dependent on some course of action to be taken by Great Britain three, four, or twenty years hence. Termination of any agreement between Iraq and Great Britain is subject by Article 18, to confirmation by the League of Nations. The situation to-day, therefore, in regard to Anglo-Iraqi relations, remains until the League of Nations endorses a revision. A frontier between Turkey and Iraq, if the League is to be worthy of itself and to live up to its responsibilities, must be based on tangible grounds that have a definite and immediate bearing on the facts of the case. It may not satisfy both parties, but it should at least commend itself to the intellect of a considerable body of thinking people. Both the Turkish and the British Government have agreed to accept the League's ruling, and it will be time enough to impute bad faith to one or the other when actual steps have been taken to challenge or set at nought the verdict. Wherever the frontier is drawn, Great Britain's moral obligations remain the same. She has brought the new State of Iraq into being and can leave it neither defenceless nor penniless. The surest way of inviting trouble, and possibly a war, is to let it be imagined that Great Britain is not prepared to stand up against the world, if need be, for the defence of Iraq. Similarly, the surest way of reducing British commitments in the country is to help Iraq to obtain money for productive expenditure, with a view to making her self-supporting. In this respect the interests of Iraq and Great Britain dovetail into one another. The Iraqis are as anxious to be independent as Great Britain is to be relieved of financial or military responsibilities. A spirit of optimism on both sides prompted the agreement that the time for a reconsideration of the position would arrive in four years. The nature of the relief to be afforded to the one at that date, and the degree of enhanced independence to be secured by the other depend on the amount of real constructive work that both parties in their respective spheres can bring to bear on the task of nation-building in the interval.

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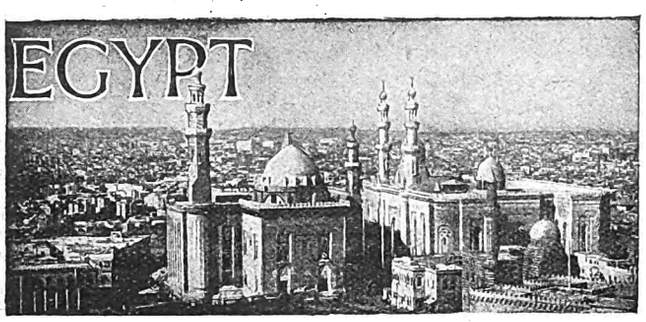
The Near and Middle East*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, July 25.

The Premier's London Visit.

Zewar Pasha's London visit has provided much material for local leader writers during the past week. While the Government organs see in the Prime Minister's presence in England a good augury for the early opening of fresh negotiations with the British Government, "to remove the effects of the ultimatum of last November, and particularly as regards the expulsion of the Egyptian Army from the Sudan," the Opposition Press professes to believe that Zewar Pasha, in accepting British hospitality, has walked willingly into the trap and is henceforth disqualified to speak on Egypt's behalf. It is, perhaps, worth noting how consistently the newspapers supporting the Government encourage their readers to believe that the British Government will be induced to go back on the steps which it took last November with regard to the Sudan. Nor does the Press, in this connection, speak alone. The Minister of the Interior in a public meeting recently gave utterance to the same hope, which was repeated this week by Mahmoud Azmy Pasha, an ex-Minister of War and one of the chiefs in the *Ittehad* Party. It is true that a Mudir who recently affirmed in a speech that he could assure his hearers that, thanks to the efforts of the Government, the Egyptian troops would soon be back in the Sudan," met with an official reproof, but it is none the less true that the same idea is being constantly repeated at the meetings now being held all over the country in support of the *Ittehad* Party.

Sir George Lloyd and Egypt.

Even more interesting to the Egyptian public just now than the utterances of its holiday-making Premier are the speeches of Sir George Lloyd, and in this connection it is pleasant to record that his address at the dinner of the Overseas League has had an excellent reception here. The Arabic Press sees in the new High Commissioner's remarks an encouraging augury for his work here, the *Mokattam* terming the address "an olive branch held out to Egypt." Not less significant is the opinion of Zaghloul Pasha, who, asked for his view, said, "These are declarations of great importance which denote great political ability and excellent intentions. If the good will which the High Commissioner has said to be the base of the solution of the Egyptian question signifies the desire for a solution in which the rights of Egypt and the interest of Great Britain will be respected, then let there be no mistake that the Egyptians thoroughly share this desire. All they want is respect for their rights, and they will be sincerely friendly towards those who will help them to have their rights respected. Moreover, the Egyptians respect everyone who has here any interest, material or moral in their country, and it is a grave injustice and an obvious mistake to pretend that Egyptians disregard such rights or that they are working against them, especially if and when Egypt is clearly informed of the nature and limits of these interests and is convinced that they are legally well-founded."

The Sirdar's Assassins.

The appeal against the sentences on the nine men found guilty of participating in the murder of the Sirdar, which was heard on Thursday, evoked little public interest. From the first there was small hope of the appellants, ably represented though they were by Loutfy Bey and his colleagues, securing any alteration in their sentences, for their appeals were based on technicalities of procedure which had little relation with equity. By the time these lines appear in print the condemned men, although their relatives have submitted a petition to the King, will have paid the penalty of their crimes.

Islam and the State.

Orthodox Moslem divines have been shocked by the appearance of a book entitled "Islam and the Basis of Government," by Sheikh Aly Abdel Razek, who has run counter to all accepted notions of the relation in a Moslem country of religion to the State. He declares that the two should be entirely divorced, that Islamic laws are for individual observance, not for adoption as a civil code. He has, moreover, strong words on the subject of polygamy, and also concerning the Caliphate, to which he denies the right, at any time, of exercising temporal power and which he considers an institution that the Turks did well to suppress. In fact, Sheikh Abdel Razek preaches little that the Turks have not already put into practice, but the present Turkish Government is regarded in Egypt as little better than a set of infidels, and such heresies have not hitherto been given publicity in this country. Al Azhar was stupefied and begged the Government to confiscate the book, while the redoubtable Sheikh Shaker entered the lists, via the columns of the *Mokattam*, and sought, metaphorically, to put his adversary *hors de combat*. But the Press and the public, rather surprisingly, are almost all on the side of the free-thinking Sheikh Abdel Razek: the Government declined to take action against him, and the Azhar Superior Council was left to take disciplinary steps of its own. At a meeting last Monday no decision was reached, and to-morrow the greybeards will sit again, to decide what is the most appropriate deterrent to such unsound doctrine. Or, maybe, they will decide merely to issue an Ulemistical pronouncement, proving that Sheikh Abdel Razek is all wrong. But, if that be the case, more and more of Young Egypt is falling into error along with him.

Tobacco Growing.

There has been much talk lately of legalising tobacco growing in Egypt, the principal objection being that the import dues on tobacco represent one of the Government's most important sources of revenue. After much discussion on the possibility of raising a similar income from a tax on each feddan of land planted with tobacco,

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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a new obstacle has been discovered, namely, that good tobacco will not grow on Egyptian soil. That, at least, is the result of experiments up-to-date, despite the sinking of much money and the employment of foreign experts so that a real test might be made.

Floating Mines.

The Egyptian shores are still at intervals visited by reminders of the late War in the form of floating mines, of which three have arrived, and been destroyed, off Alexandria during the last few weeks. The explosion of one of them was such a violent proceeding that all the windows in the neighbourhood were shattered. The commonly accepted theory is that these mines were sown during the Greco-Turkish hostilities, and that no proper steps were taken to sweep them up after the conclusion of peace.

Sofia, July 29.

The Yugoslav Frontier.

Another fortnight has passed by, and the Yugoslav frontier remains closed to all Bulgarians. The Yugoslav Minister in Sofia, M. Rakitch, has returned from Belgrade, and it is believed that he has been given authority to settle this question. The Bulgarian Government have expressed their readiness to pay an indemnity to the family of the Yugoslav subject, Redbovitch, who is missing, believed killed. It is, however, said that Redbovitch's family have declined to accept any indemnity, saying that they want their son back. As this would appear to be impossible, there is a deadlock, which is capable of degenerating into something more serious. For although the actual shutting of the frontier is not a very grave occurrence, because the majority of Bulgarians going to and coming from Western Europe use the Danube route, which is internationalised and requires no visas, the fact of a State's closing its frontier to its neighbour is, to say the least of it, a highly unfriendly act.

It is, indeed, thought that Yugoslavia's attitude may have been caused by a desire to bring about a breakdown in normal diplomatic relations. Certain factors in Bulgarian politics have maintained that similar measures should be applied to Yugoslav subjects desirous of traversing Bulgaria. If such a step had been taken there is little doubt that Yugoslavia would have retaliated with other measures, and the situation might thus have become gradually worse. There are persons, indeed, who hold that Yugoslavia's present policy is to humble the Zankoff Government, cost what it may. Why such a policy exists, if it does, can best be explained from Belgrade, but the fact remains that since Zankoff came into power, Bulgar-Yugoslav relations have never been good. It is extremely doubtful whether they would be much improved if another political group took office in Sofia, but there is just a hope that they would. Meanwhile it is sincerely to be trusted that farseeing Yugoslav politicians and statesmen will speedily put an end to a state of affairs which can do good to anyone, for there are no reasons to doubt Bulgaria's sincere desire to make worthy reparation for incidents which occurred during the period of stress that followed the Cathedral outrage.

Prospects of Governmental Changes.

Autumn is approching, and political prophets are unanimous in saying that a partial or entire reconstruction of the present Cabinet is to be expected. The name of Liaptcheff, a former Minister and distinguished economist is on everybody's lips, and it would really seem that there is something serious afoot. M. Zankoff's men have now been in office for over two years, and it is now an open secret that several Ministers are feeling the strain and require a holiday. Declarations, obviously inspired, have been made that the present Government will remain at its post as long as the Bolshevist menace continues, but these words must not be taken too seriously. Whatever Government comes into power is going to combat the Bolshevist danger, and it would be a mistake to imagine that such is the prerogative of M. Zankoff.

Unfortunately there seems to be an idea that any change of Government will be regarded as a sign of weakness by the extremer elements, who will try to take advantage of it. Such an idea is, in the opinion of the writer, a false one. Now is the time peacefully to evolve in order that the country may be given the tranquillity it so richly deserves and wishes. The harvest is a record one, the peasantry will be contented, and sound legislation, coupled with a certain amount of wise clemency, should go far to bring about a return to normality. But it is a big question and a difficult one to answer whether the actual administration can create such a desirable state of affairs. Even though they be the greatest men Bulgaria has ever produced they have governed during a totally abnormal period and have perforce had to apply abnormal methods. Now would it not be best to try new men, along with one or two veterans, in order to raise Bulgaria from her present plight?

GREECE.

Athens, July 27.

A Balkan Security Pact.

The event of the week which is considered locally to have the greatest importance is the proposal of the Foreign Minister, M. Redis, to conclude a Security Pact with Yugoslavia and Roumania. The suggestion is claimed by the local Press as a whole as a far-seeing statesmanlike move which should of itself raise the prestige of Greece in the Councils of the Balkan States. That it is a broad, wise move nobody will deny, but outside observers feel impelled to agree with the *Estia*, the semi-official organ of the late Government, in its view that it would have been a broader and a wiser move if, instead of confining attention to Yugoslavia and Roumania, the victor States, it had also included Bulgaria, without whose collaboration no permanent cure of the running sores of the Balkans can possibly be complete. The pointed exclusion of Bulgaria and the lame semi-official explanation of the Foreign Minister that her exclusion is due to the fact that Græco-Bulgar relations are regulated by special conventions already in force, rob the present proposal of any likeness to the more important Security Pact between Britain, France, and Germany, to which the more dithyrambic of the local panegyrists of M. Rendis are prone to compare it; and the accusation of the Government's enemies that it has been launched upon an admiring world solely with the

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object of blunting the acuity of Serbo-Greek relations by dragging in Roumania as a red-herring is not so far-fetched as may appear at first sight. It would, however, be ungracious not to applaud such a valuable gesture in Balkan politics and not to wish it complete success, especially if it can be broadened in such a way as to get rid of that serious, but ephemeral distinction between the victors and the vanquished in the late War. Greece's intentions are undoubtedly pacific, and the new Government no less than its predecessors is devoting itself in its fashion primarily to the problem of promoting international peace.

"Back to Constitutionalism."

Internally, affairs are passing through a curious phase. While the Government is making great play with the cry "Back to Constitutionalism" and insisting upon a general election at the first possible moment, in order to abolish the present interregnum between Revolution and a normal Constitution, it is at the same time guilty of the most extraordinary lapses. The arrest, trial, and condemnation of two of the directors of a prominent newspaper, the *Eleftheros Logos*, by a military court for unjustifiable criticism of the Government appears indefensible, when it is stated by the Prime Minister that no censure has been imposed and that the arrest of the journalists was carried out by the military police authorities without a mandate from the Government. The fact remains, however, that the journalists were duly and formally sentenced by a regularly constituted military court to a term of imprisonment and the paper has been suspended for a month. Such incidents as these have severely strained the alliance between the Pangalos faction and the Republican Union whose leader, M. Papastanassiou, has a weakness for theoretical freedom of action and expression even when it goes to rather dangerous lengths. Rumour is busy with stories of Sciosism in the Republican Union and of a tendency towards the formation of a *bloc* of political parties of all shades against the present Government. Also, the wholesale permutations in the higher ranks of the Army and Navy are causing much heart-burning.

The Financial Situation.

A very satisfactory feature of the internal situation is the serious and practical manner in which the financial situation is being handled. The repute of M. Kofinas, Minister of Finance, is of inestimable value to the present Government, and there is every reason to suppose that he will be able to carry through his schemes for a drastic reduction of administrative expenditure and an increase of revenue from indirect taxation. There is no doubt at all that individuals in Greece are prosperous and are launching out into large and profitable enterprises to their own advantage and incidentally to that of their country. M. Kofinas is going to divert some of this wealth into the Treasury coffers by readjusting the import duties and placing them on a gold basis, and he is credited with the plan of holding over the heads of his countrymen a mild imitation of the Papadakis Forced Loan of 1922, which consists of a devaluation of the paper money by 10 per cent. Theoretically it sounds good, and it is a fact that M. Papadakis did a good stroke of business when he halved the value of the Greek paper money. The present project savours a little of peddling on a small scale, and we tremble to think of the complications in daily life when one is forced to do a fearsome sum at the booking office on a hot day in a queue of semi-literates all murmuring abstruse mathematical calculations of the same nature.

Miscellaneous News.

Summer has descended upon us with a rush after an unusually temperate June and July. The usual exodus of the Athenian to Kephissia and Phaleron has taken place, and a goodly proportion of the British colony has betaken itself to England or elsewhere to avoid the heat. The long-delayed signature of the contract which definitely engages the British Naval Mission took place last week, and H.M.'s Minister has left Athens on leave.

IRAQ.

Baghdad, July 15.

Parliament.

Baghdad is looking forward with interest to the opening of the Mejliss, which is fixed to take place to-morrow. Yassin Pasha was unable to form a new ministry, and the task was therefore handed by the King to Abdul Muhsin Beg as Sa'dun, lately Minister of Interior. The new Cabinet, which was formally instituted at the Sarai on June 26, is generally considered a strong one, though three of its members are untried. The portfolios are allotted as under:—

Premier and Foreign Affairs...	Abdul Muhsin Beg.
Interior	Rashid Ali Gilani.
Finance	Rauf Beg Chadirchi.
Defence	Sabih Beg Nashat.
Communications and Works ...	Abdul Hassain Chalabi.
Justice	Naji Beg as Suwaidi.
Education	Hikmat Beg Sulaiman.
Auqaf	Hamdi Beg al Pachachi.

The retiring Ministry, though it carried out only a modicum of its ambitious programme, yet officiated very creditably during eleven months of special difficulty. The Turkish invasion of the Mosul vilayet, the investigations of the Frontier Commission and Sheikh Mahmoud's rebellion in Suleimaniyeh, all presented serious problems, while the financial stringency has never relaxed. Among the important and progressive measures which have been passed are the granting of concessions to the Turkish Petroleum Company and the Asfar Group, an agreement with the Anglo-Persian Oil Company for dredging the bar at Fao, and the grant of contracts to a number of British officials. Abdul Muhsin's ministry has now to steer the country through its first efforts at Parliamentary government. It may be noted that neither of the two leading political parties has put forward any programme; the two sections into which the deputies would seem to be divided are animated rather by personal loyalty to the new Prime Minister on the one hand and to Yassin Pasha, the departing Prime Minister, on the other.

As it has been established that the recent strike of Turkish Government telegraphists in various parts of Asia Minor was not due to Communist intrigues, and in view of the good war service of the strikers, the Tribunal of Independence of Angora has been content with sentencing the five leaders of the strike to terms of imprisonment varying from twelve months to three years.

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THE WEEK AT HOME

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Coal Truce.

The way in which the Government staved off the lock-out in the coal industry appears to have pleased nobody—except, possibly, the miners. Many of the Conservatives, even, are holding up their hands in traditional horror at the notion of a "subsidy"; and those who in some remote past were taught "history" are remembering with some show of despair the stories of how barbarians were bought off who invaded Britain and Rome. Very certainly the policy of buying off one's enemy is not a comforting one to the Conservative mind.

It may reasonably be asked, however: what else in the circumstances could Mr. Baldwin do? True, the amount which the taxpayers may have to pay for the privilege of seeing the owners and the miners in co-operation for nine months may be anything from ten to twenty millions, but would not a complete stoppage have been even more expensive and inconvenient? It is obvious to anyone that this policy of subsidising an ill-organised industry is not only bad in itself, but dangerous in relation to its effect upon other trades, but it seems futile to talk of the wrongness of the principle when there was no rightness in any principle that could possibly be defended. The Government was in the nastiest of cleft sticks, for it could entertain neither the proposals of the owners nor those of the miners; it therefore did what most other people, would they but confess it, would do—play for time to formulate a policy.

Now by the finding of the Royal Commission which the Government has appointed it will certainly be judged. If it fails to take action in accordance with the recommendations of this expert body—as the Coalition Government failed so badly to act upon the report of the Sankey Commission—it will surely go down to posterity as a cowardly and weak administration. Already its handling of this crisis has, unreasonably as it may be, seriously depreciated it in the eyes of the public. The fact that the Premier, so soon after stating that by no means could a subsidy be extracted from the Government, fell utterly back upon the method of "Danegeld," produced a most unpleasing impression.

Holidays and Trade.

On all sides do you hear the dismallest of yarns about bad trade—the lack of prosperity in these islands is simply appalling—this year must surely be the worst of all years, and so on: and everywhere do you see people rushing away to holidays. To and from London they come and go like so many bees: I, at any rate, have never seen the railway termini so stuffed with holiday-makers. Half Britain seems to be making for the Continent—Boulogne, Ostend, Zeebrugge, Brussels and so on; and the other half is expected to come to Wembley. Certainly everyone is spending more money on travel than was ever spent in previous years.

And yet trade is bad, slumps are universal, bankruptcy is only kept out of the businessman's front-door by the puff of a cigar. What these gay holiday-makers are doing, of course, is to accept their inevitable fate of poverty and starvation in more entertaining quarters than are to be found at home. But if the railway companies and the motor transport services can make all these profits in the bad year, what will they do in the good (if ever we have a good one again)?

Liberalism.

How despondent the Liberals in this country really are is seen by the eagerness with which they have fastened on to the optimistic expression of Signor Nitti made last week at the Liberal Summer School at Cambridge. To take the word of this Italian Statesman, who, it will be remembered, was at least partly responsible for letting his country drift into the mess from which the Fascisti of Signor Mussolini had to rescue it—to take his word upon the prospects of English Liberalism argues an almost pathetic inability to trust one's own reading of the situation. And one knows that Liberals do not really believe in the talk of Liberal politicians—else why should the *Daily News*, a really literary journal, so speak with its tongue in its cheek as to mention "the triumph of a great come-back"?

Parties and the Empire.

The past week has been notable for the claim made by two politicians, Lord Asquith and Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, that the Empire was the especial care of the Liberal and the Labour Party respectively. Liberalism, said Lord Asquith at the fifth Summer School at Cambridge, had been a great Empire builder; and he hotly disputed the claim of Toryism for the paternity of the free communities attached to the Motherland. He instanced S. Africa, Canada, and Ireland as problems which had yielded to the solvent of British policy. And the Labour ex-Premier went so far as to assert that his Party was the first to "take any active interest in the Empire" in the sense of co-operative unity of nations and coming nations.

This, of course, is a very old dispute, which cannot be exactly determined. One may at least grant that the Labour Party did show a surprising interest in Imperial affairs: and for the rest, perhaps it is not too wide of the mark to say that what the Tory Party won for the Empire the Liberal Party prevented our losing. It is improbable, however, that such a verdict could possibly be accepted by any real partisan.

The British Fascisti.

From time to time accounts have appeared in obscure corners of our Press of the doings of the British Fascisti, but now until last week, when a photograph of these strange, if very worthy men, was published in the papers, had the public any real conception of what the Fascisti, apart from the opinion they held, looked like. To be quite candid, the sight of men swathed in black shirts with "plus fours" or "Oxford bags" beneath, and armed with ferocious swords, made one's conviction deeper than ever that Fascism in England can never, at least until Communism is a real danger, develop into a national movement. It is, of course, sickening to a certain type of mind, that Communistic nonsense should be preached with impunity in our public parks, but it is at least doubtful whether public expression of such nausea does not make the few Communists even the more determined.

As readers of these notes will remember, I yield to no one in my admiration of what Signor Mussolini has done for Italy; but we are not in Rome that we should do as the Romans do.

Swopping Games.

For a day or so recently the unthinking sporting world was agog with the news that Mr. Cyril Tolley, the eminent golfer who used to drive an incredibly long ball, was forsaking the "great Gulf Stream" for the fiercer currents of Lawn Tennis. This "swopping of clubs" was immediately transformed into the story that Mr. Tolley intended to train on to represent England against the world at Wimbledon, and fantastic yarns of his present prowness were hastily set about.

It is a distressing sign of the times indeed that a man cannot even change his games without the world's going mad over it. After all, who is there that has played much who has not felt at some time or other that he would "chuck" this pastime for some other? Why, my total aggregate of runs in the last four innings—oh, well, most people get over this kind of feeling sooner or later!

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THE STABILITY OF IRAQ.

(From a Correspondent.)

I.

Introduction.

The investigations made by Commander Hilton Young, M.P., and Mr. Vernon show that there are two outstanding reasons for the not altogether satisfactory state of the finances of Iraq. First, the necessity for maintaining the Iraq Army on its present scale places upon the Government a burden too great for its present financial resources. Secondly, the present absence of trade and commercial enterprise in Iraq has effected adversely the general economic condition of the country and has reduced the Government's revenues to a figure considerably below that to which we might aspire. Since the existence of both these factors is attributable to the doubtful security of the Iraq Kingdom, the primary consideration now to be faced is not so much the means whereby the financial situation, in itself, may be improved but, rather, the methods to be adopted for giving the country a peaceful existence in the future by insuring the inviolability of the frontier and achieving, in the interior, the tranquillity of some 250,000 tribesmen armed with modern, or at least serviceable rifles.

II.

Security of the Frontier.

The security of the northern frontier is, at the moment, dependent chiefly upon the decision to be made by the League of Nations as to the alignment of the future boundary between Iraq and Turkey. It seems hardly possible that the Commission appointed to investigate this question can have failed to realise that possession of the Mosul Vilayet is, for economic and strategical reasons, vital to the continued existence of the Iraq State or that it is precisely on this account that the Turks have laid claim to it. It may be assumed, therefore, with some degree of certainty that the boundary decided upon will follow, through the greater part of its length, the present provisional frontier (which, in 1918, the British General Staff selected as being the only practicable Armistice line).

In the region of this frontier, approximately midway between the Persian and Syrian borders and to the north of Amadia there lie the highlands of Hakkiari, claimed by the Turks. Since control over the southern portion of this district is essential not only to the defence of the frontier, but also to the maintenance of order in the Kurdish foothills to the south, the security of Iraq cannot be guaranteed unless that area be occupied by a friendly people. On the other hand, the country in question can be of no use to the Turks except in an offensive movement against Iraq. It may be hoped, therefore, that the Geneva Council's decision will be favourable to Iraq in this respect also.

There have been, however, many indications that the League of Nations' ruling with regard to the frontier will not cause the Turks to abandon, immediately, their dream of bringing about a British withdrawal from Iraq. Since Mustapha Kemal defeated the Greeks in 1922 he has, up to the present, gained every point at issue between himself and the British Government; and, although it is not to be expected that he contemplates open hostilities, it is improbable that he will give way over the Iraq border question without a further struggle. It may be anticipated, then, that there will be a continuation, for some time, of the familiar Turkish policy of resorting to every possible expedient for stirring up trouble in Iraq through those of the more turbulent Kurdish border tribes ill-disposed towards the Iraq Government, and for supporting these and the numerous bands of anti-British and pro-Turkish propagandists by the movement of small parties of Turkish troops on or, if possible, across the frontier. Any initial success resulting from these activities could not fail to have an unsettling effect upon the tribes in the interior. But we possess the means of checking the prosecution of such measures.

The lawful owners of the important Southern Hakkiari area are the Assyrian Christian clans who have been strongly Anglophil since 1886, when the Archbishop of Canterbury instituted measures for their assistance in matters of education and general welfare, and who have served our interests with the utmost zeal since they adopted the cause of the Allies in 1915. After the Armistice they proved themselves a loyal and martial community both as organised troops and tribal auxiliaries, their excellent conduct in the former capacity, while engaged in punitive operations in Kurdistan, speaking for itself. In 1920 their services as irregulars were of great value to us during the Arab rising while, further north, the clansmen encamped at Jujar turned out to a man to deal with a marauding band of the hostile Surki Kurds whom they utterly defeated and drove for sixty miles through dangerous country until numbers perished by drowning in a desparate attempt to escape across the Zab River. Again, two years later, the timely arrival at Amadia of the Bishop of the Jelu, with warriors from that clan, saved the town from falling into the hands of the Turks. Were these people to be concentrated in their own homes and supported there by a detachment of the Government's troops, the most important section of the frontier would be rendered secure against raids instigated by the Turks. Between the Assyrians' country and the Syrian border to the west there is a strong defensive position at Zakho. Were this held, as at present, by our troops and were southern Hakkiari secure, there would remain only the Rowanduz section to be considered. Here there are certain Kurdish leaders who have, to a small extent, committed themselves to us by anti-Turkish action in the past, some being of the family of the Saiyid Abdul Qadir recently hanged by the orders of Angora. Should we render strong political support to these individuals, there should be no reason for serious concern as to their continued fidelity or ability to hold their own, provided that the other two important positions on the frontier remained intact.

There is but little justice in the assertion that last year the inability of the Assyrians to resist the Turks proved that there is a prospect of inevitable failure in any scheme for the defence of the frontier which embodies their co-operation. In September a considerable number of the clansmen had not returned to their homes and many were serving with the Iraq Levies in the interior. Those in the mountains were, for this reason, unsupported except by aerial action which failed to give the assistance necessary to the occasion, owing to the Turks' having discovered the means of protecting themselves against the observation and attacks of air-craft. Thus, the half-measures which have been attempted up to the present should not prejudice the success of the scheme as a whole. The Assyrians cannot be expected to hold their own in their homes without military support sufficient to counterbalance, to some extent, their comparative weakness due to the absence of many of their fighting men in the service of the British Government elsewhere. And, further, it should not be forgotten that the presence of troops in their vicinity would also restrain the ardour of the more bellicose of the clansmen who, left alone, might invite Turkish reprisals by raiding ancient enemies across the border.

A more sympathetic attitude towards the Christians cannot be objected to on the grounds that it would eliminate the prospect of our achieving greater popularity with the border Kurds in general, for, in the present stages of Kurdish development, popularity of a stable government does not, and cannot, exist. Our attempts to placate the border Kurds by leniency have resulted in failure and, very nearly, in disaster; and with but few exceptions the tribal Aghas of those regions have proved themselves unamenable to anything but force. On the other hand, the few in favour of strong government, and those committed to our interests, would welcome any practicable measures which the Government might adopt with a view to strengthening its position.

Although the Assyrians can be relied upon to serve us to the best of their ability, this cannot now be claimed on behalf of the Kurds in general—even by the most enthusiastic of the former admirers of that race. Support of the Christian clans might not increase our popularity

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but would, at least, induce respect. On the Iraq border, as in many other countries, we can gain far more by assisting our friends than by attempting to satisfy possible enemies.

Should any proposals for a forward movement to the Assyrian country appear unacceptable owing to a shortage of troops in Iraq and the conseqent necessity for embarking on some expenditure, by obtaining a further supply, to render possible the execution of such a project, the Government would be well advised should it examine the practicability of reducing the Royal Air Force squadrons in that country to a number compatible with the performance of only those of their present duties which the experiences of the last three years show that they are able to carry out with satisfactory results, bearing in mind the fact that all the operations carried out successfully in Kurdistan, (as distinct from Iraq plain) since the Royal Air Force assumed responsibility, have been performed, not by aircraft, but by Indian and Assyrian troops. Alternatively, if it be desirable to retain the present number of squadrons in Iraq, in view of the suitability of that country for the training of pilots, the Government might consider the possibility of transferring a proportion of their cost from the Middle East Department's Budget to that of the Air Ministry, thereby releasing funds for the objects for which they are actually intended. But, even if close investigation prove that stronger support of the Assyrians would cause some additional expenditure, it should be remembered that greater security of the northern frontier is a necessary insurance for an ultimate return on any pecuniary assistance given in the future, to the Iraq Government.

While the British connection with Iraq is maintained, and provided that the French deny the Turks a passage for their troops through the Mandatory Territory in Syria, threats to the remaining frontiers of Iraq are not likely to assume greater proportions than those resulting from occasional raids of tribes such as the Mutair of eastern Nejd, which, in the past, have been driven off without difficulty by aerial action.

III.

Security in the Interior.

The inhabitants of the interior of Iraq affecting the political and military situation are separated into two sharply defined divisions: the tribesmen, and those of the Moslem townsmen who are educated or partially educated. The numerous Christians and Jews and the majority of the illiterate Moslem townsmen and non-tribal agriculturalists have little influence over the general trend of events.

The strictures directed against the Kurds of the border districts do not apply to the settled communities in or near the towns in Kurdistan, nor to many of the chiefs of the Kurdish tribes inhabiting the lower foothills at a distance from the frontier; and still less do they apply to a large majority of the Arab sheikhs who lead the settled or partially nomadic tribes of the Iraq plain. Many of these individuals possess great wealth, and being the owners or perpetual tenants of rich farm lands, have a greater stake than any in the peaceful development of their country. The Arabs, being in a great majority, may be considered in some detail.

We should immediately disabuse ourselves of any idea that the Arab sheikhs are likely to be influenced by patriotic sentiment towards the Iraq State or by any "pan-Arab" leanings. Before the War, Miss G. L. Bell, in "The Desert and the Sown," wrote of the pan-Arab movement as follows:—"Of what use are the pan-Arabic associations and the inflamatory leaflets they issue from foreign printing presses? The answer is easy: they are worth nothing at all. There is no nation of Arabs; the Syrian merchant is separated by a wider gulf from the Bedouin than he is from the Osmanli——" These words, if applied to Iraq, are true to-day. Some semblances of pan-Arab feeling were brought into being in the Western desert during the War, through the agency of Colonel Lawrence and his lavish distribution of gold, and are kept alive there by the Zionist policy of the British Government, but in Iraq and the eastern desert such feelings have never appeared and do not now exist except in the imaginations of those inhabitants of the towns known, sometimes, incongruously, as the Nationalists. In Iraq the Arab tribesman is separated by a wider gulf from the Bagdadi than he is from the British officer—or the Turkish official. The sheikhs of Iraq and their 250,000 armed tribesmen, like all Arabs, are opportunists, volatile and devoid of political sentiments; and their attitude may be gauged only from a study of what are, of what they may consider to be, their interests.

The tribal sheikh possesses no autocratic control over his tribe by virtue of heredity or divine right. He holds his position because his tribesmen consider that, by reason of his personality or influence, he is best able to settle their inter-tribal disputes, lead them in war, and act as their representative with the Government. Since the qualifications necessary to the tenure of such a position are largely hereditary, accentuated by the superior conditions in which the ruling families live, a tribal sheikh, on his death, is usually succeeded by the leading personality amongst the survivors in his family—usually a son or brother—but not necessarily the eldest son. This naturally gives rise to interminable jealousies in the ruler's family and causes every sheikh to be constantly aware of the existence of at least one potential rival. Thus, every tribal chief, although normally in good control of his following, must be constantly on the alert to see that he retains the confidence of his tribe. This is his first interest.

The sheikh also controls the lands and crops of his tribe, which, if the latter be of any consequence, are a potential source of considerable wealth to him. Being inordinately fond of money, his second interest, then, is to endeavour to get the full benefit of his position. Since this cannot be achieved unless comparative peace prevails, his influence, unless his lands are so poor as to be nearly unproductive, is, on the whole, on the side of law and order, and he will not raise his war standard unless reasonably certain that he is on the winning side. But, should it appear to him that the weakness of the Government renders general disorders quite inevitable in his neighbourhood, he will immediately take steps to ensure his being, himself, the dominant character in such disorders—maintenance of his status as sheikh of his tribe being, as explained, the chief of his interests—for he and his fellow sheikhs are precluded by inter-tribal feuds and jealousies from setting up an administration of their own to take the place of the Government.

When the British invaded Iraq in 1914 the leading sheikhs assembled their men on behalf of the Turkish Government in order to assist in preserving the peace of their country, but on finding that they were backing the losing side, with the Arabs' ability for a complete *volte face*, they transferred their allegiance to the British Government. The interior of the country enjoyed a comparatively peaceful existence under the administration of the Army of Occupation until an outbreak occurred in 1920, in the middle Euphrates area, amongst small tribes of the poorer sort whose leaders were not interested in the preservation of peace. When the military met with a reverse in attempting to restore the situation, the insurgents were joined by others of their own type who came out for the sake of the loot which might be obtained, the natural inflammability of the tribesmen being aggravated by religious propaganda emanating from the neighbouring Shiah centres at Kerbela and Nejef. The Sheikhs of the greater tribes throughout Iraq were indefatigable in endeavours to keep their men in order in which, with certain exceptions, they were successful. Those who

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failed were the sheikhs of the middle Euphrates in the vicinity of the area where the outbreak had occurred, where the reverses to the Government had rendered the naturally turbulent tribesmen deaf to counsels of prudence. Here many of the sheikhs joined the insurgents and became the leaders of the rebellion, in consideration of the necessity for their remaining, at all costs, the chiefs of their tribes and retaining the confidence of their tribesmen, and in spite of the fact that, up to the last possible moment, they had used their influence on behalf of the Government. The rising spread to the small and poverty stricken tribes of the Diyalah area, but the larger tribes of the Tigris below Baghdad, the lower Euphrates and the reaches of the latter river above Ramadi remained loyal under their wealthy sheikhs, thereby saving the British forces from complete disaster. As soon as the insurrection had been suppressed the majority of the sheikhs of the middle Euphrates resumed their loyalty to the British Government.

On the formation of the Iraq Government, after the rising in 1920, the Executive at the capital and the administrative posts in the provinces fell into the hands of the townsmen who were better organised than the tribes for making their voices heard and formed the only element with the rudiments of education necessary for such appointments. From this class, as might be expected, is drawn the small but vociferous Nationalist Party which, oblivious of the impossibility of its achievement, has clamoured incessantly for the complete independence of Iraq. On reaching their posts, the newly appointed officials found themselves confronted by the hostility of the sheikhs, for the latter had a natural dislike for those whom they considered effete townsmen, were opposed to the Government's being handed over to inefficient agitators, and were anxious for the retention of the British connection, failing which the return of the Turks would have best suited their interests. The Nationalists, seeing that the wealthy sheikhs blocked the road to the achievemen of their ideal—complete independence—then set themselves the highly dangerous task of breaking the power of the tribal leaders, ignoring the fact that such a policy, but for the presence of a British force in Iraq and the salutary lesson learnt by the tribesmen in 1920, could lead only to the sheikhs, with their overwhelming strength, turning on the townsmen and driving them from power, thereby giving the Turks an opportunity for re-occupying the country. Officially, the Nationalists based their actions on the theory that a tribal system is inconsistent with the organisation of a government on modern lines. There is some truth in this argument; but a moment's reflection will show that the only safe policy to adopt in this respect is to allow events to take their own course. As the natural resources of the country are developed and the warlike tribesmen settle down to agriculture, the tribal confederations will gradually disappear, while the sheikhs, assisted by improved educational facilities, will find fresh outlets for their natural ability to lead the masses. When this change is complete, and then only, the country will be ready for complete independence.

As matters now stand, the tribal leaders who control the armed inhabitants of the country may be divided into three main categories:—

1. The leading sheikhs. These would be glad to see their country under direct British administration but are prepared to tolerate an Iraq Government under the guidance of British Advisers, provided that the latter check effectively the Nationalists' attempts to undermine their sheikhly influence and accelerate the disappearance of the tribal confederations. Should the British Advisers, for any reason, fail in this task, the members of this class would be compelled to turn to others outside the country for support of their interests. Similarly, should we withdraw from Iraq before a Turkish advance without serious resistance, this element would throw in its lot with the invaders.

2. The leaders of the small and indigent tribes who have little to lose and are every ready to join the promoters of disturbances.

3. Certain rivals of the leading sheikhs. These would turn to any party likely to assist them effectively in gaining ascendancy over the sheikhs now in power.

Those in the first category completely outweigh the other two. The second and third categories will cease to exist as the development of the country begins to give them a personal interest in the preservation of peace, and as the tribal confederations break up; but, in the conditions which now prevail, they are potential supporters of the Turks and others hostile to our position in Iraq. None of them credit the possibility of the Iraq Government's being able to exist, even for the briefest period, without British support; and far less have they any faith in its capability of continuing a semblance of efficient administration without our co-operation.

IV.

Conclusion.

It will be seen that there lies with the British Authorities in Iraq above all others responsibility for the future welfare and political attitude of the tribes and of the hundreds of thousands of now inarticulate townsmen and agriculturists—Moslem, Christian and Jewish,—and for reducing the country to a state of order which will render possible the departure of the British garrison. It is incumbent upon the political officials to see that the good will towards us of the greater tribal leaders is preserved and to employ every practicable means of improving the condition of the smaller tribes in order that they may begin to feel, as soon as possible, the benefits of a stable and progressive government. The military Commander's task is to preserve constant vigilance over the dissatisfied and unruly elements and to stamp out, as rapidly as possible, any incipient disorder. Equally it is his duty to institute the most effective measures whereby the integrity of the frontier may be assured.

We have not altogether escaped our share of odium consequent upon our having sponsored the present form of government by the townsmen, nor the unpopularity due to the promiscuous destruction of life and property by aerial raids on towns and villages in the mountain districts. More especially as these have failed to protect the normally law-abiding inhabitants from the effects of disorder brought about by Turkish intrigues with Kurdish bandits. But, as in other eastern dependencies, the British authorities in Iraq, if they face the situation with courage, will retain as their active protagonists a large preponderance of the most influential and powerful elements in the country—the greater Arab sheikhs, the better class Kurds and the sturdy Assyrians. Wavering will ultimately result in a Turcophil attitude on the part of our present Moslem supporters who, on account of their own psychology and the vagaries of recent history, do not possess that immutability which characterises our chief adherents in India.

Happily, a recent statement of the Colonial Secretary makes it clear to the inhabitants of Iraq and their neighbours that there is no immediate prospect of our weakening in the execution of our self-imposed task. This will lighten inestimably the difficulties of those who carry out our policy in that country. Provided that the latter follow wholeheartedly where Mr. Amery leads, the new kingdom will be assured of security in the future and a rapid improvement in its economic condition.

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M. Duca, the Roumanian Foreign Minister has informed the American Chargé d'Affaires at Bucharest that a Roumanian Commission will be sent to Washington in September to discuss the settlement of the Roumanian War debts to the United States. Prince Bibesco, Roumanian Minister at Washington, has been called to consultation.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

August 6, 1925 (New Style).
July 24, 1925 (Old Style).
Muharram 16, 1344 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Ab 16, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

Count Leon Ostrorog has left London for Constantinople.

Sir Ronald and Lady Storrs left London last week for Palestine.

The Queen of Roumania will remain at Esher until August 10.

Sir Milne and Lady Cheetham have arrived in town, and are staying at Claridge's Hotel.

M. N. Misu, Secretary at the Roumanian Legation, left London on July 30 for Italy on leave.

Saleh Enan Pasha, Egyptian Under-Secretary of State for the Ministry of Public Works, has arrived in London.

Sir Herbert Samuel, the former High Commissioner of Palestine, arrived at Budapest from Bucharest on July 29.

The Maharaja of Patiala arrived in London from Paris on August 1, and will stay at the Savoy Hotel for some weeks.

Field-Marshal Lord Plumer, the High Commissioner-designate of Palestine, will leave London on the 14th inst. for his post.

The Roumanian Minister and Mme. Titulesco, who are now in St. Moritz, will not return to London until the end of August.

Sir Horace Rumbold, the British Ambassador to Spain, and Lady Rumbold, who have been staying in London, have left for the Continent.

M. and Mme. Ivan Stancioff and M. and Mme. Felix Guépin returned to London last week from their trip to Bulgaria and Constantinople.

Mrs. Arthur McGrath will leave 28, Wilton Place, on August 7, for Switzerland and Italy, and will be away until September. She will sail on October 24 for America.

Prince Nicolas of Roumania, younger son of the King and Queen of Roumania, has arrived in London on leave from the Mediterranean, where is serving in H.M.S. Benbow.

The King has approved the appointment of Mr. Govind Dinanath Madgaonkar, Indian Civil Service, to be a Puisne Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Bombay, in succession to Mr. Edward Millard Pratt, Indian Civil Service, who retires on August 29.

The Egyptian Minister has left London for Paris, on leave. He will be away two months. Mme. Izzet Pasha and her son, Abdullah Bey Izzet, will accompany the Minister. Sesostris Sidarouss Bey, Counsellor of the Egyptian Legation, will act as Chargé d'Affaires.

The engagement is announced of Frederick (Eric) Foulkes Capron, Royal Artillery, Jutogh, Simla, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Capron, of Southwick Hall, Oundle, and Betty only child of Sir Denys Bray, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., C.B.E., Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, and Lady Bray, of Knockdrin, Simla.

At St. Michael's Church, Stowe, Shropshire, the marriage took place on August 1 between Mr. Craven H. Walker, O.B.E., Sudan Civil Service, His Majesty's Consul for Western Ethiopia, and Gwladys Muriel, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Coltman Rogers, of Stanage Park, Radnorshire, and Hagnaby Priory, Lincolnshire.

The engagement is announced between M. Jean A. Romanos, of the Greek Diplomatic Service, son of M. Athos Romanos, a former Greek Minister to the Court of St. James's, and Minister for Foreign Affairs, and of Mme. Romanos, and Mlle. Virginie Benachi, elder daughter of the late M. Alexandre E. Benachi, of Alexandria, Egypt, and of Mme. Benachi, 36 Finchley Road, N.W.

The Egyptian Minister and Mme. Aziz Izzet gave a luncheon on July 30 at Claridge's to Anglo-Egyptians at present in London, and a reception in honour of the Prime Minister of Egypt was held afterwards. The guests included:—Sir Murdoch and Lady Macdonald, Sir Hamar and Lady Greenwood, General Sir John Maxwell, Sir Gilbert and Lady Clayton, Baron R. Slatin Pasha, Borton Pasha and Mme. Borton, Colonel Chichester and Mrs. Crookshank, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. C. Beddington, Mr. and Mrs. John Walter, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cook, Mr. and Mrs. Foster, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Spender, Mr. Percy Stout, Lieutenant-Colonel George and the Hon. Mrs. Schuster, Mr. L. Grahame Scott, Mr. Richard More, Saleh Enan Pasha, Fair Sabit Bey and Mme. Sabit, Miss Julia Scemama, Mr. and Mrs. Konstan, Dr. Cowley, Dr. and Mrs. Llewellyn Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. J. Beaty Pownall, Dr Ernest Griffin, Mr. Percy White, Sir George Macauley, Sir Malcolm McIlwraith, Colonel and Mrs. Lyons, Sir Herbert and Lady Cohen, Dr. Acland, Mr. and Mrs. A. F. MacCallan, Colonel and Mrs. Elgood, Mr. W. H. H. Thorne, Mr. and Mrs. P. M. Tottenham, the Hon. Mrs. Home, Lieutenant-Colonel R. Owen Pasha, Mr. G. Foster Smith, G. Wissa Pasha and Mme. Wissa, Mr. and Mrs. W. Littlewood, Sir Ernest Dowson, Mr. and Mrs Peckitt, Mr. Leo Weinthal, Mr. and Mrs. A. Yusuf Ali, Sir Flinders and Lady Petrie, Mr. H. A. Humphreys, and Mr. J. Hopkins.

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BOOK REVIEWS.

A LOVER ALONE IN THE EAST.

"BY MAIL AND MESSENGER." By T. Comyn-Platt. (London: Constable and Co. 10s. 6d. net.)

Sir Thomas Comyn-Platt has written an unconventional and most refreshing book. He has reproduced some of the letters written from the East to the lady who is now his wife—letters which illustrate the life of a dutiful diplomat and a casual traveller in places like Constantinople, Athens, Aden, Tiflis, Baghdad, Samarkand, Osh, and Entebbe. And the result is that we get, not only able and often very graphic pen-pictures of well-known and little-known places in the East, nor merely evidence of the author's universal pride of the work of the Englishman in the East, but also, and frequently in the guise of tales of native love in the lands which he visits, the fascinating thread of his unwearying and gratifying love for the absent one in England.

The events that are described in this book all date from the tranquil days before the War, that is, before Egypt had become Nationalist ("the day that Cromer's policy is departed from will mark the first stage of our downfall in Egypt"), before Turkey had aimed at becoming a Westernised nation, before Mesopotamia had been transformed into Iraq (though even in these remote days the author could write at Baghdad of "a land where our prestige has practically vanished"), and before there were railways in Uganda. It is all extremely interesting reading, even though we may at times have to rub our eyes to see through the mist which separates the author's day from the changed present. And yet—has the East so very much changed? Is not the Athenian, as Sir Thomas in his time had the perspicacity to see, still the last person on earth by which the Greek nation should be judged? Are not the Russians still anxious that nothing should be known by the Government of India of their activities in Central Asia? Is it not still true of Englishmen that "as colonists there is not a nation to compare with us?" One likes much the intensity of the author's conviction upon this last point, for without making him in the least insular or snobbish—he finds, indeed, rich strains of humanity in most of the races whom he visits—it enables him to write with loving pride upon such types, commonly despised of the diplomat, as the missionary and the trader and the unofficial adventurer.

Quotation from such a volume is impossible, but we do not hesitate to say that more vivid sketches of such places as rural Albania and Greece, round and about Constantinople, Kokand, Entebbe, and so on, we have never read. For those who may dislike the amatory epistle as a form of literature, there is an abundance indeed of excellent travel notes. Decidedly it is a book to be read by those to whom the Near and Middle East is a part of the earth which yet can conjure up romance, for in all probability they will find their own past longings and ardours and experiences strangely stirred.

One last word, and in reference to Sir Thomas's pride in the work of the Englishman wherever he travels or settles down. He attributes to Lord Chesterfield the dictum that one ought never to miss planting an acorn for fear of losing an oak. Was it not Lord Collingwood?

AN INDIAN PILGRIM'S QUEST OF BEAUTY.

"MY PILGRIMAGE TO AJANTA AND BAGH." By Sri Makul Chandra Dey. Introduction by Laurence Binyon, Illustrated. (London: Thornton Butterworth. 21s. net.)

This book is full of interest and of charm, though we feel some grudge against the well meaning friends of the author of whom he tells us that they "patiently endeavoured to put my wild English into some sort of shape." The man is so individual, so charming and so interesting that we feel that, with his "wild English," something precious may have perished, though we are grateful for what is left. If he is a fair specimen of Sir Rabindranath Tagore's pupils, the world owes a further debt to the great Bengali poet.

This is a book which it is no use trying to "criticise," and we frankly give up the attempt. Mr. Dey is a perfect pilgrim. After a period of very strict economy he gradually saved enough money to start, full of characteristic impatience to see the beauty which he had so long yearned for. But he keeps eyes and ears well open during his journey and misses nothing, from the difference in the crops and houses to his meeting in the dawn with the Deccani village milkmaid who "was very lovely indeed"; from the "strong and energetic" Marathi gentleman who by a combination of force and inertia, esconced himself and wife in the compartment reserved for Europeans where our author found himself by the simple plan of wearing European dress, to the wild and beautiful scenery of the glen where the Ajanta caves are found and the snakes and wild animals that live there. No weariness of the flesh can ever delay him a moment from the joys of the beauty he knows awaits him, and, careless of acute physical discomforts and dangers, he rejoices simply and fully in his beloved paintings and sculptures. Having seen them once, he returns home—right across India—to work hard and so earn enough to take him back with a supply of drawing and painting materials and to keep him alive in the presence of beauty as long as may be. And there he lived, actually at the caves, in circumstances which few would venture to attempt, studying and copying day after day till the funds began to run low. Then he packs up and makes a dash to Bagh where there are more paintings. He arrives, not without adventure, has another happy time there and so home with an empty purse but with a rich collection of drawings, paintings and experiences. Indeed a happy pilgrim, full of true simplicity, loving beauty, his art, his religion and his own land, rejoicing in seeing "foreign parts" and full of appreciation of all he sees.

The book is full of photographs of the caves and of the sculptures and paintings found in them. We presume that most of the photographs of the paintings are from the author's careful copies. We only wish that it had been possible to reproduce some on a larger scale. Specially beautiful are the author's line drawings. A book like this should delight all readers who have not been poisoned by the subtleties of some of the productions of the modern press. We trust that Mr. Dey will not be content with his first venture on authorship. We could well do with more.

C. S.-W.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Robert E. Lee, the Soldier." By Major-General Sir Frederick Maurice. (London: Constable. 15s. net.)

"Sir Charles Napier." By T. Rice Holmes. (London: Cambridge University Press. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The Science of Prices." A Handbook of Economics. By John A. Todd, M.A., B.L. (London: Humphrey Milford. 6s. net.)

"Animals of Ancient Egypt." By David Paton. Illustrated. (London: Humphrey Milford. 31s. 6d.)

"A Sketch of the History of India from 1858 to 1918." By H. Dodwell. (London: Longmans Green and Co. 6s. net.)

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Indian Affairs.

BOLSHEVISM IN INDIA.

Speaking in Dorsetshire on July 18, Lord Birkenhead referred to Bolshevist attempts to foster revolutionary movements in Great Britain and warned his hearers against those who "preach the doctrine and support the tyranny of Moscow. The theories of Moscow are irreconcilable with the safety of the British Empire. We do not propose, if we can prevent it, to allow the intervention of these poisonous political microbes into our national life. Between us and them there is a gulf, I believe, unbridgable." It is, of course, well known that the Bolshevists regard the British Empire as the chief obstacle to the realisation of their dream of "world-revolution," and that they look upon India as the Achilles heel of the Empire: towards the attacking of which all their efforts at Bolshevising the East are ultimately directed. About a month ago, Stalin, addressing the Communist University for Oriental Nationalities on the subject of the University's political tasks, said that the students represented fifty nationalities and were composed of two groups, one consisting of students from the Soviet's eastern territories and the other of students from the colonies and dependencies of other Powers. Among these latter he specially mentioned India, Egypt, Morocco, China and Japan. Soviet students, he said, "must create a yearning among colonies and dependencies for emancipation." Revolutionary work in India must aim at creating an alliance between the workers and the poorer section of the native bourgeoisie and, for the time being, work along nationalist lines in order to overthrow the Imperialists and the richer section of the bourgeoisie, who feared revolution more than the alien Imperialists. Only such an alliance could make possible the eventual victory of Communism; but Communists, in making use of the nationalist bourgeoisie, must guard against allowing the Communist group to be absorbed by the other elements, since this group must, after the defeat of the Imperialists, have control of the movement and conduct it to the complete fruition of the Communist revolution. The University's task consisted in carrying out a programme of revolution on these lines, and groups of colonial students were being turned out as "genuine revolutionaries armed with the theories of Lenin and provided with practical experience to carry out the task of emancipating the colonies and dependencies."

The first serious attempt of the Bolshevists to start an organisation for the "emancipation" of India ended in definite failure, with the conviction of four "Indian Bolshevists" at Cawnpore and the subsequent dismissal of their appeal by the High Court of Allahabad, last year. The notorious ex-Bengal revolutionary who now calls himself M. N. Roy was the Bolshevist "centre" for India: and had persuaded the Soviet authorities that he had set up a live organisation in India, with ramifications in all the Provinces, which was a worthy object of Bolshevist assistance and was worth the expenditure of very considerable sums of money by way of a subsidy. The trial proved the absurdity of any such claim—that every detail of Roy's alleged "secret" organisation was in full possession of the Indian police, and that Roy's "trusted agents" were persons of no influence whatever whose sole object in entering his organisation was to feather their own nests. A few of these individuals received considerable sums of Russian money which they promptly converted to their own use, and expended in the purchase of land, the erection of dwelling-houses, and the lavish entertainment of their relatives and friends. Indeed, one of the Cawnpore accused submitted an appeal for mercy to the Government of India, supported by a sworn statement in which, while admitting that he had accepted Bolshevist money, he claimed that the effect of his actions was, in fact, anti-Bolshevist, since he had expended the whole of the money on his own gratification and had done nothing whatever to further the Bolshevist cause in India. At the trial of the appeal before the Allahabad High Court, the appellants' counsel put forward, as one of his arguments, the obvious fact that the declared object of the conspiracy for which they were convicted—attempting to deprive the King-Emperor of the sovereignty of British India—could by no possibility have been brought about by the efforts of men like themselves. This, indeed, was patent to anyone who saw them—one would have been justified in taking reasonable odds about their complete success if the object of their conspiracy had been to deprive a cockroach of the sovereignty of a pat of butter. But the High Court's view of this argument was, naturally, that those who play with fire cannot complain if they burn their fingers: and, absurd as were the results of their conspiracy, and ridiculous as were their methods of working it, they were undoubtedly playing with fire, and were engaged in a form of propaganda that contains great possibilities of evil.

It is generally conceded that Mr. Gandhi's ideas were, from the start of his campaign, those of an honest fanatic. Whatever may be thought of the practicability or intelligence of his insistence on Hindu-Moslem unity and the cult of the hand-loom, unprejudiced observers agree that his preaching of non-violence was genuine. And yet, like so many other honest reformers, Mr. Gandhi was anxious to see the results of his own labours: and therefore did not hesitate to appeal to the one instinct in which he saw a chance of immediate unity—racial animosity. Here, however unwittingly, he was making exactly the same appeal as that made by the Bolshevist "Communist International," whose instructions to "the Communist Party of India" were, that they should not preach the theory of Communism, which he would certainly be unable to comprehend, to the ignorant Indian peasant or worker, but should concentrate on his material interests "under the slogan of Land to the Peasant and Bread to the Worker." Roy assured his Indian adherents that appeals for religious unity, and reactionary economic ideas such as that of hand-spinning, were useless—does a Hindu landlord, he asked, exact any less rent from a Hindu than from a Moslem tenant? and that to talk of a non-violent revolutionary was childish—as well might one talk of "a vegetarian tiger." Therefore they should encourage the idea of a Workers' and Peasants' Utopia, in which all the profits of industry would go into the worker's pocket and in which the peasant would own the land that he tilled, free of rent or taxes and with water for irrigation supplied gratis by the State. Those who preached these ideas should foster discontent where it existed, and bring it about where it did not—in particular, should combat the "sinister" attempts of landlords and capitalists to remove discontent by "reformist" improvements and concessions—and should try, at every opportunity, to induce the workers and peasants to strike against their "oppressors." The latter, said Roy, would invoke the assistance of Government, who would intervene, professedly in support of law and order, but actually in support of vested interests: when the "proletariat" would realise that Government was their real enemy, and would bend all their energies to its destruction. To effect this result, "the Communist Party of India" would ally themselves with the nationalist party, though striving their utmost to keep the general direction of the campaign in their own hands: for it was, of course, clearly recognised that the real difficulty was the ejection of the British: and that, if that could be accomplished with nationalist help, the destruction of the Indian bourgeois Government, that would be the immediate successor of the British Government, would be an easy matter, and events in India would follow the same course as in Russia, where the overthrow of "Tsarism" was speedily followed by that of the "moderate" Government of Kerensky. Herein lies the potential danger of Bolshevist propaganda in India. The Utopia preached by Roy is identical with the "Gandhi Raj" preached by the advocates of the Non-co-operation campaign: and, if the Bolshevists could arrange an organisation that would honestly apply their money to such a purpose—a very large "if," in India—a second attempt to start an Indian Communist Party would be much more dangerous than the first.

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CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, July 16.

Lord Birkenhead's Statement.

The Anglo-Indian and Moderate Press are in agreement in regard to the "inadequacy" of Lord Birkenhead's statement.

The *Bengalee* characterises "the bald statement" as "provokingly disappointing." *Forward's* considered criticism was based upon a declaration by Pandit Moti Lal Nehru in which he said, "We cannot accept the position assigned to us. We cannot co-operate merely to strengthen the hold of Britain in India. . . . So long as those conditions remain unchanged and there appears no real desire on the part of England to meet us fairly and work with us on terms honourable to both parties, there can be no real co-operation." This, says *Forward*, is India's answer to Lord Birkenhead's statement.

The *Statesman* says Lord Birkenhead will read with pain and bewildered surprise the comments of the Press of India, and before "lending its voice to the cause of unity," describes the speech as an essay which reads to India like the effort of an incomplete author to evolve a primer for the infant mind. It is not impossible, however, that the *Statesman* feels a trifle sore that its reiterated forecast of the Birkenhead conversation and decisions has gone so far astray, and this is borne out by an illuminating editorial footnote to a letter published in to-day's issue, which asks in effect "what more did you expect?" One thing has been achieved which possibly will occasion no surprise in the minds of two eminent lawyers with a wide experience of the *nuances* of cross-examination; the universal mixture of disappointment and annoyance has produced a wonderful display of self-revelation. "We did not want this; what we did want is. . ." And a summary of it all confirms a recent note that things are distinctly more tranquil.

Bipin Chandra Pal.

Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal calls himself an independent; the ordinary man may be forgiven if he fails to understand what an independent is; if he judges by their works he will put them down as demi-extremists who are trying to run with both parties to the hunt and in this way their actions offer an interesting barometer of the quotations of extremist stock. Certain it is that they voted with the extremists to wreck Dyarchy; in those days Bipin Babu was the editor of the *Bengalee* but, now that this has become a Liberal organ, he writes in the *Englishman*, and one of his latest suggestions is that the Independent Party should be dissolved. He signed the memorandum urging the immediate grant of Dominion status, but this did not prevent him from describing those who suggested that India was fit for such a thing as borrowing the tactics of shady company promoters. Bipin Babu independence is very like that of the *enfant terrible;* this morning he describes the refusal of the extremists to accept Lord Birkenhead's suggestion that, if they do not want the Reforms, they should say what they do want, as "a confession of our inability to exercise the right of self-determination which we have been claiming." He sums up the situation by saying that the extremists have been playing a pure game of bluff and have been found out; he thinks that Government need have no more fears from that quarter, and also that Government was never more strong, since the last Swadeshi unrest, than it is at this moment. Bipin Babu is a shrewd man and he has never courted unpopularity; such statements from him at this time in the *Englishman* have a special significance.

The Mayor.

After some fireworks Mr. J. M. Sen Gupta was yesterday made an alderman by the Corporation; and so the Swarajists register another display of their incapacity to think for themselves and their blind subservience to any autocrat. In this case it is Gandhi, the autocrat of unreality; but he gives orders and that is a thing which is understood, while pious aspirations to ascertain the will of the governed, to arouse them from their pathetic contentment, certainly are not. The farce will be completed next week by the election of the Mayor, who will then wear the triple crown; but as Mayor, Mr. Sen Gupta has neither the time, the experience nor the capacity to fulfil his duties, and so, in an area where the jute trade alone carries blocks and reserves equal in value to the whole of the rest of Calcutta, we shall have a municipal head who stand for a policy of non-industrialism and a return to the spinning wheel and the handloom. The land of paradox indeed!

Steel, Protection, and Pig Iron.

It is a long way to the end of the tariff road. Tata's ask for more: and now the Bengal Iron Company, lately joined with Burn's Indian Iron and Steel venture, appear and point out that Tata's steel bounties have already enabled them to dump pig iron in their competitor's markets and so destroy the companies who have only this source of revenue, whereas pig iron is a Tata by-product; therefore, says the Bengal Company, restrain them from cut-throat selling or give us bounties also. Exchange and the cheap capital available under the Trade Facilities Act at home have added to the existing complications, and bring new applications before the Board this week from the fabricating companies. Inequalities in the tariff had already in effect given protection to home fabricators as against the local factories, and the firms concerned now ask for two increases on the existing import duties; from 25 to 34 per cent. on general grounds, and an addition of Rs. 28s. per ton on the score of the British Trade Facilities Act. It will be more than interesting to see the decision of the Tariff Board; in the present fog a few points are clear. Tata's are benefited and have no tenderness for other Indian concerns; the latter will probably be given something to keep them quiet; continental steel and hardware may be kept out; the home exporter is bound to be affected and further unemployment there is almost inevitable. The Indian steel and engineering concerns are not content to stand still.

The University.

Since the commanding personality of the late Sir Ashutosh Mookerjee was removed by the hand of death from the Vice-Chancellorship of the Calcutta University, less has been heard of dissensions, to use a no stronger word, in the Senate and elsewhere. The extreme care that is now taken to prevent leakages of examination papers probably prevents the astute coolie in the printer's office from sitting on a "forme" and carring away his impressions of the questions to an all too ready market. But there is still much original work being done on the administrative side; the *Bengalee* states that, at the last Matriculation examination, ten grace marks were awarded to every candidate in the first paper in English, and as a result the percentage of passes rose from 54 to 74. It is further stated that a general grace of 20 marks has been given in a mathematics paper at the last B.Sc. examination and this was decided upon by 12 votes to 11 at a joint meeting of B.A. and B.Sc. examiners. Thus are graduates made.

Markets.

Optimism is the note all round the markets to-day with the exception of piece-goods, as to which the position shows no change. The consolidated statement of the jute forecasts was issued yesterday and there is no change from the preliminary figures. There is a very firm tone all round and in fact the market is excited, with all the mills buying. This has been reflected in the cloth market and prices have gone up all round, although there is an element of speculation in many of the later dealings. The share market is happier, and there has been a large tumour in jutes, particularly in the speculative section. Coal has done better and there is still a strong rubber market. Tea shares are steady. The tea market is distinctly firm and this week's sales have been quite satisfactory. The garden reports indicate a probable all-round increase in July crops. Exchange is rather quieter, but there is no sign of any real weakening; money is abundant and short lenders are even taking one per cent.

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JAPANESE COMPETITION.

(By Our Bombay Correspondent.)

Bombay, July 17.

A meeting was held at the end of last week between the millowners and the representatives of labour, and Mr. N. N. Wadia announced the necessity of considering a reduction in the scale of wages to take effect on September 1. It is understood that this question is now being discussed by the men and that they would prefer to go on short time rather than accept a reduction of wages. But it is so clear that the millowners have nothing to lose by closing down altogether, that it is probable that the men will agree to some sort of terms without a strike.

Mr. Wadia attributed the present condition of the mill industry to the Excise Duty and to Japanese competition. The past history and the present position of Excise was discussed last week: and it now remains to put forward the position of the Bombay millowner towards his competitor in Japan.

The position needs some elucidation. For the most part Japan spins Indian cotton bought in, and shipped from Bombay: so that on the face of it the Bombay cotton mills are protected both by the double freight, on cotton outwards and cloth inwards, and by the difference between Customs duties of 11 per cent. and Excise of 3½ per cent.: and it is important to consider how these obvious advantages are neutralised.

The Bombay millowners claim that the Japanese Cotton Spinners' Association, supported on the one side by Government with protection and labour legislation, and on the other side by a combination of bankers and shippers, has developed the most elaborate system of dumping that the world has yet seen. There is nothing quite like it anywhere else. In England the Protectionist finds it difficult to indicate the stage at which, for example, steel, steel plate, tin plates, and the finished article should be protected: and the Free Trader can claim that it is to the advantage of the country that German hops should undersell the British farmer, in order that the public may be able to buy cheaply an indifferent beer, manufactured in accordance with a bad Government specification, and retailed only at hours which were considered convenient when there was a war on. But even the most ardent Free Trader may find the conditions of the Japanese competition with Bombay a bit of an eye-opener.

To begin with, there is the question of freight. Nobody quite knows what freight is actually charged to the Japanese millowner. The freight paid by shippers is of course established, but there are quite certainly rebates, and there is no doubt whatever that all freights and passenger rates, in and out of Japan, are so adjusted as to leave the minimum burden upon the cotton manufacturer.

Next comes the—no doubt temporary—question of the exchanges. During the past eighteen months the yen has fallen and the rupee has risen, the proportionate values being about 154 and 115. That is to say, in February, 1924, the Japanese cotton spinners paid 100 yen and received cotton of the value of 154 rupees. He can now ship back cloth to India to the value of 118 rupees only, and receive his original 100 yen. In his own currency, therefore, he has gained something over twenty per cent. to set against the protection of Bombay. It is obvious that this process cannot be continued indefinitely, and the economists may preach the pure doctrine and point out how splendid it will be for Bombay when the swing of the pendulum brings the exchange into a position unfavourable to Japan. But Bombay's need is here and now, and we cannot afford to wait.

Next comes the more permanent question of labour conditions. Nearly twenty years ago there was a good deal of agitation in England on the subject of labour conditions in the Bombay mills: and the same feeling exists, with ten times more bitterness and ten times more justification, in the relations between Bombay and Japan to-day. There are, as always, two ways of looking at it. One can either weep tears of sympathy for the unhappy Japanese labourer ground down by brutal labour laws, or one can draw a comparison between the happy, frugal, hard-working and efficient Japanese working-man and his opposite number the Indian coolie.

Neither of these considerations weighs very much with the Bombay millowner. What concerns him is the fact that, for some reason or other, the Japanese mills are able to reduce their overhead charges by working for 22 hours out of the 24, and their cost per pound by low wages and by the unrestricted employment of women and children. How far this is in accordance with the Geneva Convention, or what effect it may have on the physique of young Japan, is no concern of his. What affects him is that, for one reason or another, the Japanese mills are able to work cheaper than Bombay, and he is of opinion that their competition may be reasonably considered unfair.

So that his case for protection is based on the fact that the double freight is fully counter-balanced by Japanese conditions of labour, and that the movements of exchange have given Japan an enormous, though admittedly temporary, advantage. And, instead of protection, he receives a penalty. The Japanese have ringed their own possessions with an impenetrable wall of high protective duties: they have obtained the monopoly of China by their low milling costs and their advantage of freight: and it is only their surplus production which is dumped into India under an import duty of 11 per cent.: which, when spread over their whole production, is a very much less serious imposition on the industry that the 3½ per cent. Excise duty levied on the total output of Indian mills.

Few of the warmest advocates of Free Trade can ever have contemplated a system which actually penalises the home producer in his struggle against foreign competition.

CURRENT TOPICS.

India's Foreign Trade.

The trade returns for May show an increase in the value of imports and exports over the previous months: imports rising from 1,847 to 1,892 lakhs and exports from 3,204 to 3,258 lakhs, though re-exports fell from 97 to 90 lakhs. In imports, in spite of the total increase, there was a heavy decline in cotton piece-goods: grey goods fell by seven million yards in quantity and by 37 lakhs in value, white goods fell by six million yards and 34 lakhs, and coloured goods, though increasing in quantity by a million yards, decreased in value by 15 lakhs. Imports of cotton twist and yarn showed a small increase of five lakhs. There were also notable decreases in the value of imports of railway plant and rolling stock (41 lakhs) and of iron and steel (32 lakhs). The chief increases in exports were in raw cotton (208 lakhs), oil seeds (71 lakhs), and raw jute (58 lakhs). The total shipments of raw cotton amounted to 72,500 tons, of which Japan took 29,700 tons, Italy 9,900 tons, China 7,400 tons, and the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, and Germany 5,000 tons each. The share of the United Kingdom in imports fell from 60 per cent. in May 1924, to 53 per cent. in May, 1925, and remained constant, at 17 per cent., in exports. The shares of Germany, Japan, and the United States were respectively six, nine, and eight per cent. in imports, and eight, sixteen, and nine per cent. in exports.

The figures for June, received by cable, show a heavy decrease in the value of imports, the total of which amounted to 1,632 lakhs: and a further rise in the value of exports which, including re-exports, totalled 3,414 lakhs. The visible balance of trade in favour of India was 1,073 lakhs in April, 1,053 lakhs in May, and 1,452 lakhs in June.

In a report dealing with some aspects of British trade with India during the fiscal year 1923-24, the Senior Trade Commissioner says that, for the first time after four years of unprecedented depression, it is possible to sound a note of guarded optimism as regards the outlook in the import trade. He feels convinced that there is an immense amount of latent purchasing power in India which will be translated into actual buying if manufacturers' prices can be reduced and, more important still, if some degree of stability in the prices of cotton goods could be reached, so as to engender confidence. The demand for cotton goods has been insistent during the year, and the relative

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meagreness of actual transactions is solely due to high and fluctuating prices caused by the constant variations in the price of raw cotton. Clear evidence of India's accumulated purchasing power is provided by the fact that, during the last three years, there has been a net import into India of 6,758 lakhs' worth of gold and 5,150 lakhs' worth of silver.

German Trade with India.

The report on the sea-borne trade of Bengal for 1924-25 refers to the great increase in the trade with Germany, the value of imports into Calcutta from that country having amounted, in the year under review, to 354 lakhs of rupees. The greatest increase was in metals, chiefly iron and steel, the imports of which were double those of the previous year. As regards exports from India into Germany, the most remarkable increase was in raw jute; for whereas, in 1920, the first complete year after the War, German purchases of raw jute totalled 20,000 bales, of a value of 13 lakhs, last year they amounted to no less than a million bales, of a value of 787 lakhs, or more than a quarter of the value of the total jute shipments. In this commodity Germany was India's best customer, Great Britain being the next best.

Indian Cement Industry.

A telegram from Simla says that the Tariff Board's report, recommending a bounty to the Indian cement industry, has been published. The report says that the industry is suffering from over-development and intense internal competition and that, unless assistance is given, more than half of the companies are likely to shut down; but that, if protected for four or five years, the industry could capture the entire Indian market. The need of assistance arises entirely from the consumer's preference for British cement over the Indian product: and the Board recommend a bounty so that, by lowering the price of Indian cement, the preference for British cement may be overcome. To ensure a reasonable profit, an increase in consumption is essential, and any rise in prices, that might check this, would be fatal to the growth of the industry. It gives a warning against internal competition and suggests the formation of a combine: it also recommends tests of samples of cement, to be carried out quarterly, with a view to maintaining the highest quality. The report mentions that the production of Indian cement has increased from 945 tons in 1914 to 263,746 tons in 1924, while imports have fallen from 165,700 tons to 12 4,000 in the same period.

The Government of India have decided to take no action at present on the report, on the ground that the proposals of the Board are dependent on a change in the conditions of the industry, that may very likely not take place: so that they do not consider themselves justified in intervening.

Air Service from Egypt to India.

It is announced that the Air Ministry propose to enter into a contract with a civil firm for a weekly air service between Kantara and Karachi, via Baghdad and Basra. The contract will be for five years and will involve a subsidy of about half a million pounds; though the net result of the establishment of the service will be a substantial saving to the State, since it will result in the termination of the fortnightly mail service at present carried on between Egypt and Iraq by the Royal Air Force, and the consequent withdrawal of a squadron of the R.A.F. from Iraq. It is said that three companies have already tendered for the contract, and a decision is expected next month. Also that it is intended to use two types of machine, one for the conveyance of mails and freight, the other for which special designs are said to have been sent in already—for the conveyance of passengers. The latter will, it is asserted, be a special "express" machine, capable of carrying 24 passengers and of maintaining a speed of from 100 to 120 miles an hour. It is believed that, at first, passengers will only be carried by air as far as Baghdad, as the next stage in the journey necessitates a night in a desert camp: and that they will not be carried right through to India until suitable accommodation has been provided for them in the desert. If these forecasts are correct, it would seem that the carriage of mails by air to India is likely to materialise in the near future; but that the carriage of passengers, to the same destination, will not become a sound economic proposition for some time to come.

INDIAN EXCHANGE.

London, August 1.

For those familiar with the usual course of exchange in India during the monsoon months it is difficult to understand why the strength which has been apparent now for some time should be maintained. It is true that the export season has been prolonged, chiefly in Bombay, where cotton shipments became unusually active towards the close of the season; but we are inclined to think that some of the firmness in due to the falling off in imports into India and possibly to speculation in rupees from this side, which we understand has become more prevalent in the larger markets of recent years. During the rains in pre-War years rates invariably slipped away owing to lack of business, to recover again in the autumn when the crops had to be moved. This year, however, beyond a slight setback early in June, when the rupee fell under 1s. 6d., exchange moved up to round about its present level of 1s. 6 3-32d. to 1s. 6⅛d. and seems perfectly steady. In Calcutta and Bombay, telegraphic transfers are quoted at the lower figure with buyers at the higher, and in the London market there is a good inquiry at 1s. 6⅛d. with no sellers except at a fraction over.

At a time when reports on all hands indicate bad trade, it is cheering to be able to announce that Manchester has had quite a busy week booking orders from India. We hear of one line settled running up to £250,000, and other orders have been placed for comfortable amounts, which will no doubt tend to dissipate the depression which has hung over the market so long.

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Tuesday Morning.

The Sudan.

Next week THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA will contain a special section on the Sudan. Articles will describe the progress of cotton growing in the Gezireh and the economic situation in the Sudan. The section will also have a review of the excellent exhibit of the Sudan at Wembley.

The Ranchi's Trial Trip.

The trial trip of the new P. and O. passenger ship Ranchi took place during the week-end. Lord Inchcape Chairman of the company, entertained a distinguished company on board on the voyage which was from Tilbury to Cowes. The Ranchi, which makes a notable addition to the P. and O. fleet, is intended for the London to Bombay Service.

Egypt's Trade.

The figures of Egypt's trade for the first six months of this year, which are now available, make quite a good showing. The value of the exports was £E31,063,943, while that of the exports was £E26,486,537, thus giving Egypt a favourable balance of trade of more than £E4,500,000. For the corresponding period of the previous year the exports amounted in value to £E29,793,458, while the value of the imports was £E30,000,000. Cotton, of course, is as usual mainly responsible for Egypt's export total, its share this time being £E26,916,056, and as there seems to be every possibility that the price of cotton will be maintained in the near future, the trade outlook for Egypt may be described as bright. It is evident from the relation between the values of exports and imports that the country is rapidly increasing its potential purchasing power, and that at the present time buying is on a restricted scale. Emphatically the market is one which British merchants ought to pay special attention to in the future, for there is abundant scope there for commercial expansion.

Some Causes of Trade Stagnation.

A report by Mr. R. G. Glenday and Mr. A. L. Please on "Some Causes of the Present Stagnation of British Trade," which has recently been issued by the Federation of British Industries, gives a most interesting analysis of factors affecting British trade in the pre-War and post-War periods. The main points of the report may be briefly summarised. British industry owing to its early development compared to that of other countries and to the influences which have affected its progress depends for its prosperity on an exceptionally high ratio of exports to imports. Before the War this depended on the increasing investment of British capital abroad, on rising world prices, and on the growth of world trade resulting from these factors. Since the War the process has been reversed, and the factors suggested as the cause of our pre-War trade prosperity have disappeared, while other factors are present which discourage export trade. In an illuminating introduction to the report, Mr. R. T. Nugent, director of the Federation, says that it is for others to judge as to the correctness of the conclusions, and if they disagree to produce some more satisfactory explanation of the circumstances. Some of the factors which have tended to produce the post-War position are, he points out, of a temporary character, but other may prove to be more permanent. As regards temporary factors he cites British monetary policy, the object of which has been the return of the gold standard which is now achieved. In this connection, he remarks that we are now experiencing the effects of the last appreciation of the £, and unfortunately there has been concurrently a depreciation of other currencies which has given a stimulus to exports from these countries. This, he emphasises, must, however, be a temporary phenomenon, and already there are signs that the gap between British and world prices is in process of being bridged. In like manner many of the world conditions favourable to the general expansion of trade are bound to return. The issue is, however, whether the factors which brought prosperity to British trade before the War will return—rising world prices and increasing British investment abroad. He anticipates a slow general rise in the world prices in the near future. As regards the development of investment abroad he points out that it will be necessary to surmount various adverse factors—the loss of interest on investments sacrificed during the War, the loss of investing power represented by debt payments to America, and the adverse effect of heavy taxation. In 1913 the total foreign investment was £200,000,000, while the first two of the above factors account for £110,000,000 at the values of 1913 which is a measure of the task before us. If the theory in the report is correct, he adds, we must either accomplish this task or be prepared for a very drastic orientation of the whole trend of industry.

Suez Canal Record.

The improvement in the traffic and revenue returns of the Suez Canal goes on steadily, and for the first half of the present year the figures for tonnage and receipts are a record. The transits for the period were 2,870 as compared with 2,478 for the corresponding period of 1924 and 2,336 for 1923. The gross tonnage was 19,429,158 and the net tonnage 14,126,632 as compared with 16,772,497 and 12,146,939 for 1924 and 15,820,931 and 11,489,339 for 1923. The total receipts were 102,717,000 francs as against 90,821,000 francs for 1924 and 89,145,000 for 1923. If the progress revealed in these figures is continued for the remainder of the year the figures for the twelve months will show a marked advance on previous results.

Oil v. Coal.

A feature of the returns which is of considerable interest in view of the coal crisis, now happily over for the time being, is the gradual increase in ships using oil instead of coal as fuel. This is a sign of the times, and there is every reason for thinking that the process will tend to continue, thus depriving coal to a further extent of one of its chief

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outlets. If this were the only development that the coal industry has to fear, the position as far as our staple industry is concerned would be serious enough, but unfortunately, as I have had occasion to point out on previous occasions, it is only one of a variety of factors which have brought about the prevailing depression. The extension of the use of water power abroad is one of the most important developments, while owing to a variety of causes into which it is unnecessary to enter now, it is possible for other countries to place their coal on the market at much cheaper rates than ours. In view of the combination of factors it is difficult to see how it is possible to take other than a gloomy view of the prospects for our coal industry.

The Cotton Supply.

The latest estimate of the American cotton crop is distinctly unpromising. A yield of considerably under 13,000,000 bales spell the possibility of something approaching a shortage before the 1926 crop is available, even on the limited scale of the present-day world consumption. But as I have had occasion to remark before American estimates are not infallible, and it may be that the next few weeks will see a great improvement in the crop. The point that must not be lost sight of, however, is that whatever the yield of the American crop now and in future years there is no hope from that source of a production which will bring about the reasonable prices for cotton which are essential for the expansion of the trade in Lancashire piece-goods. For years the tendency has been for America to utilise more and more of the cotton she produces herself, and if the process goes on the time will obviously come when America will not be able to find enough cotton for export. It is against that contingency that we have to guard by concentrating on cotton growing within the Empire. It is only by increasing the supply of Empire grown cotton that Lancashire will be assured of obtaining the cotton she requires at a price fair to both producer and consumer.

Imperial Ottoman Bank.

In view of the adverse conditions in Turkey in 1924 the results achieved last year by the Imperial Ottoman Bank can only be regarded as being remarkably good The profits amounted to £198,581, which compares with £131,511 for the previous year. The amount brought forward this time is £128,371 and the available balance is £326,952, but owing to adverse exchange movements since the end of the year it has been decided to make no distribution this time. In the course of his speech at the annual meeting Sir Herbert Lawrence, the Chairman, referred to the outlook in Turkey, and said that there were signs that an economic revival was approaching.

The Rubber Position.

August 1 saw the exportable percentage of rubber raised to 75, while certain concessions have also been made with regard to the estimation of the standard production the effect of which must remain to be seen. It cannot be said that the alterations have so far had an adverse effect on the price of the commodity. In the last ten days or so rubber has displayed considerable weakness as a result of the release of 6,000 tons at Singapore and the threatening labour position at home, but towards the end of last week an upward movement set in, and at the time of writing the price is 3s. 10d. That is much below the highest level reached, but nevertheless denotes a marked improvement. Actually, of course, the present increase cannot affect the position for some weeks; it is believed indeed that it will be well into September before the shipments begin to show an increase. Even then production will be below consumption, so that there is little likelihood of much cheaper rubber for some time to come. While, however, it is a matter for congratulation that the Government has not yielded to the American agitation for a modification of the restriction scheme, it has to be admitted that the present price of rubber is not in the best interests of the industry. With a price of from 2s. to 2s. 6d. per lb. the companies can obtain very good profits, and if rubber can ultimately be stabilised between those two limits the restriction scheme will have proved a great success.

COMMENTATOR.

NEW BRITISH INDIA STEAMER.

The launch took place recently, at the yard of Messrs. Wm. Gray and Co., Ltd., W. Hartlepool, of the finely modelled screw steamer Tuiloa, which they are building for the British India Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., London.

The vessel is built to Lloyd's highest class and is of the following dimensions:—Length, 502 ft.; breadth, 60 ft. 8 in.; depth, 32 ft. 8 in. moulded. She has ample accommodation for a few passengers and for officers and crew, is built with wireless telegraphy, and has an electric light installation throughout. The outfit includes an ice-house, refrigerating machinery for provisions, fresh water distiller, steam windlass and steam steering gear aft with telemotor control on bridge, cellular double bottom, deep ballast tank and fore and aft peak tanks, eighteen derricks fitted on masts and derrick uprights and one 25-ton derrick.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

EGYPT.

Centrifugal Pumps and 80 B.H.P. Steam Engines.—The Mechanical Department, Ministry of Public Works, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply, delivery, and erection of two centrifugal pumps and two 80 h.p. steam engines. (D.O.T.)

Machinery.—The Director of Stores, Frontier Districts Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of machinery required by Alexandria Workshops such as punching, milling, planing machines and detachable crane. August 25.

Pumps, Etc.—The Director-General, State Domains Administration, Savoy House, Sharia Qasr el Nil, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 4 centrifugal pumps and 1 oil filter. September 1.

Machine Tools.—The Ministry of Education, Cairo, invites tenders for one 50 h.p. Diesel engine, generator, electric motors, and machine tools for the Mansurah Trades School. September 9. (D.O.T.)

Machine Tools.—The Ministry of Education, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of machine tools required for the Boulac Technical School. September 17. (D.O.T.)

Diesel Engine.—The Ministry of Education invites tenders for the supply of:—(1) One 100 h.p. vertical Diesel engine coupled to a generator of 65 k.w. (2) One n.h.p locomotive multitubular boiler. September 17. (D.O.T.)

Machine Tools.—The Ministry of Education, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of machine tools required for the Port Said Technical School. September 17. (D.O.T.)

Sewage Pumping Machinery.—The Director-General, Main Drainage Department, No. 2, Sharia Abbas, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply, erection and delivery of sewage pumping machinery, comprising 3 large and 1 small Diesel engines and 3 large and 1 small centrifugal pumps, complete with auxiliary plant. November 2.

Iron Bolts, Etc.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of a considerable quantity of galvanised wrought iron bolts with nuts and washers. September 12.

ROUMANIA.

Fire Extinguishing Pumps.—The Roumanian State Railway Administration invites tenders for the supply and delivery of suction and delivery fire pumps. August 14. (D.O.T.)

TURKEY.

Railway Material, Etc.—The British Commercial Secretary at Constantinople has forwarded details of a proposal to form in Constantinople a British Company to represent British manufacturers of locomotives, rolling stock, rails and sleepers, points and crossings, railway machine shop equipment, wood-working machinery, cranes (travelling, breakdown, port and workshop), air brake and signalling equipment, wheels and axles, tyres, etc., boiler plates (steel), copper firebox plates, stayrodding, copper tubes, steel boiler tubes, superheater complete, superheater elements and headers, train lighting equipment, oil engines, suction gas and refuse plants, wayside pumping plants, pumps, sectional tanks, etc., motor coaches and rail cars for inspection, etc., bridges and general steel construction, railway construction and harbour works, electrical railway equipment, paints and varnishes, pneumatic tools and plant, air compressors, etc., carriage and wagon fittings, buffers, couplings, train heating gear. The scheme will be confined to British manufacturers for whom the firm which it is proposed to establish will act as selling agents and technical advisers. The promoters of the firm are stated to have a thorough knowledge of local languages and to possess excellent technical and commercial knowledge. They are willing to offer suitable bank guarantees. Further details can be obtained from the

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British Consular Reports

1.—TURKEY.

An interesting survey of the economic administration under the New Régime is given by the British Commercial Secretary at Constantinople, Colonel H. Woods, O.B.E., in his report on the Economic Conditions in Turkey for the year ended April last. He says:—

The acute nationalism of 1923, when the New Régime acquired complete independence and control of the country has tended to become less sharp, though the spirit of "Turkey for the Turks" still remains prevalent. The protectionist policy adopted was not limited to the mere imposition of high duties with a view to protecting the few and struggling native industries, but went so far as to envisage the reservation to the Turks of a whole series of trades, professions and industries.

There has been, however, a slight improvement, but instances occur from time to time which reveal that the New Régime continue to think they can by a clean cut with the past successfully replace those foreign elements which owe such success as they have obtained in the country to the inheritance conferred by generations of experience. A gradual restoration of mutual confidence between Turkey and Europe, once fairly secured, and a consequent improvement in economic legislation would promise a return to more normal conditions. There is no doubt that the New Régime has systematically held to its original policy as regards the development of the country's resources. Progress, although very slow, has certainly been made in this direction, especially in railway construction and the development of agriculture.

Though progress has been made in the execution of the Government's policy of developing the country's resources, it will be a long time before they realise their aspirations, unless they abandon their present idea of carrying out their programme by means of their own limited financial resources. It may be seen from the Government's Budget estimates for 1924-25 and 1925-26 that the Budget cannot be balanced, and it is feared that, owing to military requirements, Government Departments may have to curtail expenditure affected in the Budget for the current year to public works. There have been signs of late that the Government are gradually realising the enormous task of reconstruction and development which they have set themselves, and that, without foreign financial assistance, many years must go by before the Anatolian peasant and the Government itself will derive any benefit from the laudable programme which has been undertaken. Although confidence in the West may be gradually growing, the Government has yet to show by convincing acts that those interested in her welfare can render financial assistance under reasonable conditions of security.

The Customs Administration.

There have been fewer complaints with regard to Customs control of vessels before discharging cargoes, and although formalities relative to the control of manifests and to short shipments, and to goods not manifested through one error or another, have been somewhat harassing from time to time, the Customs Administration, by mutual arrangement with the Maritime Chamber, arrived at a *modus vivendi* pending a revision of the Customs regulations which the Director-General is considering in his scheme of reorganisation. The latter has made a special point of investigating Customs organisations abroad, and made a study of our own Customs Preventive Service on the occasion of his visit to the United Kingdom last year. At a later date he also visited Germany with a view to acquiring information relative to Customs legislation in Germany. In a recent statement to the press, he declared that he proposes to grant every possible facility to trade, and with that object in view he has appealed to the Turkish Chamber of Commerce to form a permanent commission, consisting of Turkish merchants, which will submit to the Customs a report covering any complaints raised by the commercial community in connection with Customs practice. There has already been some improvement in Customs administration, notwithstanding that some measures enforced during the year, such as the use of special manifests and orders of delivery forms in Turkish provided by the Customs, are still maintained. One of the most important ameliorations in the administration of the Customs Service was the establishment of the pre-War statistical organisation. A regular service of statistics for all ports is now published monthly, which will permit of a more expeditious compiliation of yearly statistics. Moreover, comprehensive statistics for the year 1923 have already been issued in Turkish.

There is some question of the transfer back to Angora of the Direction-General of the Customs Administration. There is reason to believe that such a change will be effected, although not in the immediate future. In that event the Galata and Stamboul Customs will be administered by a Director in each of these Customs Houses who will be dependent on a Director-in-Chief. It is not known whether the Statistical Office will be maintained in Constantinople, or whether as a Department of the Director-General it will also be transferred to Angora. The transfer of the Direction-General from Angora to Constantinople was looked upon by commercial circles as a step in the right direction, and it is feared that unless the Director-in-Chief is given full power to act on his own initiative and to settle cases, the solution of which does not involve a matter of principle for settlement by higher authority, the change in question would only constitute the Director-in-Chief in Constantinople as an intermediate post-box between the Constantinople Custom Houses and the Direction-General in Angora, which, in turn, would have to appeal to the Ministry of Finance.

Development of Agriculture.

As the result of the transformation of the Agricultural Department into an independent Ministry, agricultural zones have been formed as in the case of the commercial zones created by the Ministry of Commerce. There is no doubt that every effort has been made by the Agricultural Department to develop agriculture in conformity with the policy laid down by the Government. In pursuance of this policy of agricultural and public works expansion supplementary credits were granted in the Budget of 1924-25. Early in the year it was decided to reorganise the Agricultural Bank and with this object in view this institution was converted into a limited liability company remaining, however, under the control of the State, the Government undertaking at the same time to meet its liabilities *vis-à-vis* the bank by the payment of six annuities of LT.550,000. Both the Ministry of Agriculture and the Agricultural Bank have done a great deal towards the development of agriculture, the latter having advanced £T.15,000,000 to the peasant for the purchase of seed,

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agriculture machinery and implements, as well as live stock. The Ministry of Agriculture has, on the other hand, as in the case of the previous year, distributed seed and agricultural machinery gratuitously to necessitous peasants. The establishment of a number of agricultural schools is envisaged, and some progress has been made towards the improvement of agricultural methods. There has also been a change in the mentality of the peasant, for whereas he was quite content with his primitive methods in the past, he is now adapting himself to more modern methods, in consequence of which the Ministry of Agriculture is continually appealed to for assistance in regard to the acquisition of modern agricultural machinery. According to information obtained from one source or another, the Government's programme consists, as already stated, in the establishment of agricultural schools wherein free instruction in the use of modern agricultural machinery will be given. It is proposed to construct a large repairing shop for agricultural machinery in Adana, as well as in other centres, such as at Eski-Chehir, Konia, Tchorum, etc.

Turkey is primarily an agricultural country, and is fortunate in having a large variety of crops, such as tobacco, fruit, seeds, opium, nuts, cotton, etc. which have usually immediate sales as soon as the harvest is in. With a wide range of agricultural production Turkey should, by the sale of her crops abroad, increase the exchange value of Turkish money. It was expected that the cereal crops for 1924 would considerably exceed those of the preceding year, seeing that the area under cultivation exceeded that of 1923. Unfortunately, the crops fell very short of expectations, being considered a failure generally. This is attributed to unsuitable seed grain which was used in the sowing season and to bad weather in certain areas. The wheat crop, which was expected to have carried the country almost to the 1925 harvest, could not meet requirements, and large orders had to be placed abroad for wheat and flour.

There has been a marked improvement in the production of cotton. A great effort has been made by the farmers, who, with the assistance of the Turkish Government and local banks, are gradually attaining the pre-War cotton output, which had dropped from 135,000 bales in 1914 to 8,000 bales at the end of the War. Government and bank loans, reduction of railway tariffs, Customs exemption of agricultural machinery have all been factors in the great improvement to be found, especially in the Adana district. The acreage under cultivation in 1924 exceeded that of 1923 by over 30 per cent. It is reported from more than one source that the peasant has worked night and day with a view to intensifying cultivation, and, given favourable weather, the 1925 crop should exceed that of 1924 to some considerable extent.

The total tonnage of vessels discharging in the port of Constantinople and in transit attained 7,646,550 tons last year as against 6,500,178 during 1923. This increase in tonnage in favour of the period under review is due to the greater number of vessels passing in transit and not to an increase in the number of vessels discharging in the port of Constantinople. Although there has been some improvement in port conditions in regard to towage and pilotage, no serious effort has been made to co-ordinate Turkish administrative methods of controlling shipping and port services, which continue to be reserved to Turkish subjects only.

The cost of living for articles of primary necessity, such as foodstuffs and fuel, increased month by month throughout the year, attaining in Turkish currency an increase of 1,588 per cent. in January, 1925, compared with July, 1914, as against 1,398 per cent. in January, 1924. Increased taxation and the imposition of octroi dues are mainly responsible. Although there has been no systematic adjustment of wages to meet the increase in the cost of living the average rise per cent. would, in many cases, appear to correspond with the index figure for the increased cost of living during the month of March, 1925. The Government has given little encouragement to workmen's associations, and there have been no indications of unrest among the workmen employed in essential services. The Government's attitude towards such guilds as those of the hamals and lightermen, who have always claimed the right of monopoly, is of particular interest. Towards the end of July the Hamals' Guild, which acquired its monopoly rights by virtue of ancient custom, was officially abolished, and the abolition of the Lightermen's Corporation was also envisaged. In reality no very great benefit has been derived as the result of these measures, for no effective control exists to ensure the application of municipal tariffs. It is, however, satisfactory to find that the Government, by defining its attitude towards these guilds, is obliged to support the commercial community in the event of any serious trouble arising with the hamals and lightermen.

Adverse Trade Conditions.

With the ratification of the Treaty of Lausanne in August, 1924, traders in Turkey were enabled to know definitely the conditions under which they were to work in the future. It cannot be said that the abolition of the capitulations, under the protection of which the foreign communities had carried on their trade in the past, has resulted in any dislocation of the normal flow of trade to any very great extent. On the other hand, the slow progress of agricultural recovery, due largely to the upheaval caused by the exchange of populations, has continued the state of poverty of the peasant, and consequently has reduced his capacity as a purchaser of manufactures. Other factors which have mitigated against commerce during the year have been: (1) The instability of the Turkish lira throughout the year. (2) The uncertainty as to the interpretation of the Treaty provisions in regard to exchangeable Greeks, many of whom are established in business in Constantinople. (3) Uncertainty as to new taxation—such as the sudden application with retroactive effect in March, 1924, of octroi dues on a large number of articles imported into Constantinople. (4) The decline of restrictions on coastal trade, and the lack of high port dues, restrictions on coastal trade, and the lack of port facilities. (5) The general shortage of ready capital and the lack of credit facilities granted by the banks. Some improvement in this respect was noticeable towards the end of the year. The general effect on trade of the foregoing considerations has been to oblige traders to abstain from forward operations: stocks have been reduced, and have only been withdrawn from the Customs to fulfil immediate demands. Firms in general have successfully weathered the storm, although a large number are carrying on with reduced staffs, and the number of failures and withdrawals has been comparatively small, but there are now a number of empty shops and offices in localities previously in great demand.

In previous reports on Turkey issued since the War it has not been possible to give any exact amount of the distribution of the import and export trade owing to the entire lack of detailed statistics. The Statistical Department at the Customs has, however, now been reorganised, and from the detailed returns issued by this Department for the year 1923 it has been possible to analyse for the first time since 1914 the relative position of the United Kingdom in regard to her foreign competitors in this market.

The import trade of Turkey during the first six months of 1924 was shared principally by the following countries:—Italy, £T17,736,405; United Kingdom, £T14,919,432; France, £T8,899,734; Germany, £T7,201,385; United States, £T5,047,978: Roumania, £T4,002,523.

Of the £T25,000,000 comprising the total value of the United Kingdom's exports to Turkey in 1923, nearly £T20,000,000, or approximately 80 per cent., represent the value of cotton and woollen textiles.

Detailed statistics for 1923 have recently been issued, and an analysis of the returns of cotton goods shows that of the total import under this heading, amounting to 25,030,070 kilogs., valued at £T53,039,768, by far the most important item was that classified in the Turkish tariff as "Cotton tissues, dyed or printed—tissues unenumerated elsewhere, dyed or printed, bright, glossy, damask or figured, cretonnes, reps, striped or flowered tissues, coverings and similar tissues manufactured of dyed or printed yarn, including printed flannelettes."

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Imports under this heading amounted to 12,404,755 kilogs., valued at £T29,894,748, the principal countries of export being: Italy, 5,531,641 kilogs.; United Kingdom, 2,976,042 kilogs.

Italian competition is very strong on this market, and it is to be feared that United Kingdom manufacturers have continued still further to lose ground since 1923. The principal demand is for cheap flannelettes, in which line Italy can produce an article appreciably cheaper than the United Kingdom, in a variety of designs specially adapted to the tastes of this market. In view of the impoverished condition of the peasant, the first, and from the point of view of the buying public indeed the only, consideration at present is that of price, and the admitted higher qualities of British flannelettes do not at present weigh with the peasant, who buys the cheapest article he can get. The result has been to oblige many importers in Constantinople, after years of exclusive connection with Manchester, to turn reluctantly to Italy for at least part of their supplies. The import of cotton yarns in 1923 amounted to 3,434,000 kilogs., of which 1,544,000 kilogs., or 45 per cent., were imported from Italy and 682,000 kilogs., or 20 per cent., from the United Kingdom.

Taken as a whole, the principal countries from which cotton goods were imported into Turkey during 1923 were:—

	Kilogs.	£T.
Italy	8,152,730 ...	17,218,205
United Kingdom...	7,160,982 ...	16,629,658
Syria	2,554,527 ...	4,984,955
Egypt	941,847 ...	1,611,719
United States ...	767,309 ...	1,965,862
France	731,629 ...	1,875,924
Germany	670,596 ...	2,208,310

The imports shown against Syria represent in reality transit shipments from Syrian ports through Turkish Customs centres, such as Mersina, Urfa, and Kizil Dize.

EMPIRE COTTON GROWING CORPORATION.

A meeting of the Administrative Council of the Corporation was held in London on July 29. In the unavoidable absence of the President, Lord Derby, the Chair was taken by Mr. R. H. Jackson.

The Report of the Executive Committee on the work carried out during the two months only which had elapsed since the last meeting of the Council was held in May was received and adopted.

Mr. Milligan, Senior Representative of the Corporation in South Africa, gave an account of the work that had been done there during the past season.

The chairman reported that the Secretary of State for the Colonies had consented to receive a deputation, organised by the representatives of all cotton interests in Lancashire, to urge the adoption of the recommendations contained in the East Africa Commission's Report with regard to the improvement of transport facilities in Africa. The Deputation proposed to submit to the Secretary of State a proposal that a certain percentage of any sum that might be allocated to transport development in East Africa should be set aside for research and education.

A report was read on the number of post-graduate students who had been elected since the inception of the Corporation's scheme for the award of studentships. It was announced that 48 men had either been trained or were now training under this scheme.

The adoption by the Liverpool Cotton Association of an Empire and Miscellaneous Growths Futures Contract was also reported.

National Insurance Companies.
"BALKAN FIRE AND MARINE"
(ESTABLISHED IN 1895
"BALKAN LIFE AND ACCIDENT" and
General Re-insurance Company, "BALKAN."
Capital - Leva 5,000,000 each.
Total Guarantees: Leva 100,045,000
HEAD OFFICE: SOFIA, BULGARIA.

GENERAL ACCIDENT FIRE AND LIFE ASSURANCE CORPORATION, LTD.

The opening by the General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation, Limited, of Perth (Scotland) and London, of a branch office at Cairo is of more than passing interest to the large community with connections in the Near East, for it may justly be considered a sign of the times, and such a practical mark of confidence on the part of one of our great insurance companies in the commercial future and prosperity of the Near East will be taken as a highly encouraging portent by the whole business community throughout Egypt, Greece, Turkey and Palestine.

The "General Accident" was established forty years ago in Perth, Scotland, but it was not until 1899 that the directors decided to form a general foreign connection, and the wisdom of this decision is evidenced by the important position held to-day by the Corporation throughout the civilised world. Its assets already exceed £10,000,000, its annual income is £7,000,000 and it has paid over £25,000,000 in claims—such figures as these speak volumes for the confidence and goodwill it enjoys amongst the thousands all over the world who buy its policies (which, by the way, are printed in eleven different languages).

The Corporation has, of course, been well known in the Near East for many years, for it started an agency in Egypt in 1903, and subsequently extended its activities to Palestine, Syria and many towns of the Southern Balkans. In 1904 it started business in Constantinople, and in 1920 extended its operations to Greece (both Old and New). It is in order to consolidate its large Near Eastern business that it has now established a branch office in Cairo, under the managership of Mr. A. H. Pearson, supported by a very influential board, composed of Mr. F. W. Lucke, manager in Cairo of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., Mr. T. S. Richmond, director of the Associated Cotton Ginners of Egypt, Ltd., Alexandria; M. Leon Rolin, director of Messrs. Leon Rolin and Co., (Builders and Contractors), and Talaat Bey Harb, manager of the Banque Misr.

The "General Accident" has been operating in India since 1902, and a branch was established in Bombay in 1913, under the management of Mr. G. M. Rose, who is now a director of the Corporation in Bombay, and partner in the firm of Herbert, Son and Company. Since 1923 the Indian branch has been under the managership of Mr. L. G. B. Gould. A sub-branch was opened in Calcutta in 1921, of which Mr. A. G. F. Smith is in charge.

The Corporation is now one of the leading accident companies in India, and is extending its organisation still further. It has agencies in Iraq, Baghdad and Basrah.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £ ...	97½	97⅜—9'16
Athens	Drachmæ to £ ...	25.22½	308-310
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	267—269
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.39—20.40
Berne	Francs to £.....	25.22½	25.00-25.01
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18½ - 18 5/32
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	105.30—'40
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	952½
Budapest	Kronen to £	4 02	345-347,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18⅛—18 5/32d
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	885
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2 3	4.85⅝—4.85¾
Paris	Francs to £.....	25.22½	102.20—102.30
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	164
Rome	Lire to £	25 22½	132½
Sofia.....	Leva to £	25.22½	670
Teheran	Krans to £	50	42½
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	34.48-34 58
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	25.00-26 00

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BANKING IN CZECHO-SLOVAKIA IN 1924.

(From a Correspondent.)

The year 1924 was marked by economic stabilisation in Czecho-Slovakia, improvement being observed in the industries, while insolvency declined.

For the banks, the year was one of earnings on interest, the granting of credits proving very lucurative in view of the general money stringency. These earnings, however, did not fully make good the falling away of transactions in currency and stocks and shares which had been such a feature of the previous year.

The year of deflation (1922) had brought serious losses to all banks and resulted in an absorption of a good part of the reserves that had been got together in previous good years. In order to restore these reserves the leading Czecho-Slovak banks decided this year to reduce their dividends by 2 per cent., to reduce where possible their staffs and cut down working expenses.

The lower dividends declared for 1924 are also explained by the necessity for the banks to contribute an annual sum equivalent to about 1¼ per cent. of their capital to a special fund which the legislature has instituted for the purpose of giving State aid to banks that get into difficulties as a result of special circumstances such as the currency fluctuations of previous years.

The actual return in dividends made by the Czecho-Slovak banks in 1924, having regard to the price at which their shares are quoted on the Prague Bourse, averages about 6 per cent. The fact that lower dividends are being paid for 1924 has not appreciably affected the Bourse quotations as such reduction was anticipated well beforehand and the reason for it well known.

The prospect for the current year may be regarded as improved. The stringency on the money market has somewhat relaxed, while, as already mentioned, the Banks are taking energetic steps to reduce expenses. The position in the industries, with the exception of the coal trade—is tolerably good.

EGYPTIAN TRIBUTE LOAN.

The numbers are announced of 658 bonds of the Ottoman Three and a-Half per Cent. Loan of 1894, secured on the Egyptian tribute, amounting together to £112,780, which were drawn for redemption on July 14, 1925, and will cease to bear interest from October 15, 1925.

The suspension of the payments for the due service of this loan by the Egyptian Government still continues, and is the subject of litigation in the Mixed Courts of Egypt. Judgment was given in favour of the bondholders by the Mixed Court of First Instance at Cairo on June 15 last, but it is not yet known whether the Egyptian Government intends to exercise its right of appeal to the Mixed Court of Appeal at Alexandria. In these circumstances directions for the time and place for the presentation of the bonds will be the subject of a future announcement.

Messrs. Vickers, Ltd., have now acquired the whole interest in the Vickers-Spearing Boiler Co. Mr. A. H. Spearing has resigned his position as managing director and is no longer connected with the company. The company will be carried on under the name of "Vickers-Spearing Boiler Co., Ltd.," as before. This change also gives Messrs. Vickers, Ltd., the control of Messrs. Tinkers, Ltd., Daisyfield Boiler Works, Hyde, near Manchester.

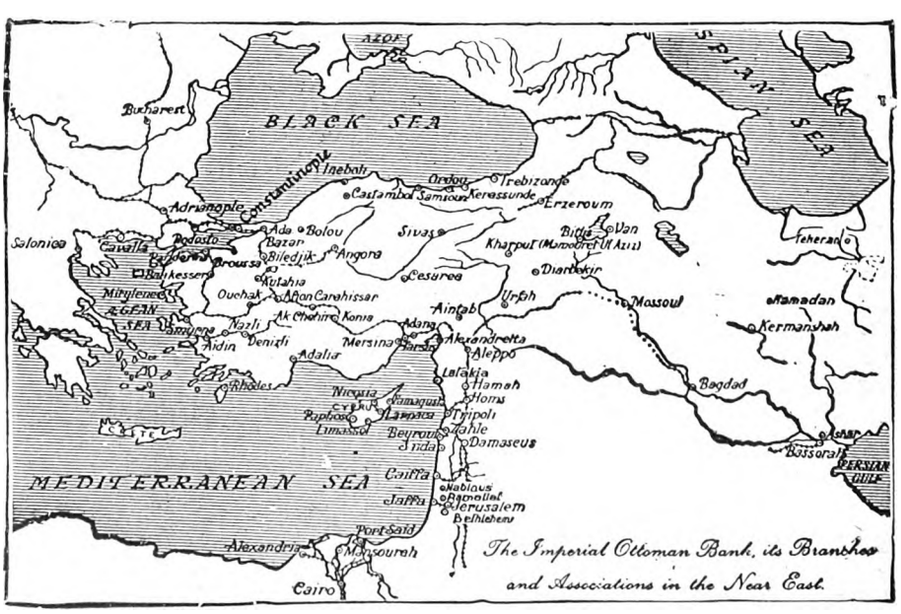
IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

FOUNDED 1863.

Capital-£10,000,000. Paid-up - £5,000,000. Reserve - £1,250,000.

Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers Issued.

Letters of Credit Granted.



Exchange Merchandise and Insurance Operations effected.

London Office: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2.

Paris Office: 7, Rue MEYERBEER (9e).

MANCHESTER: 56-60, Cross Street.

CONSTANTINOPLE: Galata—Stamboul—Pera

MARSEILLES: 41-43, Rue Grignan

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Near East Markets.

MARKET FOR PREPARED MEDICINES IN TURKEY.

During the last year or so the Turkish Government has opened 150 dispensaries in various districts in the interior and plans to open another 150 in the near future. The public-health authorities are studying various projects for introducing sanitary bodies, granting free doctor's services, and distributing drugs in various districts in the interior where malaria and other diseases are seriously thinning the ranks of the population (says an American Consular report). This task is rendered extremely difficult because of the Government's lack of sufficient means and the very small number of Turkish physicians available. Doctors and druggists are reluctant to accept a position in a remote district. Local wholesalers of drugs and pharmaceutical products, nevertheless, state that they are receiving more orders for drugs and prepared medicines from districts where drugs had never been handled before.

No industry for the production of prepared medicines exists in Turkey. A very few of the larger Turkish pharmacies, however, during the last two or three years have attempted to specialise in the production of certain medicines which are easily prepared, and for which no expensive and up-to-date equipment, particular scientific knowledge, and technical experience are required.

Post-War statistics covering the Turkish importation of prepared medicines are not available. Estimates given by various informants differ greatly. It would appear, however, that the annual imports of foreign prepared medicines during the last two years reached £T1,250,000 to £T1,500,000 (£156,250 to £162,500). Approximately 85 per cent. of this trade was with France, Germany, and Great Britain. Those firms, especially French, who do a large business, have acquired their success as a result of many years of efficient systematic operation in this market, as well as continuous, efficient, and ingenious advertising.

DRIED FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co. report as follows under date August 1:—

Currants.—Market conditions show no improvement, and a very uninteresting state of affairs continues, the business conducted being almost exclusively in specialities and fine Vostizzas. The latter days of the month have been overclouded by the fear of a stoppage in the coal industry, and this, coupled with the fact that this is the week preceding August Bank Holiday, which is not usually a busy one, makes it scarcely surprising that a certain amount of dullness exists. Sales comprised:—Pyrgos 32s. to 33s., Amalias 33s. to 34s., Gulf 36s. to 40s., Vostizza 43s. to 46s., Shade Dried 48s. to 53s.

Some business is reported in New Crop fruit on a c.i.f. basis:—Pyrgos 33s., Amalias 34s., Patras 35s. 6s., September shipment. Quotations:—Pyrgos 32s. to 33s., Amalias and Patras 33s. to 38s., Gulf and Panariti, 36s. to 40s., Vostizza 43s. to 48s., Vostizza Shade Dried 48s. to 53s. Arrivals.—The Cypria and Lesbian with about 500 tons were marketed.

Sultanas.—With prices advancing for new crop Smyrna, owing to reports of damage to the growing crop, more interest was taken in spot parcels, and the remaining stocks of good average were disposed of at 52s. to 53s.; few fine selling 75s. to 80s.

Australian.—Owing to the scarcity of stocks, the fruit from the Commonwealth is supplying the trade requirements, and as it is this season showing a great improvement in colour, quality, and more regularity in grading than previously, it is being appreciated by the trade, although not in active demand. Considerable interest was taken when once buyers realised that the preferential duty would be retained by the Colonies, and we close the period of review with a good steady trade passing. The range of values is 65s. to 75s., showing an advance of several shillings since June 30.

Capes.—The later arrivals show a falling off in quality, and progress is difficult.

Figs.—Old crop Genuines selling at 26s. New crop.—Some business has been done in Genuine Natural, September shipment, 24s., 24s. 6d., c.i.f.; no sellers now under 25s. Calamata (on strings) sold 19s. 9d. c.i.f., September.

THE EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company in their report for the week ending July 23 state:—

Since our last report the futures market has been quiet but the undertone has remained firm; the net changes on the week are the following:—Sakellaridis, 0.40 dollars up for July, 1.03 dollars up for November, 1.18 dollars up for January, 1.30 dollars up for March: Ashmouni, 0.08 dollars down for August, 0.18 dollars up for October, 0.25 dollars up for December.

Old crops have been rather dull and almost no dealings have taken place. July definitely closed to-day at 60.60 dollars, and no dockets of any size are expected to be issued to-morrow which is the last tender day of this option. The improved demand from abroad for prompt shipment has been maintained and in consequence a fair activity has prevailed in the spot market, but as mentioned in our previous report the bulk of the existing stocks are unhedged and therefore the sale of this cotton leaves the futures market unaffected. New crops have been fairly active and prices have advanced somewhat. Spinners on the whole have shown an increased interest in new crop shipments, but we do not think that the volume of business booked has been of any size owing to the existing wide difference of opinion regarding prices between sellers and buyers. The week's receipts amount to 111 crs., against exports 31,943 crs.; the stock stands at 465,458 crs.

Spot: Minet el Bassal has been more active this week and the improvement in the demand from abroad, which we noted last week, has been maintained. The market has only been open four days and sales amount to about 6,300 B/s of which we estimate 1,750 B/s Sakel, 4,300 B/s Uppers, 250 B/s Zagora and a few bales of White. With the imminent approach of the new crop, sellers have met such demand as there is very well and have offered their cotton fairly freely.

Sakellarides: have been in moderate request and all styles have been dealt in. One fair sized line of high grade cotton has changed hands but, apart from this, the business has been mainly in the medium and low grades. With the exception of Fair and Fully Fair which maintain their parities, spot differences are considerably easier.

Ashmouni and Zagora: have been in good demand. All grades up to Fully Good Fair to Good have been dealt in, but Good and better have been rather neglected. Spot differences are unchanged.

Brown and Pilion: are neglected and no business is reported. Quotations of spot are unchanged.

White: A retail business has been done at last week's rates.

Crop 1925: The weather has been cooler but the progress of the plant has been normal. Leaf worm attack is now over and it may be said that it has not caused more damage than in previous years. Growers of the South and Central Delta complain of deficient bolling in the Sakel plantations; we do not think the complaints are either general or serious. The water supply continues to be adequate.

TEXTILES.

IF you wish to obtain your Textile goods from England at the lowest possible prices, communicate with K. JEBARA, 25, Princess Street, Manchester. (Established 1887).

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Company Meetings.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

Negotiations for Prolongation of Concession.

The annual general meeting of the Imperial Ottoman Bank was held on July 29 at Winchester House, E.C.

General the Hon. Sir Herbert A. Lawrence, K.C.B., who presided, said that, in spite of various symptoms of improvement, the year 1924 had not brought that stability which was necessary for the restoration of Turkey. The Treaty of Lausanne did not receive ratification until August 6, 1924, and its execution involved the settlement of various delicate questions which had contributed to disturb production and commerce, and thus to act as a drag on the economic movement of the country. In agriculture, climatic conditions were responsible for results which were less satisfactory than expected in view of the encouragement given by Governmnt authority and the real effort made towards developing the resources of the country. The tendency towards the depreciation of the Turkish pound was explained by the adverse trade balance. It was not the result of speculation or inflation. The latter, indeed, was a policy which continued to be contrary to the views of the Turkish Government. Commerce had to suffer in Turkey from a monetary crisis, which was acutely felt during the second half-year—a season in which heavy transfers of money to the provinces were necessary for the movement of the crops. The Turkish Government could not do better, with a view to improving its exchange, than to concentrate its efforts on the agricultural equipment of the country. It had not failed in this, and there was every ground to hope that the effects of its action would soon be apparent. On the other hand, economies had been made in expenditure, and the Budget deficit had been reduced to £T17,000,000.

The application of the procedure laid down for arriving at the distribution of the Public Debt of the old Ottoman Empire between Turkey and the various successor States had been in progress since November, 1924. It was easily to be understood that each of the political and economic factors to which he had referred had exercised a depressing effect upon the trade of a country which had not yet emerged from a stagnation lasting over a period of years. This situation had affected the activities of the bank's Constantinople office and of its branches in Anatolia. They had been able to do little more than cover their expenses. They had reason to hope, however, from certain more favourable signs, barely perceptible during 1924 but more pronounced in the first half of 1925, that they were near an economic revival in Turkey.

Reviewing the progress made by the bank's branches in other countries, he said that in Egypt, where they had seven branches established, there had been steady improvement in business in the face of keen and constant competition, not only from the other old-established banks in that country but also from a steadily increasing stream of new competitors. In Cyprus, where they had six branches, the bank took a prominent lead. Their relations with the Government, for whom they acted as bankers, were most cordial. In that connexion they would be interested to know that they had recently proceeded with the establishment of an Agricultural Bank in the island, with the Government's approval and support. For the three branches in Mesopotamia the period under review has been one of marking time. In Persia they had three branches, the results of which had been satisfactory, and the prospects were encouraging. In Palestine their five branches showed good results, and, with the prospects of steady development and improvement in that sphere of their activity, they looked to those branches as being likely to show even more satisfactory results in the future. The general situation in Yugoslavia appeared economically and politically to present a more favourable aspect. The Banque Franco-Serbe, in which they had important interests, had profited by the improved circumstances. In Greece they had branches at Salonika and at Kavalla. Those branches developed to an even greater extent the assistance which they have always rendered to the trade of this important export region.

He went on to say that the negotiations for the prolongation of the concession were proceeding and that the duration of the bank had been prolonged by the committee in accordance with the resolution passed in 1906. As regarded the negotiations for the prolongation of the concession, the situation was clearly favourable. Not only had the Government not given them notice to dissolve, but they were informed that the accord was already established between their Direction Generale and the Minister of Finance, and that it would be submitted immediately—perhaps even that day—to the official approbation of the Council of Ministers. They were, in addition, authorised to declare that, while awaiting that decision, the bank would continue to function regularly.

The accounts showed an amount available of £326,951, after taking into account an amount of £128,370 brought forward from the previous year. Taking into consideration the circumstances in which the business had been transacted during 1924, that result was certainly satisfactory. The committee would not have hesitated to propose the distribution of the balance, but, after the closing of the accounts, a period of fluctuations in the depreciated currencies had set in, recalling the need of maintaining the prudent policy which they had followed since the Armistice. The aim of that policy had been, by the constitution of proper reserves, to protect the assets of the bank from the risk entailed by depreciation in foreign currencies included in those assets. That result once achieved—and the profits reserved from the year 1924 justified them in looking for that in the near future—shareholders would reap the reward of their long patience.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted, and a resolution was unanimously passed authorising the committee to settle all details of the new concession and of the prolongation of the duration of the company.

ANCHOR LINE

LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.

KARACHI via Bombay, calling at Gibraltar and Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS UPPER DECK CABINS.
MODERATE FARES.
RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT,
Indian Government Vouchers accepted.

Passenger sailing dates :—

*SCINDIA, Aug. 11.	CALIFORNIA, Oct. 14.
*MASSILIA, Sept. 1.	*CASTALIA, Oct. 27.
*ELYSIA, Sept. 11.	*OLYMPIA, Nov. 13.
*CIRCASSIA, Sept. 29.	*SCINDIA, Nov. 27.

*First class passengers only. Specially low fares.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA, 17,000 TONS, carrying 1st, 2nd and 3rd class passengers, sails from LIVERPOOL Oct. 14. MARSEILLES Oct. 20. All 1st and 2nd class state rooms are fitted with Punkah Louvres and with Fans. This vessel has exceptionally fine 3rd class accommodation.

ANCHOR LINE,
48, FENCHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses :—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Scindia for Bombay (Liverpool, August 7). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Imani for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 8).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Lancashire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, August 12).

British India Line.—S.s. Foyle for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 15); s.s. Hatipara for Bombay and Karachi (London, August 22).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Sea Glory for Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, Corfu, Brindisi, Bari, Gruz, Angora, Fiume, Trieste, and Venice (Swansea, August 11); a steamer for Gibraltar, Oran, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Glasgow, September 3).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of York for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 17).

Johnston Line.—M.v. Sycamore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, August 8); s.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 5); s.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 12).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Kaisar-i-Hind for Bombay (London, August 7); s.s. Nankin for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 8).

Prince Line.—S.s. Soldier Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Alexandretta (London, August 12).

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended July 10 amounted to £E7,460, making the total from April 1 £E73,304.

During the last two years a start has been made in Southern Bulgaria with the growing of Indian flax from which hashish is prepared (says a Reuter message).

Bulgaria has had a good "harvest" of silk cocoons this year, the total production being estimated at double last year's. The average price obtained has been 105 leva per kilogram (about 1s. 4½d. per pounds). One of the big co-operative societies has bought 100,000 kilos and the Bulgarian Agricultural Bank 60,000 prepared for export (says a Reuter message).

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MANCHESTER COTTON MARKET.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended August 1 states:—

The better tone which was manifest last week has been renewed during that now closing. Inquiry has continued to develop satisfactorily and the business actually booked shows an improvement.

Yarn.—The turnover in yarns has been larger than for some little time back. Possibly prospective buyers have anticipated their requirements a little in expectation of the great reduction in output which will take place in August if the recommendations of the Master Spinners' Federation are carried into effect. Both for American and Egyptian spinnings more business has been on offer although in many cases the prices obtainable are still unsatisfactory.

Cloth.—There has been quite a fair demand for cloth. India has, of course, been the chief buyer, but for China, also, orders have been placed. The Near Eastern markets have not, however, shown any increased activity and demand is still very slack from those quarters.

Raw Cotton.—The weather reports from the United States have this week been more favourable than for some time past. Rain has fallen in several districts where it was needed and, whilst other places are still suffering from lack of it, the general position is considered to have improved. There has consequently been a fairly sharp fall in quotations. Business on the spot in Liverpool has been very small both in American and Egyptian. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows:—American Middling, 13.53; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 32.45.

SPECIAL MARKET REPORTS.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank:—

Cyprus, July 11.—It is anticipated that the carobs crop will be between 15 and 20 per cent. less than last year's. Offers for "ventes à livrer" 125s. per ton c.i.f. At the corresponding period of last year the quotation was 105s. to 106s. c.i.f.

Teheran, July 4.—The market is very quiet with little change in prices. The Government are importing a million tomans in silver coins struck at the Moscow mint with dies obtained from the Imperial Persian Mint. The money has arrived at Pehlevi, and is now being taken delivery of by the Persian authorities for the purpose of assay.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

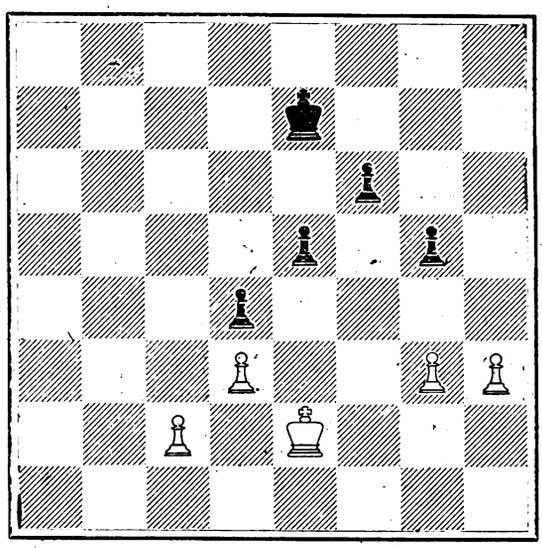
ANGLO-AUSTRIAN BANK.

The report of the Anglo-Austrian Bank for the year 1924 states that the profit was £28,065 after making the usual and necessary provisions and after adjustment of reserves. The balance brought forward from 1923 is £81,653, giving a total of £109,719, which it is proposed to carry forward. As foreshadowed in the last report, drastic reductions in the Vienna establishment have been carried out, involving considerable difficulty and expense. These reductions were effected in the closing months of 1924. Compensation paid, in consequence of legislative requirements, to employees thus retired, amounted to £110,156, and has been deducted from the opening reserve account, reducing it to £265,000. A further reduction, involving further compensation, will be carried out shortly. Several exchange offices and sub-branches which were not profitable have been closed. The Maribor branch has been transferred to the Croatian Discount Bank. A branch in Milan was opened at the beginning of 1925.

Mr. N. Mayers, H.M. Vice-Consul at Beyrout, visited the Manchester Chamber of Commerce recently, and discussed with several merchants and manufacturers questions connected with the export of British goods to Syria.

CHESS.

By "CARO-KANN."



END GAME No. 9.

White to play.—What result?

Solution to end-game No. 8:—1, B—Kt5, K—K (best); 2, K—K3, K—K2; 3, K—B4, K—B2 (if K—K3; 4, B—B4 (ch)); 4, B—B4 (ch), K—K2; 5, B—Kt5 and draws. It is a curious position, for while Black apparently has perfect freedom, actually he cannot advance his King to the halfway line without first sacrificing the Pawn at Kt3. At first sight the position looks hopeless for White, and it illustrates most aptly the fact that the resources of the end-game are almost illimitable.

OVERSEAS AGENTS FOR THE SALE OF "THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA."

EGYPT.
Alexandria: M. Nacamulli and Co., 12, Rue Sesostris.
Cairo: M. Avatis, 1, Faggala.
Express Book and Stationery Store, P.O. Box 1113.
Port Said: English Agency, P.O. Box 240.

SUDAN.
Khartoum: Victoria Book and Stationery Store, P.O. Box 51.

PALESTINE.
Haifa: T. S. Boutagy.
Jerusalem: B. Y. and W. A. Said, 23-24, Jaffa Road.

SYRIA.
Beyrout: Sarrafian Bros.

IRAQ.
Baghdad: Government Bookshop, Serai.
Basrah: Utam Jashan and Co., Bridge Street, Ashar.

INDIA.
Calcutta: A. N. Wheeler and Co., 117-119 Park Street.
Bombay: A. N. Wheeler and Co., Hornby Road.
Karachi: Standard Bookstall, Elphinstone Street, Karachi.

BULGARIA.
Sofia: Librairie Francaise et Etrangere, 4a, Bvd. Tsar Ostvoboditel.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia: George and Sons, P.O. Box 6.

GREECE.
Athens: Th. Vafiadis, 24, Rue du Stade.
Eleftheroudakis and Barth, Place de la Constitution.

ROUMANIA.
Bucharest: Librairie Universala, 37, Calea Victoriei.

TURKEY.
Constantinople: H. D. Marianopoulos, Librairie Internationale. Pera.

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THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889.)

CAPITAL (fully paid) - £650,000 | RESERVE - - - £390,000

Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

Branches in Persia :— Chief Office, TEHERAN.

Ahwaz	*Hamadan*	*Maidan-i-Naftun*	*Resht*
Barfrush	*Isfahan*	*Meshed*	*Shiraz*
Bunder Abbas	*Kazvin*	*Mohammerah*	*Sultanabad*
Bushire	*Kerman*	*Nasratabad*	*Tabriz*
Duzdah	*Kermanshah*	*(Seistan)*	*Yezd*

Branches in Iraq (Mesopotamia) :—Bagdad, Basra.
Branch in India :—Bombay.
The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia ; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

London Office: 33-36, KING WILLIAM ST., E.C.4 ; Chief Office in Persia, TEHERAN

IONIAN BANK, Ltd.

Established 1839.

Capital Authorised - - - £600,000
Capital Paid up - - - £485,580
Reserve Fund - - - - £190,000
Total Assets- - - - £6,536,314

HEAD OFFICE :
Basildon House Moorgate, LONDON.

GREECE.
Central Office
ATHENS.
14 Branches.

EGYPT.
Central Office :
ALEXANDRIA.
8 Sub-Branches.

TURKEY.
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Galata, with Sub Branch at Stamboul).

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Remittance enclosed.

Name.....

Address.....

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES U.K., £1 7s. 6d. per annum; 14s. 6d. for 6 months. **Post Free** ABROAD, £1 10s. per annum; 15s. 6d. for 6 months.

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IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA

Incorporated and constituted in India under the Imperial Bank of India Act, 1920, for the purpose of taking over the undertakings and business of the Bank of Bengal, the Bank of Bombay and the Bank of Madras.

Local Head Offices:—

CALCUTTA, BOMBAY, MADRAS

Managing Governors in India:—
Sir NORCOT WARREN, K.C.I.E
N. M. MURRAY, Esq.
Manager in London:—
Sir S. A. H. SITWELL.

Authorised Capital **Rs. 11.25.00.000**
Paid-up Capital - **Rs. 5.62.50.000**
Reserve - - - **Rs. 4.77.50.000**

BANKERS in INDIA to the GOVERNMENT of INDIA.

Branches in all Principal Towns in India.
London Branch - - 5 Whittington Avenue, E.C.3.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866.
Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN KENYA COLONY AND UGANDA.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL ... £4,000,000 | **Paid-up Capital** ... £2,000,000
Subscribed Capital ... £4,000,000 | **Reserve Fund** ... £2,800,000

HEAD OFFICE: 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2

BRANCHES.

Aden	Calcutta	Colombo	Lahore	Rangoon	Kisumu	Kenya Colony (Brit. E. Africa)	Entebbe
Aden, Steamer Poin	Cawnpore	Delhi	Madras	Tuticorin	Mombasa		Jinia
Amritsar	Chittagong	Kandy	Mandalay	Zanzibar	Nairobi		Kampala
Bombay	Cochin (S. India)	Karachi	Newera Eliya		Nakuru		

Uganda

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The NEAR EAST AND INDIA

A Weekly Review of the Politics and Commerce of the Balkan Peninsula, Turkey, Egypt, and the Sudan, Syria, Palestine, Arabia, Iraq, Persia and India.

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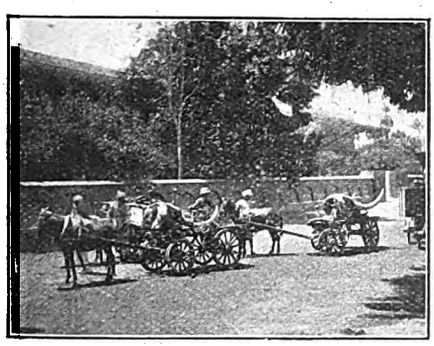

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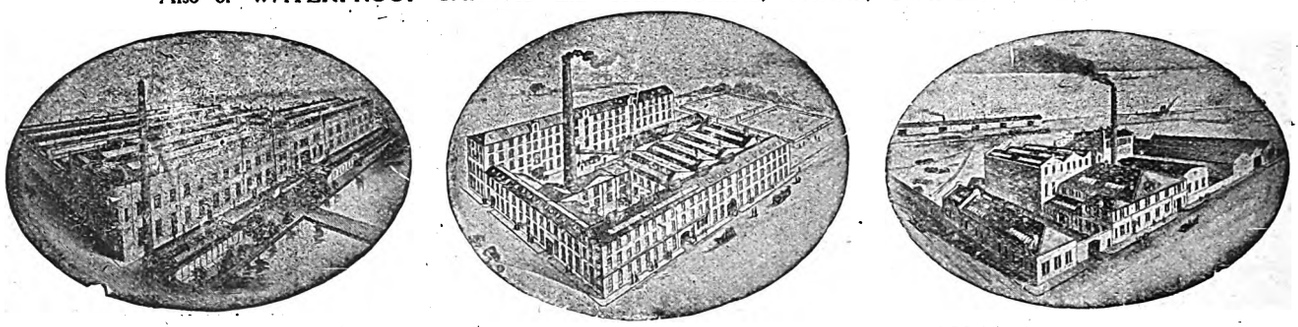

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THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

No. 744.—VOL. XXVIII. THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 1925.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	Page
NOTES OF THE WEEK	185
SPECIAL LETTERS—	
Egypt	188
Albania	188
Iraq	189
Turkey	190
Cyprus	191
SPECIAL ARTICLE—	
The Summer Season in Alpine Yugoslavia	193
LEADING ARTICLE—	
Politics in the Balkans	187
THE WEEK AT HOME	191
PERSONAL AND GENERAL ...	196
INDIAN AFFAIRS—	
Special Letters : Calcutta ...	198
Bombay ...	198
Simla	199
Punjab Sports	202
Current Topics	200
Indian Exchange	201
COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
Notes and News	203
The Progress of the Sudan—	
Changes in the Sudan ..	205
Cotton Growing in the Sudan	206
The Sudan at the Exhibition	208
British Consular Reports—	
2. Yugoslavia	209
Shipping Intelligence	210
Chess	213

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

The Mosul Report.

The publication of the full report of the Commission appointed by the League of Nations to investigate the question of the frontier between Iraq and Turkey cannot be said to have done much to remove the unfavourable impressions created by earlier summaries. It would seem as if the Commission had realised that the territory in dispute ought to belong to Iraq, but had lacked the courage to say so *tout court*, and had accordingly hedged its findings round with as many conditional clauses as possible. After ruling that in the interests of the populations the disputed area should not be partitioned, the Commission is of opinion that important arguments, particularly of an economic and geographical nature, and the sentiments of the majority of the inhabitants of the country taken as a whole (influenced by the desire of effective support under the Mandate and by economic considerations) operate in favour of the union with Iraq of the whole territory south of the "Brussels line," subject to the following conditions: (1.) That the territory must remain under the effective mandate of the League of Nations for a period which may be put at twenty-five years; and, (2.) That regard must be paid to the desires expressed by the Kurds that officials of Kurdish race should be appointed for the administration of their country, the dispensation of justice and teaching in the schools, the official language in all these services being Kurdish. The "Brussels line," it will be recalled, is the provisional frontier laid down by the League of Nations in October 1924 as the line behind which the Turkish forces that had invaded Iraq had to withdraw pending a final decision as to the boundary between the two countries.

Facing Both Ways.

For the benefit of the Turks the Commission places on record that "from the legal point of view the disputed territory must be regarded as an integral part of Turkey until that Power renounces her rights," and that Iraq cannot claim it either by right of conquest or any other legal right. It can only advance moral arguments to the effect that the nature of Iraq territory must be such as to allow of the normal development of the State of Iraq. In spite of this emphatic statement the Commission announces that it does not feel competent to decide what weight should be given to these legal considerations, in regard to which it is so confident, and accordingly they leave it to the Council of the League of Nations to appraise the weight to be given to them. Nothing, perhaps, better displays the mentality of the Commissioners than the suggestion that the Assyrians, whose hard lot is recorded and the necessity for whose protection is recognised, should return to their former homes in Turkey under a complete amnesty and enjoy the same local autonomy as in the past. This childlike faith in the capacity of the Oriental lion and lamb to lie down together at the bidding of three wise men does more credit to their hearts than to their heads. The effect of the Report, as was pointed out in these pages last week, is to throw the onus of a decision upon the Council of the League of Nations. That body, it is to be hoped, will show greater courage than the Commission has. Of the conditions laid down in the Report that are to govern the allocation of the Mosul vilayet to Iraq the one that is likely to provoke comment is the stipulation that the territory must remain under effective mandate of the League of Nations for a period of twenty-five years. There should be no question of any attempt to bind either the League, or Great Britain as Mandatory Power, to such an undertaking. The League will, no doubt, take note of the recommendation and, if necessary, bear it in mind. It is under no obligation to take any action in regard to the condition laid down by the Commission, if only for the reason that it has already imposed the status of a mandated territory on Iraq and need not revoke that status until it sees fit to do so. Much may be made of the condition by those in Great Britain who are opposed to the present British connection with Iraq; but it is difficult to see why it should affect the existing arrangement. If the Mosul vilayet becomes formally incorporated in Iraq, that fact will be an im-

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portant consideration in the negotiation in a few years' time of a new agreement to replace the present Treaty.

Turkey and Britain.

It is urged against the British association with Iraq that it introduces into the scheme of the British Empire, or among our Imperial responsibilities, a long land frontier, very difficult of defence, owing to its distance from the sea. This fear was endorsed by the late Field-Marshal Sir Henry Wilson, and from a purely military point of view cannot lightly be dismissed. It ignores, however, two considerations: first, that permanent hostility between Turkey and Great Britain is not an inevitable and permanent feature in world affairs, and secondly, that Iraq is not being incorporated as an integral part of the British Empire. If in the near future Turkey were to carry out a serious invasion of Iraq, Great Britain would most probably find herself involved in war. On the other hand, after a lapse of years the relations between Iraq and Great Britain may be such that British action might be determined by other considerations than the necessity that exists to-day of setting a new State, for which we are responsible, on its feet. Turkey in any case remains a maritime Power with a vulnerable coast line, and it is for British diplomacy to see that the mistakes of our Near Eastern policy prior to 1914 are not repeated in the future. To-day the policy of scuttle in regard to Iraq is impossible, from the standpoint of fairplay, morality and British interests. Every year, provided that our duty to the country is conscientiously and generously discharged, such a policy becomes more possible, if only because it will be less open to the objections than can be urged to-day. There is, therefore, no need to raise up bogeys which have practically no chance of materialising. The trust which Great Britain has taken over must be faithfully discharged, in the knowledge that each year will witness the gradual reduction of her responsibilities.

The Jebel Druse Rising.

Information from official sources in France regarding the revolt of the Druses remains scanty, possibly because the outbreak is a comparatively small affair from a military point of view, but it is evident that the situation is causing the French authorities considerable uneasiness. The ultimate issue of a rising of this nature should be a foregone conclusion. While it lasts, however, it bids fair to prove for a variety of reasons a source of embarrassment to France out of all proportion to the number of troops involved. The operations against the rebels are being carried out under adverse conditions owing to a serious scarcity of water, and the Druses have been able to secure not unimportant successes at the outset. Two French columns or convoys have been defeated and cut up, and the small French garrison in Sueida is being closely beleaguered. The French Government, having already on its hands in Morocco more than it wishes for, is particularly anxious that this Syrian episode should not have to be invested with the dignity of a campaign; yet failure to strike hard and quickly may lead to a more formidable extension of the unrest.

France's Stewardship in Syria.

More important than the ups and downs of the revolt and its suppression is the question that the incident raises of the relations between France and the mandated territory. This is the sixth insurrection in Syria in six years of French occupation. The Jebel Druse in 1921 was constituted an independent State under a French Governor in accordance with the policy of dividing Syria into a number of watertight compartments; but successive occupants of the Governorate have failed to give satisfaction to the inhabitants and the French have refused to sanction a Druse Governor. The last appointment, a nominee of General Sarrail's, appears to have brought the local discontent to a head by methods which might be appropriate with Senegalese, but caused deep affront to the Druses. A delegation was sent to Beyrout to petition against the return of the offending Governor and to apply for the incorporation of the Hauran in the Syrian union with the States of Damascus and Aleppo. General Sarrail refused to receive the deputation, and the rising followed the attempt of the Governor, Captain Carbillet, to return to his post. As General Sarrail is not popular in his own country, it is natural that there should be an attempt to make him a scapegoat for what has happened in the Jebel Druse. A more profitable subject of inquiry, however, would be the extent to which the basic principle of French administration in Syria is adapted to local conditions. A high tribute can be paid to the material advantages accruing from the French occupation, but the fact remains that the people find themselves, or at least regard themselves as being, in an atmosphere of repression, as though in some undefined way the free development of their interests was held to be inimical to Franch interests. Thus the measure of local autonomy granted by the French was robbed of any merit it might have had by the care taken to check as far as possible any tendency to Syrian solidarity. The French, it would seem, have yet to learn that their Syrian Mandate represents a much more advanced stage in the handling of backward races than any of which they have hitherto had experience. Consequently, unless much more elasticity is introduced into the administration and into the relations between the local authorities and the governed, there is a danger of repeated explosions.

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SELF-DETERMINATION IN THE MOSUL VILAYET.

To the Editor of The Near East and India.

Sir,—There is one point in the forecast of the report of the League of Nations' Mosul Commission which does not appear to have been stressed in the course of British Press comment. It is that the truly amazing suggested boundary of the Lesser Zab would leave within Iraq the strongest centre of pro-Turkish feeling in the country, the largely Turcoman town of Kirkuk, while handing over to Turkey the Arab town of Mosul.

Ethnically and geographically, the Turkish claims have not a leg to stand upon. There remains the claim of "self-determination." The above instance will demonstrate how low that god has fallen since he was deified in the "Fourteen Points."

I should also like to express my appreciation of that excellent article entitled: "The Stability of Iraq," in this week's number of your journal.—I am, etc.,

F. W. Chardin.

Peaslake, Guildford, Surrey, August 5.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 1925.

POLITICS IN THE BALKANS.

General Pangalos, the new Greek Prime Minister, appears to have come very near to discovering a truth which has hitherto remained hidden from all political leaders in the Balkans. Paraphrasing St. Paul, he has asked: "Who is Constantine? Who is Venizelos? What is a Kingdom? What is a Republic?" and he has proceeded to point out that these are all means to an end. The people, he declares, want tranquillity, order, security, good government, and, above all, new political men. If General Pangalos had omitted the last few words, we should have inferred that his discovery of the truth in question had been complete. It would be nearer to the mark to say that the Greek people, in common with all the other peoples of the Balkans, do not want "political" men at all, whether new or old. There must be members of Parliament for the proper carrying into effect of constitutional government; but they should regard themselves as representatives of the nation and not as "political men," in the sense of being champions of a political party called upon mainly to give battle to those who belong to other political parties. Not the least evil of this latter attitude is that the claims of party inevitably come to override the interests of the State. The Civil Service becomes a party perquisite, and politics is made a whole-time profession embittered by the exigencies of the struggle for subsistence. General Pangalos appreciates the fact that the interests of the people as a whole and of the country at large ought to be placed before those of any particular party, and he has wisely put himself in touch with the provincial life of Greece instead of being content to view the country exclusively through the spectacles of the capital. It is to be hoped that one of his statements will not defeat the purpose that he has in view. He has promised that, if he finds that the Republic has not been a success, he will "consider the matter." Left to themselves, the Greek people will probably be satisfied with that assurance. To the politicians, however, who are already alarmed by the challenge to their position, the mere suggestion may prove a stimulus to fresh action, the Royalists anxious to lose no time in recovering the lost citadel, the Republicans fearful lest inaction should rob them of the victory gained.

Greece's experience is that of the other States of the Balkans. Her political divisions may assume a different character; but everywhere the obsession of politics is the same. Yugoslavia is now making the experiment of a coalition of the two chief political parties, which may enable her to put an end to a situation in which by common consent the development of the country was being retarded by the bitterness of political antagonisms. It is too early to be able to gauge what the concrete results may be; but the attempt to close the nation's ranks commands the approval of all those who have the interests of Yugoslavia at heart. As the dividing line had been racial rather than based on the rivalry of political parties, it was fraught with even greater danger than the conflict in Greece. A coalition between Radicals and the Croatian Peasant Party led by M. Raditch will, however, be of little use, if it is merely to carry on against the Opposition the political vendetta that previously existed between the Radicals and the Raditchists. Here too it is a respite from party politics that the country needs, and there can be little doubt that the bulk of the people is looking forward to the time when the protagonists of the old political feuds will have made way for a younger generation of politicians with political watchwords which are not merely personal battle-cries, but are better suited to the needs of the day. In Roumania the strongly entrenched position of the Bratianu Government has encouraged the conviction that what is in the interest of the National Liberal Party must promote equally the interests of the country. Yet the impression is conveyed to foreigners that the nation is restless under a régime with which it has little sympathy, while lacking the will-power or the machinery to effect a change. Apart from this aspect the party in power cannot be said to have stressed unduly political questions. It is rather the economic hold on the country that the Liberals have succeeded in obtaining which causes misgivings in Roumania; but whether this circumstance is due to the absence of financial ability outside the Liberal ranks or is the result of a policy framed to this end it is impossible to say. Feeling in the country on the subject does not appear to be deep, for in spite of the confident predictions of the Opposition the Bratianu Government has continued in power, and the outside world is left to infer that in this case the disputes of politicians are reflected in no serious cleavage in the Roumanian people as a whole. Bulgaria, on the other hand, has yet to adjust the conflicting interests of bourgeois and peasant before domestic politics are subject to safe lines of division. Recent events have tended to emphasise the existing antagonism; but the forces at work, including the common sense of the people, are gradually helping to bridge the gulf that has separated the two camps.

It is much in General Pangalos's favour that he holds himself above political parties and displays no craving for a successful political career. He has adopted the attitude that Greece was in need of a strong hand and of being freed from vacillations of policy due to political manœuvrings. Believing that he was able to interpret the wishes of the people, he resorted to a *coup d'état*, the immediate success of which helped to confirm him in his opinion, or at least to satisfy him that his countrymen were thoroughly tired of politics. From his political utterances he appears to have made up his mind that, while he remains in power, Greece shall have order and security at home, and that his own political instincts shall be exercised in the direction of strengthening his country's position in the Balkan Peninsula. To this end he is committed to a reorganisation of the Greek Army, and it remains to be seen whether, in this task, he is strong enough to hold back the extremists among his supporters from a provocative military policy. Until this point is cleared up any overtures from the Greek Government to its neighbours are likely to be unproductive of tangible results, for the Balkan States are suspicious of one another and all are highly strung these days. General Pangalos would deserve well of his generation if he could revive the Balkan League as a political or economic federation, with military ambitions kept well in the background. A *sine qua non* for its success would be that it should comprise all the four States, for a League that omitted Bulgaria would fail of its purpose. To-day it is easier to find reasons for excluding Bulgaria than to brave the odium of a proposal for its inclusion. The test of General Pangalos's courage and statesmanship, or common sense, will be in his ability to convince Yugoslavia and Roumania that their security from the obsession of domestic politics and their hope of ultimate prosperity lies in a Balkan confederation or understanding which will allow for the full economic development of a Peninsula wonderfully rich in natural resources and endowed with an invaluable asset in the history of its peasant population

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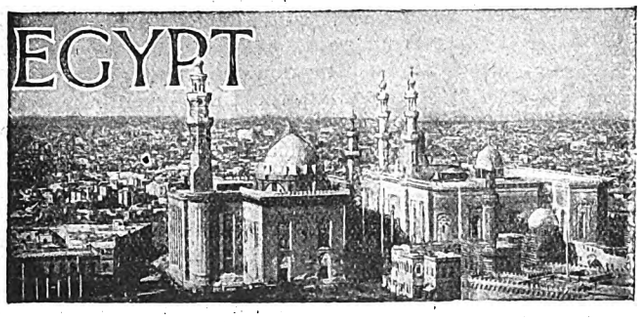
The Near and Middle East*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, August 1.

The Code for the Press.

When Egyptian journalists rose in protest at the recent amendment of the Criminal Code articles affecting the Press, the Minister of Justice issued a reassuring statement of the Government's point of view. Nothing, he said, was further from the Ministry's wish than to fetter the Press; rather was it the official intention to clear up ambiguities in the previous wording of the Law, thus making it quite clear what was permissible and what forbidden. The editors and newspaper proprietors, however, continued to lament the supposed loss of their freedom, and would not be comforted. Nor does it seem that their fears were ungrounded. Three editors and four other journalists have lately been interrogated by the Parquet concerning articles in their newspapers, and will eventually stand their trial at the Cairo Assizes. The most serious case is that of the *Minbar*, a "daily" newspaper which appears, as do quite a number of the lesser Egyptian publications, at irregular intervals, and which, in its issue last Saturday, published an article on the dispute between the Royal Wakfs Administration and the Daira of the Khedive Mother concerning the Kaha Wakf which was considered by the authorities as offensive towards both the Mekhema Sharia judge who tried the case and King Fuad. The case falling in the category of alleged crimes, the writer of the article, who is the secretary of the Daira, and the editor of the paper, were both arrested, and in prison they remain, pending trial.

Without expressing opinion of any kind regarding the alleged offences which have been the cause of recent official action against local newspapers, it may be remarked that the great latitude allowed the Egyptian Press by the British authorities before the War and even, excepting where the publication of military information was concerned, during the continuance in force of Martial Law, has to some extent "spoiled" the Press for the much less Liberal views on the function of newspapers held by Egyptian Ministers, now that the country's independence has given them liberty of action in dealing with unwelcome criticism.

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Traffic in Cocaine.

Much the most encouraging news item of the past week has been hidden away in an obscure paragraph which recorded that the Tantah Native Tribunal had sentenced a cocaine trafficker to eighteen months' imprisonment. No sentence of anything like such adequate nature has ever before been passed on illicit drug dealers here, nor, indeed, has it been possible to inflict punishment of more than a wholly inadequate kind until the recent passing of a new law regulating the sale of narcotics. In this connection, it is interesting to note that the drug habit here may be checked by an altogether unexpected circumstance, namely, the rapacity of the clandestine dealers, who are adulterating their wares to such an extent that they are becoming almost harmless and, therefore, ceasing at the same time to be habit-forming. A well-known British official was driving in an *arabiya* the other day, when a street vendor offered him a phial of white powder as cocaine. Seizing the would-be seller by the scruff of the neck, the official dragged him into the carriage and took him off to the nearest police station, where he was discovered to have concealed about him several of these phials, all bearing the name and trade mark of the German manufacturing chemists whose products are known to cocaine fiends as "the real stuff," the champagne of cocaines. But, on analysis, the contents were found to be entirely innocent of cocaine, or of anything more harmful than boracic powder. The police were in a quandary about what to charge the seller with, and I understand that they eventually released him, possibly on the grounds that, like the man accused of having stolen jazz band instruments, he was really a public benefactor. A medical friend informs me that he has seen several samples of alleged cocaine recently seized and that none of them contained more than 20 per cent. of the drug.

Examination Mania.

Attempts to commit suicide by Egyptian students who have failed in the examination at the close of the school year just ended have become so common that the newspapers advocate holding an official inquiry into the cause of this self-destructive mania. Happily, the lads have hitherto been as unsuccessful in their suicidal attempts as in the previous tests of knowledge. Drinking carbolic acid is the most popular method of attempting to drown student sorrows, and carbolic acid must be a beverage the effects of which are very unpleasant long before they are fatal, since all the would-be victims have set up howls of pain that have enabled stomach pumps and similar instruments to be brought into play before the patient's life has been imperilled. There is, indeed, a suspicion that in some cases the half-emptied bottle of carbolic acid found beside the writhing victim has had the rest of its contents poured down the kitchen sink and that the whole affair has been nothing but a comedy, staged to soften the heart of a parent enraged at his son's lack of diligence in his studies.

ALBANIA.

Tirana, August 4.

Calm in the Country.

It is said that a country without a history is a happy country; and of Albania one can at least say that in the absence of anything of moment to report on the affairs of the youngest member of the European family, the country is enjoying if not perfect contentment, at any rate a period of greatly desired tranquillity. The rumours of brewing

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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trouble in the north and in certain districts of the south are, to say the least, exaggerated. That there are numbers of people discontented with the present régime is a fact that cannot be disputed; but that this discontent is virulent is untrue and the elements capable of fomenting it are absent or muzzled. The régime of Ahmed Zogu is meanwhile on its trial, and all that has been done so far has a clear balance on the asset side. A despotism is not in the circumstances an unfortunate thing for a country where a strong hand is needed before all else.

Sveti Naum.

In spite of the somewhat bitter allusions which fell from the lips of the President in his opening address to the Albanian Parliament a couple of months back, with regard to the continuance of the occupation of the Monastery and district of Sveti Naum by Yugoslav troops (allusions which led the observer to suppose that no pact had indeed been been concluded between Ahmed Zogu and M. Pashitch in return for the help accorded to the former towards his reinstatement as the ruler of Albania), an accommodation has now been reached by which the Monastery together with a small portion of the disputed district is to be definitely ceded to Yugoslavia in exchange for another small district in the neighbourhood of Dibra. Medhi Frasheri, who was Minister of the Interior at one time under Elias Bey Vrioni, has accordingly been despatched to Paris, to acquaint the Council of Ambassadors, who are the body responsible for the delimitation of Albania's frontiers of the friendly accommodation arrived at by the two Governments concerned, and to obtain their formal assent, which by the time this letter is in print will in all probability have been accorded.

The Government of Albania claims that the advantages of the accommodation outweigh the disadvantages, since Sveti Naum has only a sentimental importance for the Serbs. On the other hand, a strongly worded memorial, signed by the most prominent leaders of the Opposition in exile, has been handed to the Council of Ambassadors, demanding that the latter should refuse their assent on the grounds that the transfer of territory is an act of treason to the best interests of Albania, in that the possession of Sveti Naum places a point of vital strategical importance in the hands of Yugoslavia, and vitally menaces the security of Koritza. An impartial judgment cannot but consider this view as exaggerated, although undoubtedly Sveti Naum does lie within what is geographically the natural line of demarcation between the two countries at this point.

Rumours of Catholic Activity.

Rumours of the presentation of a second memorial by Catholic notables to the League of Nations, asking the latter to undertake certain responsibilities in the Government of Albania and demanding in the name of Liberty and Justice the institution of a Cantonal system, whereby the Catholic district of Scutari may give expression to its essentially Catholic characteristics, are authoritatively denied. But that the above contains the aspirations of the more influential of the Catholic leaders is undeniable, and that the League has been unofficially informed of this aspiration for their guidance in the event of future trouble necessitating some kind of intervention, is more than probable.

IRAQ.

Baghdad, July 22.

The First Parliament of Iraq.

On July 16 the first Parliament of Iraq was formally opened by His Majesty King Faisal. The King, wearing the uniform of a Commander-in-Chief of the Iraq Army, drove in state to the new Assembly, attended by the Emir Ghazi and members of his Court. The High Commissioner was present, a number of Iraqi notables, and a few senior British officials, besides the Consuls of France, America, Italy, and Persia. The eighty odd deputies and the fourteen members of the Senate or Upper House made an assembly representative of all sections and shades of opinion in Iraq.

The speech from the throne was delivered by the King with great dignity and impressiveness. Its gist was as follows:—

The King's Speech.

His Majesty opened by congratulating the deputies on the confidence shown them by the people, and by asking the blessing of Allah on their labours in guiding the nation towards assuming "the position which becomes it among civilised nations." He referred with gratitude to the good work done by the Constituent Assembly last year; since that time the country had progressed peacefully, a great stride forward being made when the ambiguous mandatory relationship with Great Britain was replaced by a Treaty for a period of four years. This change resulted not only in better relations with Iraq's ally, but in agreements such as those with the Diala Cotton Company and the Turkish Petroleum Company for the exploitation of Iraq's wealth by means of foreign capital. A great development in the latter direction was to be expected when the question of Mosul is settled. King Faisal expressed his entire confidence that a decision favourable to Iraq would be given by the League of Nations, and his earnest desire for the speedy establishment of friendly relations with Turkey. He warmly praised the people in general, and the inhabitants of the northern Liwas in particular, for their loyal adherence to Iraq unity.

His Majesty went on to say that amendments to the Treaty with Great Britain were already under discussion. Diplomatic relations with certain European Powers were "assuming a phase which will lead to the official recognition of our independence."

The Government's Programme.

The programme of the new Government was then outlined. Draft laws, the enactment of which was necessary to the Organic Law, were to be introduced, and existing laws revised. The extension of the powers of local councils with regard to education, communications, and so on, were to be considered, and a permanent cadre of government officials laid down. The Army was to be strengthened, and primary compulsory education gradually introduced. Public works, irrigation and agriculture were to be reviewed "in proportion with the revenues of the country," but the greatest economy was to be observed. The affairs of Auqaf were to be reorganised, and steps taken for combating epidemics.

Referring to the Budget, the King said that the Govern-

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ment had "taken into grave and serious consideration" the advice given by the Financial Commission, and had prepared the Budget as far as possible in accordance with it.

In conclusion, he urged the Assembly to give its best attention to such questions as agriculture and commerce, for "there can be no political independence without economic independence." His Majesty then declared the Assembly open.

The Assembly Open.

At the close of his speech, three cheers for the King were called for and given, and His Majesty left the Chamber during a prolonged *feu de joi* of cannon. The oath was then taken by each member, as follows: "I swear by God and by my honour that I will be loyal to His Majesty King Faisal, that I shall uphold the Organic Law, and that I will serve the nation and the country, and discharge my Parliamentary duties to the best of my ability." Rashid Ali Beg al Gilani, Minister of Justice in the last Cabinet, was then elected President of the House a post which involved his resignation of his new appointment of Minister of Interior. This post was later filled by Hikmat Beg. Yusif Beg as Suwaidi was chosen as President of the Upper House. Yassin Pasha al Hashimi leads the Opposition.

Baghdad, July 15.

Suleimaniyeh.

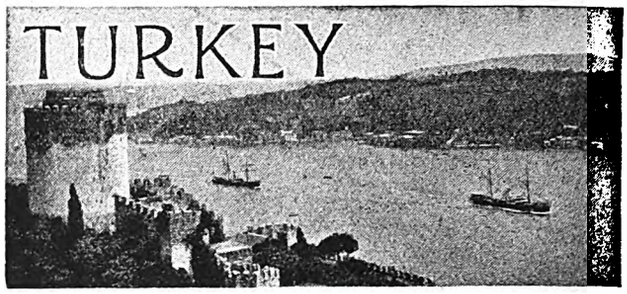
The enemy's inactivity during the occupation of Choartah was only temporary, and was apparently assumed in the hope of drawing the Iraqi forces into the hill country, in which they would be at a disadvantage. A counterbalancing inactivity was therefore adopted, and the enemy was allowed to collect reinforcements undisturbed. A reconnaissance in force was then carried out on June 27, and was completely successful in drawing the enemy on to the prepared defences of Choartah. In the heavy engagement which followed, Sheikh Mahmoud's force lost 20 killed and about 100 wounded, while the casualties of the Iraq Army were only one officer and one man killled and 8 wounded. Another reconnaissance two days later found about 300 of the enemy in occupation of a village six miles north of Choartah; there were easily dispersed, and the village was burned. A large force of the Pizhder tribe, which had lately joined Mahmoud, has now scattered and returned home. Sheikh Mahmoud himself is once more reported to have crossed the frontier into Persia.

General.

His Majesty the King held a levee to receive congratulations on the morning of the *Id al Ahdha*. H.M. the Queen also received the congratulations of a number of ladies, both Iraqi and British.

The title of Iraq Royal Military College was conferred by King Faisal on the cadet training school at Baghdad, at an inspection held on Friday, June 26. The College was founded in 1924 for the training of young Iraqis of good family as officers in the Army; it is noteworthy that a number of the yearly vacancies are ear-marked for the sons of the leading tribal sheikhs. The Royal Military College, Sandhurst, is the model which is imitated as far as possible, and two cadets are sent each year to England to complete their education at Sandhurst.

The Baghdad merchants have not yet recovered from the trade depression caused by the anticipated regulations affecting imports to Persia. They are also suffering considerably from the general decline in prices in the world's markets for the chief exports of Iraq—wool, hides, and skins notably.



Constantinople, July 29.

The Turkish Chamber of Commerce.

As a result of a recently applied law exacting obligatory membership of all business men in Turkey the list of members of the Turkish Chamber of Commerce now comprises 30,000 names as compared with 2,500 last year. Failure to comply with the above law within three months is punishable by prohibition of defaulters to exercise their professions. This exceptional strength permits the Turkish Chamber of Commerce to devote considerable attention to the amassing of commercial and industrial information, and the Information Department of the Chamber is now engaged in the compilation of a directory containing detailed accounts concerning all subjetcs of interest to business men. Should this effort prove successful it will constitute an invaluable work, as statistics up to the present are simply non-existent.

Opera.

Moussa Soureya Bey, the director of the Turkish Conservatoire, apparently wishes to contribute his share and assist in the occidentalising of Turkey. In declarations to the Press he has expressed his desire to form an opera company. He considers opera, being the only means for the propagation of music, as absolutely necessary, but realises that to begin with they must limit themselves to interpretations of existing foreign operas. He has solicited the aid of all the Turkish intellectuals, and in the not very distant future it is possible (in the event of everything going to plan) that with an Opera, the projected Yildiz Casino, and palaces converted into luxurious hotels, Constantinople might be worth a visit merely as a city of pleasure.

A Tourist Company.

According to to-day's newspapers a company, similiar to Thomas Cook's, which is evidently convinced of the possibilities of Turkey as a centre of attraction, is on the point of being formed. The reports state that this company is backed by foreign capitalists and that it has put forward to the Government a scheme in which it undertakes the extensive advertisement of Turkey to Europe and America and assures the authorities that every effort will be made to afford all comforts to tourists. This scheme also makes a provision for a considerable portion of the profits to be paid periodically to the Prefecture. If the projected company secures the approval of the Government, future tourists to Constantinople are assured of a more profitable and satisfactory visit, as the present system of one mad rush round the Mosques, the Bazaar, lunch at Tokatlian's and a trip up the Bosphorus and a scurry back to the boat, can hardly be described as seeing Constantinople.

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Family Names.

A further step forward—small, but one which will denote a great change to those familiar with Turkish customs—is the proposed adoption of a *nom de famille* among the Turks. Up to the present Christian names have been handed down to descendants, and this fact has certainly resulted in considerable confusion. The putting into force of any new system will undoubtedly have many difficulties to surmount, as to the lower class in Turkey the European system has always been a source of annoyance. When once registering at a Constantinople police station a British resident was requested to give the name of his father. On his replying that it was the same as his own the policeman more or less politely, but firmly, intimated that either he was prevaricating or that he was indulging in some out-of-place joke. The Englishman's attitude of gentle persuasiveness as opposed to his interlocutor's declared incredulity naturally changed to one of annoyance at such prolonged doubting, but the difficulty was finally solved by the policeman's giving the parent in question a name which he considered suitable. Various suggestions have been put forward as a solution to this question including the adoption of *zade* like the *vitch* in Russia, but it appears probable, according to declarations of the Director of Schools, that the European system will in the end be employed. Such a change is sure to receive the approval of the whole foreign population.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, July 21.

The Greek Community.

Summer heat now prevails, and the number of visitors from Egypt to the hills has increased. As the principal matter of general interest relates to the next elections to the Legislative Council, it may be well to say a word respecting the outlook. As is well known, the non-Moslems (mainly Greeks) largely outnumber the Moslem (mainly Turkish); and the Government has recently acceded to the wish of the former that they should be more largely represented in the Legislature. Their number is to be increased from 9 to 12, while the number of the Turks remains, as before, three. But at the same time the number of official members is raised by three. Some years ago the Greek members not only refused to sit in the Council, but endeavoured to prevent others, not holding their "political" views, from becoming candidates. A "National Council" was formed to guide Greek opinion, pass resolutions, etc. In spite of all this, various persons, more interested in moral than in political matters, stood and were elected. The Greek leaders consider seven, at any rate, of the present members as unworthy to represent their community and condemn the course they have taken in co-operating with other members to pass various measures of which they disapprove. Some of them will again offer themselves as candidates, and there is thus, as it were, a division into "national" and "pro-Government" to choose from. The Greeks appear to be getting rather nervous as to the results in some electoral divisions and urge that when any of the "seven" may stand they should be opposed by only one of the National or anti-Government party, so as not to split the vote. Another matter much criticised is that in one division one of the four Bishops, viz., of Kition, proposes to stand. In the past two Bishops, both of Kition, were prominent and very popular representatives of the Greek Cypriots. The candidature of the present prelate does not appear to meet with general approval. Altogether the coming election should be of considerable local interest.

General News.

The cereal harvest has been satisfactory; that of wheat having been about 40 per cent. above that of last year, and of barley about 30 per cent. The present price of wheat in Nicosia is 9s. to 9s. 6d. the bushel, and of barley 4s. to 4s. 5d. The next important event of the agricultural year is the gathering of locust beans (caroubs) which takes place in the latter part of August. Handsome medals have been sent to some of those who sent exhibits to Wembley last year.

The appointment of the Œcumenical Patriarch, Vasileios, has been very well received in Cyprus. Telegrams have been exchanged between His Holiness and the Archbishop, Kyrillos, of the Autocephalous Church of Cyprus. The Patriarch is well known in the island, where he spent some time, having been one of the two Bishops who were deputed to settle the differences which for many years divided the Orthodox Greeks of the island into two parties in connection with the election of an Archbishop.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Parliamentary Session.

Parliament rose at the end of last week and will not reassemble until November. This fact will hardly grieve those who, during the last six months, have looked for wisdom upon matters of the day from the men who, if a democratic machine could work in the interests of a democracy, would represent the cream and certainly the main stream of the nation's thought. For, to be quite frank, the Tory Administration of 1925 has been a bitter disappointment. Verbally and spiritually the lofty genius of the Prime Minister has towered over it, and the House, whenever he addressed it, has been as moved as, subsequently, the nation is moved by his fine humanity. But actually, things have been very different. Two men only, Mr. Winston Churchill and Mr. Neville Chamberlain, apart from Mr. Baldwin have given any evidence that the Tory Party is alive in the realm of domestic politics: that grand, enthusiastic resurgence of Conservative ideals which we were promised from the numerous bands of young Tories has simply failed to materialise. Very little has really been done; the very tone of the Administration's conduct has been dull; and the session was prevented from petering out in somnolence only by the amazing shock of the Coal Subsidy. Upon that it need only be said that the House and the country alike received it with bewildered anxiety.

The Government, then, has not enhanced its prospects. It is true that its head stands higher, probably, in common esteem than ever he did, but not even his friendliest critic will pretend that strength and the power of individual decision are his most shining virtues. It is also true that the gifts of Mr. Baldwin would be apparent in any assembly, but not even the most optimistic of his place-

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men would deny that the charm of his discourses have been more manifest owing to the pathetic lack of quality in the speeches from the Opposition benches. The fact is that the Tory Party is living on a negative foundation, and I have met no one who supposes that the party can exist for more than three years merely upon the strength of the undesirability of the other parties. The ship of State must cleave its way across the ocean, not lie idly waiting the approach of each successive wave and its own uneasy attempt to surmount.

But if the Conservative Party fails to inspire confidence in the country, what shall be said of the Labours and Liberals? Mr. Ramsay MacDonald appears to have given himself over entirely to foreign politics; at least he has been extraordinarily unhappy in his remarks upon the domestic situation. Nor have his followers or critics in the Labour Party made much impression. And of the Liberals there is in sooth little to be said. Mr. Lloyd George appears more often than not in the most untrustworthy and extravagant declaration; of the motley crew who are occasionally behind him, but generally rowing out of time, Captain Wedgwood Benn possesses the neatest stroke, although Commander Kenworthy in a somewhat primitive way demonstrates his reserves of stamina.

The Political Lesson.

The main political lesson of the past Session would seem to be that the economic lever in politics is far more important than the political pull. Quite manifestly it was only the attitude of the labouring friends of the miners which caused the Gvernment so quickly to change from its "Hands Up" to its "Shake" attitude. This does not, of course, mean, as so many timid souls have made out, that revolution is near, but it does mean a swinging away on the part of the more determined "Labourites" from the political fallacies of the Labour leaders to the economic realities of the trade-unionist leaders. To say that State Socialism has been brought nearer may not be true; but it may be true of Syndicalism in regard to the mines.

Now the main importance of this partial success of the miners—a success which seems to have swamped out the memory of the rest of the parliamentary situation—lies in the realising by the country of what precisely are the issues at stake. Is it, as some assert, that the system of Capitalism has definitely failed, that the bolstering up by subsidy is patently wrong therefore and wasteful; or is it that a little reorganisation of the mining industry, such as may be recommended by the Royal Commission, will set it on its legs again, and that the present wild talk of revolution will die a natural death? One thing at any rate is obvious: the present industrial crisis has nothing in the world to do with "Bolshevism," but would have come about had Russia never existed.

Mr. Baldwin has said that the community will always resist the encroachment by a minority upon its privileges, but the whole lesson of the past few weeks, and, generally, of the past few centuries, hardly confirms this. It is a commonplace, in fact, that all great improvements have been the work of a determined minority; and, one might add, all great disasters.

The Bank Rate.

With startling suddenness, like a swift storm on a summer's day, the Bank of England last week announced a change in the bank rate to four and a half per cent. It seems to have caught everyone by surprise; many of those to whom it was most important were, indeed, away on holiday. So very rarely does anything sensational happen financially so soon after a Bank Holiday. The explanation of it must, one supposes, be political; but the relation between low politics and high finance is not one on which I am competent to speak.

Colonel Freyberg.

To have dropped by France into the Channel without any public knowledge of the event, to have come out of it a quarter of a mile from the English coast, and merely to have said that he would be having another shot some other time, is so characteristic of one of our finest soldiers in the War, Colonel Freyberg, that a whole volume or epic could fitly be written on the occasion. Everyone felt really grieved that the Channel just beat him, as it had a few hours before beaten a plucky Frenchwoman, Mlle. Sion. But if ever two swimmers deserved success, these two did. Even in the days of submarines and aviation, elemental feats like this stir the bones.

Barracking at Cricket.

Everyone knows how much barracking at cricket matches has increased since the War; it has even spread outside the County matches where before the War it was comparatively a rare sound. At Old Trafford, however, the Lancastrians recently behaved in such a way as to cause Mr. Jack Sharp, the skipper of Lancashire, to refuse any more to play there. This seems to be an extraordinary course to take, in however good a cause it be, for people who reek of ignorance and bad manners do not often mend their ways with the withdrawal of any particular object of their boorish behaviour. One sympathises deeply with the Lancashire side in the circumstances, but, without going to the extent of saying that every team gets the crowd it deserves, it might yet be the best policy to stand up to these ineffable "fans," and let the "dholes" kill the "wolves."

"Straphanging."

We are all, to change the words of Robert Lowe, straphangers now; so that the indignation against a Government Department's ban upon straphanging in 'buses except during "rush-hours" was universal. The gentle souls who are in Whitehall appear to have been told by somebody that the rush-hour is over by 8.30 a.m., and by 6.30 p.m., but it is the fondest of mistakes to imagine that themselves are the only ones who do no work. At a guess, one would say that the "rush-hours" of London are certainly not over until 9.30 a.m., and 7 p.m. But nothing that Whitehall can do in this matter will solve the traffic problem. Admittedly it does make it a little worse to act upon wrong information in regard to rush-hours, but the 'buses get along a street like the Strand so slowly now that an extra half-hour is scarcely noticeable.

Holiday Books.

No reviewer, be he the acutest judge alive, can even approximately gauge the popularity of books. Look at the list of the season's "best sellers," for instance; how many of them would you have guessed could attain this

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rank? Michael Arlen's "May Fair," John Buchan's "John MacNab," Margaret Kennedy's "Constant Nymph," Galsworthy's "Caravan"—these might indeed have been expected; but who would have thought of such works as Thomas's "Lawrence in Arabia," Geoffrey Scott's "Zélide," "Monday Morning," by Patrick Hamilton?

And which of these, do you think, will be read in a dozen years' time? Two, I should say, at the outside.

Disease and Power.

Everyone is now familiar with the theory that malaria was responsible for the fall of Greece, and possibly, of Rome too; Sir Arthur Shipley, I believe has suggested that this same disease is functioning to the same end in Russia. But never, until last week, have I seen it suggested that the Welsh capitulated to the English only because the troops of the West were so undermined with the toxin of tuberculosis. A discussion was proceeding at Bangor upon the prevalence of this disease in Wales, when this explanation was suggested for the downfall of Wales and also for the mournfulness—"those haunting minor cadences so characteristic"—of the Celtic music and poetry.

It is a rather fascinating speculation, although patently it can never be finally disproved. But it would, one thinks, be much easier to prove in the literary and artistic sphere than in the martial world. One did not, in the War, notice anything particularly consumptive about the troops, for example, of the 38th Division. The *Manchester Guardian*, on the other hand, looks at the suggestion from the opposite side, for it says: "Tuberculosis may have had some unascertainable share in the field of Shrewsbury: it would be nonsense to proclaim that it was an essential constituent of an eisteddfod." Upon which it seems necessary only to remark that Literature and Music were what was under discussion—not what is heard at an eisteddfod.

Sea-Side Monsters.

Whether it is merely a sign of post-War sensationalism, or whether it does really signify that our times are out of joint, I do not know, but the number of stories connected with the appearance of sharks and whales and sting-ray off the shores of these islands has been astonishing. The curious part about these stories, too, is that so many people believe them. One sporting buffoon at Eastbourne has only to cry "'Ware Sharks," and the whole company of bathers dashes into the shore—thence in shivering terror to watch a school of porpoises go by. In the Channel Islands, again, somebody is stated to have been killed, in a marine lake, by a sting-ray—a thing which neither stings, nor exists at all north of the Line. (This, of course, may have been an electric ray—a very rare visitor). And finally, we read of the appearance off Bergen of sperm-whales, which have apparently so entered into the spirit of our topsyturvey times as to stray all those miles from their equatorial home. But even if there were really whales, the report of sharks off Britain such as those one sees off Suez is too much. Sharks do, of course, exist in our waters, but like the baby, they are of the type "only a very little one."

Afforestation.

Although the revival of agricultural in this country was in the years of the War a slogan in which everybody was ready to indulge, disappointment among the rural communities of England has subsequently been general. In one respect, however, our much-abused Governments have done something, and that is in the matter of afforestation. In Thetford Forest, East Anglia, for example, the Forestry Commissioners have acquired 20,000 acres, and have already planted 4,000 of these with trees. This land, as anyone will easily remember who visited it before the end of the War, was formerly derelict, the playground merely of hares and rabbits; but decay with surprising rapidity has been arrested, and there is a real revival of rural life. The excellent plan has been laid down of making one small holding for every 200 acres of forest—which enables 100 workers to have about 20 acres each. These men, in addition to their forestry work (150 day's work in the forest are required of them—mostly piecework), engage themselves in light farming. This scheme of the Forestry Commission is a most worthy enterprise, aiming at and obtaining a real return of rural life where formerly there was nothing.

British Films.

Everyone knows who they are who are the controllers of the film industry: they are commonly called "American." Films from the "States" flood our cinema palaces, and nobody, except a few patriotic cinematographers, appears to mind. That, at any rate, would appear to be the inference from the history of wholly British films in this country—films with British actors and actresses and British scenery have a certain, but by no means an assured success.

But if the trade is ever to be taken out of the hands of the "Americans," an appeal must be made on artistic as well as on patriotic grounds. Yet it seems that a deputation which awaited recently on the President of the Board of Trade emphasised the patriotic side—a very optimistic policy.

Now I am no frequenter of the cinema "palace," but recently I went to a film, called "Four Men in a Van," to which the United Films Ltd., sent invitations, pointing out that it was a purely English production. As photography it was good enough, but it was too naif, too prolix and too pointless to attain to any dramatic values. If this were a specimen of British cinematography, it would hardly be unfair to say that if American films are painfully, ridiculously sensational, British films are painlessly dull. This film abounded in negative virtues, but surely we do not want to see merely what is not American?

The Promenade Concerts.

On Saturday was begun the thirty-first season of "Promenade" concerts under Sir Henry Wood at Queen's Hall. This institution with a certain section of the British public has been threatened with extinction every year since the War, but the combination of Sir Henry Wood and Mr. Robert Newman seems too much for the malevolence of any anti-musical financial sprite.

There are to be some changes in the nature of the programmes. First, on the plan of Wagner for Mondays and Beethoven for Fridays, every other Wednesday is to be devoted to Bach and Handel. Next, a return is being made to the works of more moment—works which were temporarily slighted on account of the post-War passion for novelties and brevities. Then the English Singers are to perform every Thursday in September and October—this will give a not too learned public a splendid chance to understand the wealth of music in our madrigals. And last of all—the only retrograde step as far as one can see—the organ is being restored, and there will be organ solos every Saturday night. If there is one thing more than another which characterises the unmusicality of the Englishman it is his passion for the sound of so mechanical an instrument as the organ outside a church.

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THE SUMMER SEASON IN ALPINE YUGOSLAVIA.

Yugoslavia's portion in the Central European Alpine region is not large, but it is beautiful and varied in scenery. It extends from the watershed of the Julian Alps to that of the Karavanke, and includes the picturesque Kamnik Alps on the borders of Carniola and Styria. Of the many delightful summer resorts scattered up and down the Yugoslav Alpine valleys, Bled, formerly known by its German name of Veldes am See, is undoubtedly the best-known and the most frequented. Here is the summer residence of the King and Queen of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, a handsome villa overlooking the quiet waters of a small, but surprisingly deep, lake. Always a favourite summer haunt for those who happened to know of it, Bled was almost deserted for a few seasons after the disintegration of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire. Now the annual royal visit is attracting a new public and fresh interest to the pretty colony of villas, hotels, Kurhaus, bands, and all the rest of it, beside the beautiful lake. The chief amusements of the summer visitors are swimming, basking in the sun, and tennis. There are long forest rambles and easy mountain excursions within easy reach; but as a rule the holiday-maker at Bled falls under the spell of the dark green eye of the lake. His most strenuous undertaking is generally to row (or be rowed!) to the conical island near one end of the water, and there to walk up to the quaint white-washed church with the characteristic Slovene tower and to ring the wishing-bell there before coming down again to his boat by an ancient and weather-worn flight of ninety-seven steps (there were originally a hundred, only the lake has nibbled away three), which pious pilgrims of old were permitted to ascend and descend only on their knees. Lovers of quiet are nowadays inclined to prefer Lake Bohinj, at the foot of the Triglav, to the more fashionable Bled. The situation is more remote, the lake larger and more impressive with its background of seemingly impassable cliffs. In some ways Bohinj is oddly reminiscent of parts of the West Coast of Scotland. Hotels are good and not expensive, and there are lovely walks, even for those who are not enterprising enough to attack Triglav himself from that base. But besides these well-known spots there are very many others—delightful old-world little towns and villages where a week or two may very pleasantly be spent. There is Kranj, the former "capital of the hill country"—a notable fortified town in the Middle Ages, past which the Turks could not penetrate when they swept northward on their frequent raids. The old walls and bastions are still fairly intact, and still look impressive to the visitor coming up from Liubliana plain and getting his first view of Kranj perched upon a precipitous rocky escarpment in the angle between wooded uplands along the banks of the Kamnik (called Stein in German), a little town tucked away between wooded upands along the banks of the Kamnik Bistritza, which means Clearstream—and never was river more aptly named. This year the swimming bath and other amenities necessary to a health resort, which had long been out of repair, have been put in order and thrown open to the public again and, best of all, Kamnik is the convenient starting-point for all expeditions into the Kamnik Alps, some four miles away. The still extensive forests near the town and on the lower slopes of the mountains were at one time the haunt and refuge of bands of robbers, called *Rokovniatsi*, who seem to have played in Slovenia very much the same part that Robin Hood and his Merry Men played in Sherwood Forest in their day. The *Rokovniatsi* were a power in the land from the days of the French Revolution until the late twenties of last century; many are the romantic tales told about them, and their hiding-places are still pointed out to the newcomer.

Many more attractive and little-known summer haunts occur to me as a write—Radovljice under the Karavanke, with its Renaissance château and pretty Gothic church; Trzitch, centre of the Slovene cotton industry, but beautifully situated, and now known all over Slovenia as the spot where a British soldier* wished to be given a last resting-place, after spending many happy summer weeks there; Moistrana, at the foot of three favourite Triglav approaches, the most beautiful of which is the Vrata, or Valley of the "Gate," at the head of which rises, grand and forbidding, the famous North Wall of Triglav; Kraniska Gora, the ski-runners' capital in winter, and in summer no less popular with mountaineers; and dear little Ratetse, its rival, just outside the Planitza Valley, which is veritable enchanted ground for lovers of flowers,

Martuliek near Kraniska Gora. Julian Alps.

a fairy glen guarded and blocked by the pinnacles of the Yalovets and his court of precipitous crags. This does not exhaust the list; but it indicates some pleasant headquarters, where the visitor may moreover be assured of finding decent, though simple, hotel accommodation, or, failing that, clean farmhouse lodgings.

Liubliana itself, although capital of Slovenia, and "third capital" of the Kingdom, is not oppressively big for a summer habitation, nor too hot (it lies a good thousand feet above sea-level), nor altogether without resources. Hotels are good, there are open-air restaurants and cafés with the indispensable bands; there is fair swimmers in the rivers Save and Liublianitza, and there is tennis. Among its summer attractions may be numbered the annual Samples Fair, at which, incidentally, the Near East comes for a friendly invasion to this otherwise very western little town. At ordinary times, all trace of the Balkan aspect of Yugoslavia is confined to the Franciscan Bridge over the Liublianitza, where the Bosnian carpet merchants display their wares from Sarajevo or Persia, look emphatically Turkish under their fez or turban, and speak the soft, persuasive Serbian of the south.

Last year the Samples Fair was for the first time made the occasion for several other events run more or less in connection with it. There was a horse show—the first since the constitution of the Kingdom—the main object of which was to recall the fact that Slovenia had long been famous as a horse-breeding region, both for draught and saddle horses. An Arab strain is very obvious in all the local types, and they do not conform to the English ideal as regards the appearance of a horse. They are small

* Colonel Blair, late Military Attaché in Belgrade.

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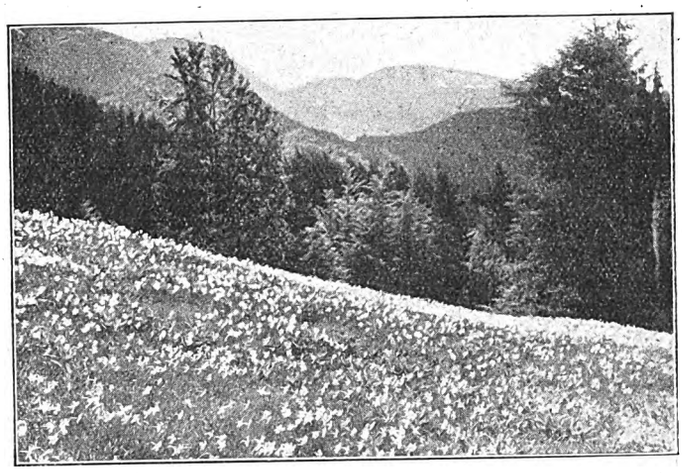
in the head and inclined to be pot-bellied. But they suit conditions in this part of Europe, and form an important item in Slovenia's export trade. With well-justified ambition, the Yugoslav Automobile Club also organised the first international hill-climbing race in Yugoslavia for motor cars and motor-cycles, which took place on August 24, 1924. Some twenty minutes by car from Liubliana lies the small town of Vrhnika, whence the high road rises from the Liubliana Plain to the frontier passes by a series of well-engineered zigzags extending over a distance of six kilometres. It is an ideal course for a hill-climbing race, not inferior to the famous course on the Semmering, and was therefore chosen for the event. A large number of cars entered for the race; the weather was—for a wonder, last year!—propitious; the speeds attained were good. Finally, the victories of M. Yurca (a Slovene from Postumia) in his Ford racing car, and of M. Rado Hribar (Liubliana) on his "Indian" motor-cycle and sidecar, gave general satisfaction. On all grounds, it was decided to make the race an annual institution, so that it will be a pleasant and interesting event to look forward to each summer. Another very interesting novelty in connection with last year's Samples Fair was the Hunters' Pavilion, where visitors to the Fair had an opportunity of finding out all there is to know about hunting possibilities and game in Slovenia. This year that part of the Fair will be enlarged to a Sports Exhibition which cannot fail to prove interesting. Slovenia is still comparatively unknown and hence unspoilt. Mountaineering is within reach, pecuniarily and otherwise, of everybody who cares to enjoy it. Ski-ing, which was introduced shortly before the War (the credit for its introduction is generally ascribed to M. R. Badiura, author of the standard guide-book to the Slovene Alps and a text-book on ski-ing), has developed greatly during the last few seasons and has many enthusiastic devotees. To make the Sports Exhibition really useful and complete, the co-operation of the various touring, sports, and athletic clubs in Liubliana (and there are plenty of them—all very energetic, for the Slovene is a born athelete) has been sought and obtained. One of its features will be a large number of beautiful photographs of Slovene Alpine scenery.

This year the Liubliana Samples Fair will be held from August 28 to September 4.

But when all Liubliana's resources have been enumerated, its chief advantage remains that it is the best centre for excursions into the whole of Slovenia—Lower Carniola and Styria no less than the more romantic Upper Carniola, the Slovenes' beloved *Gorensko*, and a convenient base of supplies as well.

Last year mountaineering, which one is apt to come back to as the main absorbing sporting interest in the country, was something at a discount owing to the weather, which was broken and treacherous. Yet those who had the courage to risk thunderstorms and snow were rewarded with exceptionally clear views and lovely light effects. (I certainly enjoyed some exceptionally fine trips in spite of the bad season). Inclement weather was responsible for one of the saddest fatal accidents that have been recorded of recent years on Triglav. It occurred at the very end of August. Two students, Vladimir Topolovets and Lojze de Reggi, both good climbers, set out from Vrata to make the ascent of Triglav by a certain route, known as dangerous, over the North Wall. Near the summit they were overtaken by snow; the young men became numbed with cold, and Topolovets slipped and fell. A thousand metres or so further down his body came to rest in a deep niche in the face of the cliff. For several days a party of picked cragsmen made every attempt to recover Topolovets' remains, but in vain. Finally, on Sunday, August 31, 1924, the funeral service was solemnly read at the foot of the Wall itself, so that he might rest in a consecrated spot, though far from the little churchyard in Moistrana, where, by old custom, those are buried who perish on Triglav. "With his life he paid for his love of the mountains" as you may read on a certain memorial tablet in the Kamnik Alps, the epitaph composed by one mountain lover for another, his friend. . . .

This season began with an abnormally long spring, which in the valleys blossomed straight out of autumn, without any intervening winter to speak of. Primroses, snowdrops and Christmas roses were with us for months, together with the delicate spring heath. Next followed crocus, white and blue, in unusual profusion. Then come the Whitsun glories: Golitza in the Karavanke decks herself in a lace veil of wild narcissus till the air of her forests is heavy with scent. Orchids, yellow globe-flower and the early blue columbine succeed the cowslips and oxslips in the meadows, to mention none but the most striking among so many lovely flowers. By the beginning of June the gentians have returned to amaze us afresh with their revelation of blue, and already a few blooms of wild rhododendron have appeared. Summer has come in warm and fair and we hope for a good season. The ski-runners had one last glorious outing on the Triglav massif at Whitsun, while ordinary excursionists basked and raided flowers (something will have to be done, by the way, to keep that habit in bounds!) on the lower heights, where most of the Alpine huts are thrown open to the public for the first time on that day.



Narcissus on Golitza (Whit Sunday 1925.)

Of all mountaineering expeditions in the Julian Alps, none is so fascinating or so popular as an ascent of the Triglav, the ancient holy mountain of the Slovenes. There are many ways of going up, and the climb is very attractive, apart from the halo of tradition and the fact that this summit is the highest in the Julian Alps and in all Yugoslavia. Supreme in its setting of a massif of lesser peaks, the crest of Triglav rises from a vast stony pedestal in the folds of which lies eternal snow. South and east the descent is gradual, from snowfield and moraine to stunted pine and mountain pasture, and thence downward, through dense and denser forest, or over a precipitous pass beside the source of the Savitza (one of the parent streams of the Save), where it gushes forth in a great cataract from an angle in a rock, down the shores of Lake Bohinj. But north and west Triglav rises abruptly from his base in the valleys of Vrata and Trenta. Indeed, the northern face is almost one single sheer precipice, from the summit to the Vrata Valley below. It is from there that the ascent is usually made, of course by one of the well known paths which skirt the crag, and not by the latter, which is that redoubtable North Wall which has already claimed many gallant victims.

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guide-book as consultant authority, matters are made easy in this country for the ordinary tourist and mountain lover. The credit for the upkeep of paths and huts belongs to the Slovensko Planinstvo Drushtvo (Slovene Alpine Society). It is one of the boasts of that body (briefly called the S.P.D.) that there has not been one accident on any of its regular paths up the Triglav since their construction, not even on the steep and narrow ridge of the final crest, which the early pioneers had to take astride. Members of the S.P.D. are entitled to certain reductions at the Society's huts and hotels, and any one desirous of visiting the Slovene mountains would find it worth while to join the S.P.D. even for the sake of a short time and a few trips, especially so, as the subscription is almost nominal, and the Society practically a national institution of the greatest usefulness.

For "serious" mountaineers the question of guides is still delightfully vague, informal, and (incidentally) inexpensive. There are professional guides, but they do not seem to be employed often or otherwise than as carriers. The hunting fraternity is wise regarding obscure and often dangerous tracks which lead to the haunts of blackgame and chamois; and when the Slovene hunter sports the tail feather of capercailzie or blackcock, or the brush of the chamois (what is its technical name, by the way? But it *is* a brush, all the same) in his hat, he proves himself thereby not only a good shot, but a bold cragsman. In the words of the blackcock, as set down for him by a typical hunter:—

"He that would despoil me
Must be fain to dare:
For my curly feather
Is no coward's wear."

Therefore, if you can secure the guidance of a hunter you may be sure of seeing much that is beautiful and interesting and not to be seen close to the little bull's eye in the red circle that is the ordinary tourist's lode-star in the wilderness of forest or cliff. Here and there a herd-boy is the accredited guide for some particular peak. But if, in the ordinary way, a new-comer to this country wishes to see anything off the beaten track, by far the best thing, and the easiest, for him to do is to get into touch with the native mountaineering set, where he will find many climbers, who, though technically amateurs, are competent guides and very pleasant companions as well. The climbers' club *par excellence*, in Slovenia is the Touring Club *Skala*, whose members are bound by the nature of their club to undertake various duties and responsibilitities for the promotion and encouragement of good mountaineering in these parts. For one thing, the *Skala* alone has a Relief Section, which, in the case of an Alpine accident plays a part analogous to that of a volunteer life-boat crew, and the annual work of renewing the marks on the paths and reporting upon eventual damage by weather or avalanche usually devolves upon some of its members.

I have been assured by the President of the Skala, Professor Yanko Ravnik, an accomplished pianist by profession, when he is not mountaineering on foot or on skis, or taking beautiful photographs of the country he knows and loves so well, that members of the Club would also be prepared, within reason, of course, to act as guides to visitors who desire to see something of the more inaccessible beauties of the Slovene Alps. As a matter of fact, there are a good many marked routes even, on which a stranger would be all the better off for the company of an experienced native. Parts of the path may happen to be hidden by snow; there is always the risk of sudden fog, and in both cases safety lies solely in intimate knowledge of the ground. Besides, your native mountaineer knows of many little shelters not included in the S.P.D.'s list of "houses," diminutive shepherd's and woodmen's cots where a storm-stayed or benighted party may spend the time far more comfortably than appearances would lead one to think. I know by experience!

Finally, English-speaking prospective visitors to Slovenia are welcome to apply for information to the Yugoslav Society for the Study of English. Letters (which may be written in English) should be addressed to either of the Secretaries, Mrs. F. Copeland, Gosposvetska cesta, 5, Liubliana, Yugoslavia, or G. Zdenko Suhvigelj, Dalmatinova ulica, 11, Liubliana, Yugoslavia. F. S. C.

BOOK REVIEWS.

ANCIENT EGYPT.

"A HISTORY OF THE PHARAOHS," By Arthur Weigall. Vol. I. The first 11 Dynasties (London: Thornton Butterworth. 21s. net.)

Mr. Weigall has done much in the way of popularising the history of ancient Egypt. He now feels that he can go further in this direction than he has so far ventured. He has convinced himself that he can write a history of the ancient Pharaohs which will be useful alike to student and to layman. We wish that we could share his conviction. Our own view is definitely that the whole subject is still so full of unsolved problems, contentious matter, dark places and difficulties of all kinds that the treatment which is to be useful to the student struggling to blaze a path here and there through the apparently impenetrable tangle can be of little value to the layman and vice versa. It is, of course, possible to write a scholarly popular history of ancient Egypt or indeed of any other country, based strictly on material available, and this, we take it, is really what Mr. Weigall has aimed at. The difficulty lies in presenting a narrative likely to hold an ordinary reader when the material available is small and difficult to arrange.

The great stumbling block to the historian of ancient Egypt has been the uncertainty of the chronology of the early Pharaohs. We all know what enormously varied opinions have been held by the most eminent Egyptologists of this all-important question, and it is clear that the historical conclusions arrived at by them must necessarily be seriously affected by these varying views. In other words we cannot hope for a dependable outline even of early Egyptian history till the question of chronology is cleared. Now, this is what Mr. Weigall claims to have done. It is not possible in the space available here to do full justice to his theory. He believes, however, that the fragments of ancient annals known to us in the broken pieces of inscriptions on stones preserved in Palermo and Cairo are portions of complete annals inscribed by order of the Pharaoh Tatcheres (B.C. 2645-2618) of the fifth dynasty and that they are based on trustworthy information then available. He claims to have discovered the system used in the inscription and to be able with the help of Manetho, the Abydos and Sakkara "lists," the Turin papyrus and the numerous inscriptions found in the course of excavations to reconstruct them almost in their entirety. His claim, if it can survive the criticism of fellow scholars which is bound to follow, is quite clearly an important one. Whether it is justified or not, his working out of the problem is interesting, and there seems to be little doubt that he has been able to fit many of the pieces of the jig-saw puzzlet into his scheme. We wish that he had seen his way to being a little less confident that he must be right and that most other authorities must be wrong, and, incidentally, it must have been painful to him to acknowledge that his own previously expressed ideas of early Egyptian chronology have now been proved by himself to have been wrong.

As we said above, we wish that we could agree that the edifice founded on his solution of the chronological problem is one which the student and layman can equally use with profit. As regards the student, we cannt but feel that the combination of what we can only call "cock-sureness" with statements that are (and often, to do the author justice, are acknowledged to be) pure guess-work must necessarily be repellent. Too much has been sacrificed to make the book "readable" by the layman, and many of the picturesque touches appear to us to have but little evidence behind them. At the same time we must confess that we look forward with some pleasure to the succeeding volume of this work which is marked by enthusiasm and much scholarship. The photographs included are good and add to the interest of the book. C. S.-W.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Great Pacific War." By Hector C. Bywater. (London: Constable and Co. 10s. 6d. net.)

"A Nation in Making: Being the Reminiscences of Fifty Years of Public Life in Bengal." By Surendranath Banerjea. (London: Humphrey Milford. 16s. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL

TO-DAY

August 13, 1925 (New Style).
July. 31, 1925 (Old Style).
Muharram 23, 1344 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Ab 23, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir Adam Block is staying at the Hotel Crillon, Paris.

The Bulgarian Minister has returned to town from Sheringham, Norfolk.

Viscount and Viscountess Willingdon will leave 5, Lygon Place to-morrow for Scotland.

The Queen of Roumania, with Princess Ileana, was due to leave England on August 12.

Sir Willoughby Carey left London last week, and is travelling by the Mooltan for Bombay.

The Hon. Sir Ronald Lindsay, the British Ambassador to Turkey, has left London for Constantinople.

The Crown Princess of Roumania and her sister, Princess Irène of Greece, left London on Sunday for Bucharest.

Colonel Ion Antonesco, Military Attaché at the Roumanian Legation, has returned to London after attending the Belgian Army manœuvres.

Sir Ronald Storrs, the Military Governor of Jerusalem, has returned there. The Orthodox Patriarch Damianos has also returned there from London.

Sir Milne Cheetham, British Minister at Athens, and Lady Cheetham, who have been staying at Claridge's Hotel, have left town for Redcar.

Miss Muriel de Wend will sail for India on September 25, and her marriage to Mr. Geoffrey Hunt is arranged to take place at Bombay Cathedral on her arrival.

King Faisal is due to reach Marseilles on August 16. It is his intention, first, to proceed to some health resort on the Continent, and, after undergoing a cure, to come to London privately.

Dr. George Djouritch, the newly-appointed Minister for the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, is staying at the Hyde Park Hotel while the Legation is undergoing repairs.

The wedding of the Rev. Cecil John Grimes, Chaplain, Indian Ecclesiastical Establishment, Bengal, and Miss Caroline Blanche Bowen, third daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Bowen, of Llyngwair, Pembrokeshire, is arranged to take place at Nevern Church on September 10.

Sir Geoffrey de Montmorency, Private Secretary to the Viceroy of India, has passed successfully through his recent operation for appendicitis, and is progressing favourably. Sir Geoffrey, who is now staying at Kingsgate, will resume his duties as Private Secretary next October.

Mr. C. Van H. Engert, who served for a number of years at the American Embassy in Constantinople and who was in charge of the Legation at Teheran in the year 1921-1922, has since last March been in charge of the Legation of the United States of American at San Salvador, Republic of El Salvador.

The marriage arranged between Captain John Sydney Lethbridge, M.C., R.E., eldest son of Lieut.-Colonel S. Lethbridge, O.B.E., late R.A., and Mrs. Lethbridge, and Katharine Greville, second daughter of Sir John Mavnard, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., and Lady Maynard, of Townsend, Simla, and late Bovey Tracey, Devon, will take place on August 15 at Simla.

The engagement is announced between Captain Charles Harold Law, K.G.O. Light Cavalry, only son of L. O. Law, Kassauli, and Viola, only daughter of the late Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. Walthew, M.C., and stepdaughter of Douglas S. Hadow, Inspector-General of Police, Srinagar, Kashmir, India.

The marriage arranged between Conrad Powell Johnstone, of Calcutta, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Yuile Johnstone, Cotton House, Westgate-on-Sea, and Miss Kitty Read Birchall, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Birchall, Inveresk, Wallasey, Cheshire, wil take place at St. James's Church, New Brighton, on September 2.

Among the passengers on the Trieste Lloyd liner Cracovia, due to arrive at Venice from Bombay on August 16, are the following: The Hon. Chief Justice Sir Grimwood Meare; Lt.-General Sir H. and Lady Walker; Major-General Sir A. Le.G. Jacob; the Hon. Mr. E. L. L. Hammond, C.S.I.; the Hon. Mr. Justice P. K. Sen; and the Hon. Mr. Justice Lindsay.

The King has given the following officials of the Sudan Government authority to wear decorations of the Order of the Nile conferred on them by the King of Egypt in recognition of valuable services:—Insignia of the Third Class.—Mr. Harold Alfred MacMichael, Assistant Civil Secretary; Mr. Charles Armine Willis, Director of Intelligence; Major Percy Calvert Lord, late Royal Engineers, Chief Engineer, Railways and Steamers; Mr. Arthur Claude Parker, Assistant General Manager, Railways and Steamers; and Mr. George Ronald Storrar, Assistant Chief Engineer, Railways and Steamers.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

A message from Jeddah states that the Wahabis are encamping eight miles from the town.

Severe earthquakes are reported to have occurred last Thursday and Friday morning in the vilayet of Smyrna. The loss of life is believed to be small, but many persons were injured.

The Air Ministry announces that as a result of an accident at Hinaidi, Iraq, to a D.H.9a of No. 55 Squadron on Wednesday, No. 355635 Sergeant John Reginald Gage, the pilot of the aircraft, and No. 353435 Leading Aircraftsman Francis Young were killed.

The Queen has sent a donation to Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association, to be placed to the credit of the Endowment Fund now being established to provide for the sea voyages of English trained nurses and midwives for the sick and suffering Europeans in India.

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Indian Affairs.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, July 23.

The New Mayor.

The election of Mr. J. M. Sen Gupta as Mayor on Friday last was a farce, and it could hardly have been otherwise. Those who attempted to suggest alternatives were shouted down and the galleries joined in the chorus! While the Deputy Mayor, a Swarajist, smilingly accepted these displays of enthusiasm to the cause, he refused to allow those who opposed Mr. Sen Gupta to give reasons for their proposals. Points of order were raised at each stage of the proceedings and a strong protest was entered against the illegality of the election of Mr. Sen Gupta as an alderman. The minority did their best to secure a ballot, but their motion was defeated, and the election was decided by a show of hands. In his acknowledgement Mr. Sen Gupta, who was accompanied by his English wife wearing a *saree* of *khadder* for the occasion, appealed to his supporters not to overwhelm him by coupling his name with that of the departed leader. He ended his speech by declaring that politics would find no place in the Council Chamber, but *Forward*, the extremist organ, takes all the virtue out of this pious aspiration, even if it was sincerely made, when it says that man is a political animal who cannot be expected to shake off politics when sitting in the Mayoral Chair. Most of the Moderate organs blame Gandhi for engineering the nomination and election of Sen Gupta, but it is suggested in well-informed circles that the latter had made it perfectly clear that he would not accept the leadership of the Swaraj Party unless he were also given the honours of the late Mr. C. R. Das. This may well be true, but clothes do not make the man, nor do "triple crowns" make thrice competent leaders. The election was a farce; the Mayoralty has become a farce; the Swarajists on the Corporation have shown their complete unfitness to be entrusted with any responsibility that involves the capacity to think independently.

The Policy of Swaraj.

The general reorganisation of the affairs of the Swaraj Party, which has become necessary since the commanding personality and ingenious brain of Mr. Das were removed from their counsels, is not marked by any change of policy. It may be that it is desired to pay a further tribute to the memory of Mr. Das by adhering to the sentiments expressed in his speech at Faridpur, but one thing is certain, there is now no inclination to follow a rational course. Lord Birkenhead's suggestion that the Reforms, imperfect as he admits them to be, should be given a trial, is met by a confirmation of the policy of obstruction. It is true the Swarajists express their willingness to reconsider the question of policy if the statement of the Government of India is found "at all adequate to meet the requirements of the situation," whatever this may mean, but they do not pretend to make any constructive suggestion. Lucidity of thought has never been conspicuous in Swaraj councils and at present it is very clear that the party is at a loss for a policy; they find it impossible to meet the new situation by anything more than a party cry which they have learnt parrot-fashion, and the removal of the master mind leaves them aimlessly repeating his earlier, and wilder teachings. It is refreshing to read in the *Bengalee*, "We have had enough of obstruction. We have found it futile and mischievous. . . and as such, we trust that it will be repudiated by the better mind of our people." The Birkenhead speech has cleared the air more than a little; the extremist denies the right of the Home Parliament to design any constitution for India, or to have any part in its government; he refuses to make any suggestions or to co-operate with other Indians in considering any schemes as to how it should be governed. In short he is a true anarchist, whose chief driving force is hysteria.

Tariffs Again.

After some astute questioning of the representative of Tata's the impression given by the opening of his verbal evidence before the Tariff Board was very much altered; it transpires that the three principal companies who are concerned in the manufacture of pig-iron have a selling agreement that covers the whole of India and they are in negotiation for a similar agreement in regard to export prices. It would be interesting to know whether the evidence given before the Board asking for a bounty to pig-iron manufacturers or a restriction upon Tata's output was either a move in the negotiations or part of a concerted attempt to obtain the bounty. Further light is shed upon the working of the tariff and the present bounty scheme by the evidence offered on behalf of the iron-merchants of Bombay; they wish all the duties to be abolished and bounties substituted and they point out that, whereas the Customs returns show realisations of duties amounting to over 2¼ crores of rupees, only 65¼ Lakhs has been paid in bounties. The tariff has risen from 1 per cent. before the War to 30 to 40 per cent to-day and, although the greater part of this falls on the consumers, nothing has been heard in the new council on their behalf; so much for the claims of the Swarajists that they represent "the people" The cry for tariffs in India has been raised from the beginning by indigenous concerns and the Bombay extremist has been their most consistent supporter. The Bombay merchant now states that "instead of the general tax-payer it is the steel consumer who now bore the burden." The Swarajists would appear to have been led into co-operation; Tata's and their shareholders will benefit largely and so will Government; but the masses will pay, and they have no spokesman.

Markets.

There is no sign of any change in the piece-goods outlook. Jute remains firm and in fact looks like continuing so until July shipments are all covered. Reports from up-country indicate the possibility of further rises. The optimism displayed all round the gunny market at the close of last week shows signs of abating, but rates have been maintained with little business passing, although the outlook has brightened this afternoon. The situation has been reflected in the share market where the business doing has been quiet with a falling off in jute shares, especially amongst the more speculative groups; for rubbers there has been considerably less enquiry. Teas have been neglected, but coal and cotton shares are reported as a slightly steadier market. Tea sales, while satisfactory, were without particular features with the best market for teas of good quality. The improvement in London selling figures should tend to stiffen prices here next week. Money for one or two months is abundant and can be had at 1 to 1¼ per cent., but long term borrowers are unable to find accommodation. The trade returns for June show an increase in exports and a decease in imports over the preceding month, with a net increase in favour of exports over imports of Rs. 313 lakhs. The exchange rate, after being easier at the end of last week, closed steady.

BOMBAY LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bombay, July 24.

The Cotton Industry.

Although the millowners have considerably reduced the cut in wages that was suggested originally, the prospects of a strike in September seem to be growing. Such argument as is going on appears to be a rather philosophical discussion of the cost of living and the extent to which wages can be reduced to give the labourer a fair living wage; but the labour leaders complain that one of the causes that is crippling the industry is indifferent and expensive management, and there may be a good deal of recrimination on this subject before things come to a head.

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It is to be hoped that recrimination will be avoided on both sides; for we may assume that both labour and management are doing their utmost and that they must try to unite to arrive at the best course in the present situation. As the managing agencies of the Bombay mills are in the hands of Europeans, Hindus, Mahommedans and Parsees in as nearly as possible equal proportions, there is no question of racial animosity in the matter; but the system has been attacked on the ground that there is no exact parallel to it in Europe and that, whether it leads to good or bad management, it is on the face of it an expensive first charge on the profits.

The Managing Agency System.

The system is, that all Indian industrial concerns are floated by the agency of one or other of the big firms, either European or Indian who, in return for their services in the original promotion and ultimate management of the company, receive a fixed remuneration. Up to twenty-five years ago, this remuneration was generally a commission on turnover, but it is now invariably a fixed percentage of profits. In most cases this interest has remained with the original promoters since the inception of the company, but it has occasionally changed hands considering the constant movement of the population of India: and this is not confined to the Englishman's desire for leave home, for very few Indians, from mill manager down to coolie, are prepared to work for three years in Bombay without a considerable spell of absence: there seems to be no other way of securing continuity of efficient management than by placing it in the hands of a firm.

It is true that this brings into the profit and loss account a very considerable item of managing Agent's commission, which is not to be seen in the accounts of an English company; but this item covers a good many of the costs of management which are elsewhere included in general charges: and it is probable that most English flotations include a profit to the promoters in the form of cash, of shares issued in lieu of cash, or of founders' shares, which is at least an equal liability on the general prosperity of the company; while the holders of such benefits are able at their will to sell out of the company and to take no further interest in its welfare. On the whole, considering our climatic conditions. it is doubtful whether any other system is possible, and it is as unfair for labour to base its attack upon it, as it is for the mill owners to attribute their troubles to the inefficiency of Indian labour. While India has a great many advantages, she has the compensating drawbacks of her climate: and, whatever may be the future of India's industries, the backbone of her prosperity must lie in agriculture.

Gandhi's New Campaign.

It is a curious commentary on this that Gandhi has just symbolised his abandonment of industry for agriculture by an effort to substitute the mulberry tree for the spinning wheel, as the emblem of his movement, and has offered to release his followers from their daily trick at the wheel on condition that they will lay the foundations of a great Indian silk industry. It is a pity that Gandhi's well meant efforts to improve the economics of rural India should have taken such a hopeless form as the attempt to compete with the very uninteresting production of the spinning mill. If, instead of yarn, he had used his influence to encourage handlooms, he might have revived a great Indian industry and art, and have seriously helped the lower classes.

Unfortunately, in the impassioned atmosphere of five years ago, what was originally an entirely innocent, if mistaken, attempt to encourage village industries, rapidly acquired a political bias. Someone conceived the idea that the real object of the movement was not to bring a few rupees to the cultivator, but to ruin England by ending India's trade with Manchester. In the long run it may be said that this ridiculous idea has already died out. But, at the time, it was unfortunately taken seriously by the British Press and the British public. Instead of ignoring the political aspect and dealing sympathetically with the scheme on its economic side, they took up the challenge and began a long-drawn and acrimonious argument. The flame, which was not a very powerful one, was fanned by opposition; the wearing of handwoven cloth, or more usually of mill made cloth woven with careful carelessness to imitate the rough output of the handlooms, was accepted as a symbol of the National Party: and it became understood by both sides that the mildest of Hindu clerks could, by appearing in his office in a cap of coarse white cloth cut to a pattern that is only seen in England in the immediate vicinity of Princetown, convey an impression of his reckless passion for Swaraj and, at the same time, of his sense of the inferiority of his employers.

That spirit has not yet died out, but it is dying, and, as it is difficult to see what possible attack on England can be symbolised by the growth of mulberry trees, it is to be hoped that this movement will receive sympathetic encouragement from all parties.

THE COST OF INDIA'S MILITARY DEFENCE.

(By Our Simla Correspondent).

Simla, July 16.

That India is unable to afford as much money every year, for education, communications, irrigation and other objects connected with the progressive development of the country, as her backward state demands is without doubt true. That this shortage of funds for development purposes is in a large measure due to the heavy expenditure on her defence is no less true. But the unreasoning criticisms of the size of the military budget, the oft repeated cry that India pays more per head of her population for her armed forces than any other country in the world, and the claim that British troops are kept in this country for Imperial purposes and not for local defence, cannot be accepted as true statements of fact. No one will deny that the Indian military budget eats up a very considerable proportion of India's revenues, or gainsay the importance of reducing, to the greatest extent compatible with security, the proportion which military expenditure bears to the country's total annual outlay. But a country with a land frontier several thousands of miles in length inhabited by well-armed and warlike tribesmen, to whom Leagues of Nations and Disarmament Conferences mean nothing, must base its measure of defence on the actual strength of its potential enemies and the demands which its forces may be called upon to meet, and not the amount of money left over after projects of development, however desirable in themselves, have been catered for. To cut down the strength of the army below the needs of reasonable safety would mean sacrificing India and the benefits of such development to the risk of invasion. Yet, although those who are responsible for the country's defence stoutly maintain that the army in India has now been reduced to its lowest possible minimum, the politicians, heedless of any dangers, external or internal, continue in season and out to rail at its cost, which they declare is an intolerable and unnecessary burden. This army numbers in all some two hundred thousand men of all arms, of whom one-third are British and two-thirds Indian, a small enough force indeed when it is remembered that India is a vast country, far from united in itself, and that on the north-west frontier alone there are not less than four hunded thousand well-armed tribesmen, who would not be slow to take advantage of any weakness in India's defences. That India pays more per head for her army than any other nation is clearly disproved by a comparison of her military expenditure with that of Japan. In the year 1923 expenditure on defence in Japan approximated to a sum of 20 rupees per head of the population, while in India the cost of defence amounted to not more than 2 rupees per

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head. Last year, after the disastrous earthquake, the Japanese military budget was subjected to drastic reductions, and the corresponding figure for 1924 was only 12 rupees per head; in India, too, it was reduced to 1-12-0 rupees per head. It is difficult to imagine a more conclusive argument than this comparison provides, but it carries little weight in India, owing to the widespread belief that the average wealth of the individual Japanese far exceeds that of the individual Indian. India may be a poor country, but it is incredible that in Japan, where wages are lower and the cost of living higher than in India, there exists an advantage in favour of Japan of more than six to one. Nor must it be forgotten in this connection that, despite her lengthy coastline, the total expenditure incurred by India on naval defence is limited to the contribution of £100,000 which she makes annually to the Admiralty budget. If one compares this paltry sum with the present day cost of a single small war vessel, it is obvious at once how extraordinary lightly she escapes the cost which her thousands of miles of coast would entail, were she responsible for her own naval defence. The fallacy that British troops are kept in India solely as a reserve for Imperial purposes is exposed by the fact already stated, that the army in India is at present only barely sufficient for the defence of the country against its potential enemies. It can be argued, however, that British troops are an expensive luxury, and that the upkeep of a British regiment is several times greater than that of an Indian regiment. This is true; but it is equally true, for example, that the Indian Army, if deprived of its stiffening of British troops, would have to be provided with a much higher proportion of officers holding the King's commission and having the higher training which Sandhurst affords, in place of the present Indian officers, whose only training before getting their commission has been in the ranks.

This alone would go far towards neutralising the difference in cost between a British and an Indian unit. But there is a still more cogent argument at the present time for the retention of British troops in this country. Whenever trouble occurs between Hindus and Moslems—and it is a regrettable fact that instances of such outbreaks on a scale calling for the assistance of the military have been by no means rare of late—there is always an insistent demand from both communities for the presence of British troops to keep the peace; and it is hardly too much to say that the presence of the British garrison in the country is the one factor to-day which stands in the way of widespread anarchy arising out of the various dissensions which by their existence go to prove that India is not yet a nation. Indeed there are few even of the most extreme Home Rulers whose idea of Home Rule for India envisages for some time to come at any rate the removal of the British garrison. Unfortunately, however, ignorance and apathy, where matters of defence are concerned, are so profound that the alternative to further drastic cuts in Indian military expenditure is never thought out to its logical conclusion. Vague talk of a Dominion Army or a National Militia is often heard; but the true inwardness of the responsibilities, which will fall on India when she herself has to bear the burden of her own defence, is realised by but few of her leaders.

CURRENT TOPICS.

India's Low Level of Demand.

An article from the Calcutta correspondent of the *Economist* draws attention to the fact that the low level of demand is the primary obstacle to the industrial development of India. The cotton industry is suffering from over-production, the steel industry is only kept alive by the aid of a high tariff plus a bounty, and the cement factories are, in many cases, compelled to close down for half the year. Until Indian demand in such lines shows a great expansion, industrial development must remain subject to limits so narrow as to debar exploitation of the advantages attached to large-scale production. The main problem is to devise measures to raise the present low standard of agricultural productivity in India and therefore the purchasing power of the great body of consumers. But at present the Agricultural Department is financially starved, in spite of the large sum raised by special taxation of agricultural products, such as the export duty on jute. For instance, though a large producer of sugar, India last year paid fifteen million pounds for sugar imported from abroad. "The neglect of an agricultural industry in favour of urban industries sustainable only by high tariffs offers a typical example of the empirical fiscal policies at present operative in India. If the projected Economic Commission rectifies such anomalies, it will render India an inestimable service by helping to revivify agriculture, thereby giving urban industries a more solid and wider foundation than can ever be obtained from tariffs, however high and however prolonged in their operation."

Indian Markets and British Producers.

The first of a series of articles under the above heading, by Mr. George Pilcher, M.P., appears in the *Financial News* of August 6, and is a most important contribution to the discussion of the questions of which it treats.

The article begins by the statement of a fact that is too little realised—that India is the largest customer for British goods. In 1924 the total value of the exports of the United Kingdom was 935 millions, of which India absorbed nearly a tenth. In 1913 the most important customers of the United Kingdom were India, Germany, Australia and the United States, with 70, 41, 34 and 29 millions respectively: in 1924, India, Australia, the United States, Germany and France, with 90, 61, 53, 43, and 42 millions. Before the War, 62.8 per cent. of India's total imports came from the United Kingdom: in 1924 the percentage was 54.1. But Mr. Pilcher shows that these figures are not as good as they seem: for it is necessary to take into account the decreased purchasing power of sterling and the increase in India's purchasing capacity, both actual and potential. He puts the decrease in the purchasing power of sterling at 60 per cent.: and points out that, while India's actual purchases of foreign goods, measured in rupeees, have increased by 69 per cent. over the pre-War figures, her purchases of goods from the United Kingdom have increased by only 28 per cent.; while the volume of India's export trade has expanded by 78 per cent. in the same period. India's buying capacity and her people's standard of living have been greatly enhanced as an outcome of the War: among large classes, earning capacity has advanced by from 70 to 100 per cent. as against a 40 per cent. rise in the cost of agricultural produce which forms the main item of consumption: and the 40 per cent. rise in the amount received by the agricultural classes for their products is counterbalanced only by the rise in the price of cloth. The effect of that rise is shown by the fact that, in 1923, the United Kingdom exported to India 3,066 million yards of cotton piece-goods: and, in 1924, 1,494 million yards. That India is still taking British goods in large quantities is, Mr. Pilcher believes, because India as yet does not know where else to go or how to go elsewhere. Owing to the high price of British goods she is not purchasing them gladly and with the old confidence, but is everywhere seeking cheaper alternatives. High British prices are providing a perpetual incentive both to the creation of new and stronger trade ties with non-British markets and also to the production in India of goods for which she formerly relied on British producers. At present, India is filling the gap between the value of her imports and exports, the latter of which is rising faster than the former, by greatly increased imports of bullion; but, sooner or later, the gap, or at least a large part of it, will be filled by goods obtained from countries that are prepared to manufacture them at prices to suit Indian pockets. Mr. Pilcher says that the natural advantages in Indian trade are still all in favour of the British exporter, and that the opportunities are even greater now than they were before the War; but the adaptation of British prices to Indian pockets is essential, as well as the restoration to British trade of "its old kinetic energy based on effort and sacrifice." Even under existing conditions, Mr. Pilcher sees great opportunities for creating openings for the British manufacturer, in the development of railways, canals, ports and

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bridges and the improvement of India's present inefficient agricultural methods by the extension of the activities of the co-operative credit societies so as to utilise the peasants' collective credit in the provision of machinery: a subject which he promises to elaborate in a subsequent article.

SURENDRANATH BANERJEA.

It is not so many years ago that Surendranath Banerjea, then hailed as "the uncrowned King of Bengal," was looked upon as a dangerous revolutionary agitator. India has travelled far since then; for, without any serious modification of his political views, he became a pillar of the Moderates, a Bengal Minister under Dyarchy, and a Knight. Of late years I met Sir Surendranath pretty often and found him an interesting and stimulating talker and a most cheery companion. The old gentleman—he was 76 when he died last Thursday—was, in his way, a thorough sportsman: I particularly call to mind an afternoon spent at one of the Simla "country houses" at Mashobra, at which our host produced a gramophone and set it to play "Over There." It was explained that this was an American recruiting song. whereupon Surendranath insisted on having the tune repeated and said, "If I had heard that tune during the War, by Jove! I would have offered myself for enlistment!" It was a great shock to Surendranath when he, a founder of the Indian National Congress and successively holder of such proud and affectionate titles as the Tribune of the People, "Surrender Not," the Uncrowned King, Bengal's Grand Old man, found himself defeated, at the General Election of 1924, by an unknown Swarajist—a similar fate to that which has overtaken every Indian demagogue who has tried to moderate the pace of extremism: the tide swept on and left him submerged. But, though his active political career was closed, Surendranath died in harness: he returned to his old profession of journalism, resuming the editorship of the *Bengalee* which he had first taken up so long ago as 1879, but had resigned in 1921 on appointment as Minister: and it is only a month or two ago that he published his reminiscences, under the rather misleading title of "A Nation in Making"; for the book is, in the main, an essay in self-glorification which even his best friends must have read, not indeed without profit, but not without many a tolerant smile. C. K.

THE INDIAN MAIL.

Reception of Lord Birkenhead's Statement.

The present mail brings the context of the cabled expression of disapproval, extracted from the Indian Press, of the Secretary of State's speech in the House of Lords. It shows that, as is so often the case, the cabled summary gave a wrong impression of the case; for in fact, with one exception, the leading organs of European opinion in the great cities received it with approval. The exception is the *Statesman*, of Calcutta; whose remarks appear to be coloured by the fact that it had previously published an anticipation of Lord Birkenhead's statement and had, in the face of official denial, insisted on the accuracy of its forecast. It may perhaps be presumed, therefore, that the *Statesman* was not referring to the general reading public of India, but only to its own faithful constituents, when it wrote that Lord Birkenhead's speech would be read "with amazement and incredulity" and added "The one explanation that occurs to us is that this is not the speech that Lord Birkenhead intended to make"; since the paper refused to believe that a statesman of Lord Birkenhead's mentality and calibre could have deliberately committed himself to "this jejune display of an embarrassed mind groping amid the perplexities of Indian affairs."

Moderate Indian newspapers are, unfortunately, few and of little influence: some of these discern points for approval in the statement, but characterise it in general as colourless and disappointing.

As for the extremist papers, Lord Birkenhead said himself that he knew that his statement would bring no satisfaction to them: and the result has amply justified this belief. Extremist papers seldom condescend to argue, but confine themselves to criticism, generally trenchant. The following extracts from leading extremist papers show that there is general unanimity in this case: Lahore —"insulting, insolent and offensive": Delhi—"like a blustering outburst by a typical sundried bureaucrat": Calcutta— "an attempt to support what is, with a leaven of high sounding platitudes": Bombay—"an essay in intellectual dishonesty. . . defiant, minatory, insulting . . .which should enable us to realise the fraudulent bankruptcy of British statesmanship": while Madras invites Lord Birkenhead "to recognise how much of the mountebank there is in his composition."

Controller of Currency's Report.

The report of the Indian Controller of Currency for 1924-25 contains some interesting remarks on the import of bullion into India. India's net import of gold in 1924-25 amounted to 73.78 crores of rupees—roughly 55 millions sterling—nearly double that of 1922-23 which was the previous record year. The import of silver also established a record, amounting as it did to approximately 18 millions sterling. The price of gold dropped during the year by nearly 17 per cent., and was over 8 per cent. below the pre-War level; while the rupee was 2d. above its pre-War value and general prices were about 70 per cent. above the pre-War level. These facts combined to induce the Indian agriculturist to spend his surplus cash on bullion rather than on the commodities on which he has so far ordinarily spent it—the price of gold seemed unlikely to go lower, there has been a considerable agitation in favour of the stabilisation of the rupee at 1s. 4d., and an insistent demand for a reduction in the price of British manufactures, piece-goods in particular. The Report says that it appears that most people who had surplus cash invested it in gold and that almost every family in which marriages were likely to occur during the next year or two, took the opportunity to lay in the necessary store of gold while it was cheap: and that it is therefore probable that India's requirements in gold for the next year or two have been anticipated, so that, if the price of gold does not drop still further, the normal annual import in future should be considerably smaller than that of 1924-25. If this is a correct forecast, it may be that increased expenditure on imported merchandise may take the place of decreased imports of bullion; but, if not, a further appreciation of the gold value of the rupee would appear inevitable.

INDIAN EXCHANGE.

London, August 10.

In consequence of the holidays here and in India, this has been a short week and rupee exchange remains much in the same position as that to which reference was made in our last report.

In Calcutta and Bombay business seems to have fallen away, but rates have been perfectly steady at 1s. 6 3-32d., with occasional sales at 1-64 higher, and buyers on the look-out for 1s. 6⅛d.

So far as we can gather the India Government have been prepared to work at 1s. 6⅛d., but in view of the easy tendency of the money market, there has been no inclination on the part of the Banks to sell to the Government.

As usually happens during the Monsoon months, the value of money in the open markets in Bombay and Calcutta has fallen, and short loans are available round about 2½ per cent.

Here we have had a very quiet week with very little business passing. Any sellers at 1s. 6⅛d. found ready takers, and the bulk of the business, which has not been very much, has been put through at 1s. 6 9-64d.

Monday's rates here are quieter, and there are more sellers than buyers of telegraphic at 1s. 6⅛d. for spot.

It might be assumed from Mr. Churchill's speech in the House of Commons on the evening of the 5th instant, that the rupee was already a fixture at 1s. 6d., but whether Sir B. Blackett will concur in this assertion remains to be seen. If India has already determined the rate, there seems little necessity to appoint a currency commission.

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PUNJAB SPORTS.

The note on "Punjab Sports" in a recent number of The Near East and India set me "revolving many memories." It must be thirty years ago that "Charlie" Bruce, now of Everest fame, took me to see a wrestling match at Lahore, where the two leading wrestlers of India were to compete for the championship. These were Ghulam, a Punjab Mussulman and Kikar Singh, a Sikh. Bruce was referee, and the contest ended in a draw after nearly two hours' wrestling, neither succeeding in throwing the other, though Ghulam got Kikar Singh down on his hands and knees twice, but was unable to turn him over. Indian wrestling is practically the catch-as-catch-can style, and a legitimate fall needs both shoulders on the ground; Ghulam was said to have once scored a "wrestler's throw" against Kikar Singh, having got one of his shoulders on the ground, but neither had ever completely thrown the other, and the championship remained undetermined between them. Ghulam was a big man, but Kikar Singh was a veritable giant, well over six feet high and 52 inches round the chest. I remember Bruce telling me that, in a previous contest, Kikar Singh had claimed a foul and left the ring, whereupon two stalwart Highland soldiers, who were assisting to keep the ground, had caught hold of him with the intention of pushing him back into the ring. In spite of their utmost efforts, Kikar Singh continued to stroll about unconcernedly, as if they were not there; and there can seldom have been two more astonished British soldiers than those who found themselves thus ignored by a "native." There must, I should think, have been 100,000 spectators at the match that I attended, including a strong following of Moslem and Sikh priests, who kept up a continuous shout of intercession in favour of their respective champions.

Many Indian regiments have evolved quite skilful football and hockey teams; but my own experience in that direction was not encouraging. At first we tried to teach our men Association football; but they looked upon it as a sort of parade, to which they did not take kindly: objecting particularly to any attempt to keep forwards, half-backs and backs in their proper places, either generally or inter se. A friend of mine and I then tried them at Rugby, with even less immediate success: for the Pathans insisted on collaring the Sikhs by their top-knots, which the latter looked upon as not only unfair but insulting. If my friend and I ever collared one another, the whole game stood aside in awe, murmuring that "the Sahibs were fighting one another." When running with the ball, one had to avoid one's own side quite as carefully as the other, for anyone within range would push one over or trip one up, without any regard to the side he was supposed to be playing for. If a player got hold of the ball, he would run with it in any direction that his fancy dictated—forward, backward, or out across country: followed by the whole of the rest of the game until he was caught, while the two officers could only sit down and wait patiently for the ball to return to the ground. Finally, all other classes except the Pathans wearied of the game; and, for the latter, we evolved a game of our own, wherein the goal was the size of a large man, and the only object was, to get the ball through it somehow—hit, kick, push, or carry. This was, naturally, a pretty rough game, and we two officers were not long before we were so knocked about that we deserted, with the immediate result that the game died a natural death: for the goal was less attractive than ourselves, and if one of us was brought down, the whole of the rest of the game, roaring with laughter, would fling itself in a mound on the top of him, leaving the other to pull them off as best he could. When I accompanied the regiment to North China, I tried again to start Association football, but again with very poor success: the men were willing to play, sometimes, in the heat of summer, with the thermometer round about 100 degrees, but would not play in the winter on the ground that it was too cold, and that life was much pleasanter indoors round the stove.

The temperature in North China goes down to zero in the winter and stays there for three months; the sea freezes for about two miles from shore, the rivers freeze six or eight feet thick, and the ponds become a solid lump of ice down to the ground. Considering that Tientsin is the same latitude as Naples, this is a rather remarkable fact. Many of our men had never seen snow before, and none of them had ever seen ice that would bear. At the first snowfall, one of our regimental clerks bottled some of it and posted the bottle to a friend in India, as a sample of the remarkable kind of rain that fell in China.

The first time I tried whether one of the ponds would bear, a Sikh came up to see what I was doing: and, seeing that I was apparently walking on the water, he ran away at top speed—no doubt to avoid being called as a witness, or perhaps even charged with my murder, at the subsequent inquest. We were three years in North China, and throughout that time I tried in vain to instruct the men in simple ice sports—it was impossible to get them even to slide: the moment that any man put a foot on the ice, he fell disastrously, generally on the back of his head or on his forehead: after which, amid the laughter of his comrades on the bank, he would crawl away on hands and knees, often dripping blood from a nasty wound in the affected part. We did, in the end, contrive to teach some of the men to propel a sort of sleigh, known as "paidza," with a spiked stick, though at first they were unable to make them move in any direction except round and round, like a cockshafer on a pin. But, as they grew more expert, they developed an unwarranted confidence in ice; and, when it began to break up in February, they would walk quite unconcernedly into a hole and, when they were fished out wet through and shivering, would revile the ice, and its female relatives for many generations, for having played them false.

C. K.

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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

170, *Strand, London, W.C.2.*
Tuesday Morning.

The Sudan.

We publish this week a special section on the Sudan, containing articles describing the economic progress of the country, cotton growing in the Gezireh, and the Sudan Court at the British Empire Exhibition. No development in the Empire since the War has been more remarkable than the rapid progress made in the Sudan. The completion of the Makwar Dam, enabling the irrigation of the great Gezireh region, marks the commencement of a new era for the country, as it heralds the time when the Sudan will occupy a really important place among the cotton producing countries.

Trade with Yugoslavia.

On another page in this issue will be found extracts from a most interesting report by the British Commercial Secretary at Belgrade on economic conditions in Yugoslavia. It will be noted that he draws special attention to the improvement that has taken place in British trade with Yugoslavia. There has been, as a matter of fact, a steady increase over the last five years. In 1920 Great Britain's share of Yugoslavia's import trade was 7.05 per cent., while by 1923 it had risen to 9.91 per cent. Great Britain's imports from Yugoslavia have also tended to expand. It cannot be contended, of course, that even now the position is all that could be desired. Trade between the two countries ought to be much larger than it is, but it is eminently satisfactory to know that the tendency is in the right direction, and only a continuance of the present progress for a few years is required to bring the commercial relations of the two countries to a really satisfactory level.

Danube Navigation.

For the economic development of South Eastern Europe it is essential that the fullest possible use should be made of the great trade route provided by the Danube. A report prepared by Mr. Hines, an American expert, for the League of Nations Advisory Technical Committee on Communications and Transit, on the navigation of the river, has now been distributed. It points out that the post-War diminution of traffic was largely due to economic depression in Europe, but was intensified by the breaking up of the wide free-trade area which existed in the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and which is at present cut across by the tariff barriers of seven different States. This, it is urged, can only be remedied by commercial treaties among the latter. The report states that comprehensive improvements in the river channel are highly desirable, and the reform of frontier formalities to avoid delay is suggested.

Empire Cotton Growing.

My frequent comments in these notes on the need for increasing Empire cotton supplies to the greatest possible extent to avert an always possible shortage owing to our unwise dependence on America for our supplies find support in a resolution passed by the Lancashire Unionist Members of Parliament last week. The resolution expresses the view that "the great cotton industry of Lancashire, and the many important subsidiary industries connected with it, are in grave danger of a permanent shortage of the raw material upon which their future existence depends; and in view of this serious prospect regards what has been done by previous Governments to encourage cotton growing within the Empire as utterly inadequate." The resolution concludes by urging the "Government to take prompt and much vigorous action to avert this danger by stimulating to the utmost in every possible way a rapid extension of Empire cotton production."

The Slump in Rubber.

From 4s. 6d. to 3s. 3d. at which the price of rubber stands at the time of writing is a long drop, and it has taken place even more rapidly than the rise, and that was sudden enough. It is small wonder if quite a number of people scarcely know what to make of the market. As a matter of fact the decline is due not so much to events as to expectations. As my readers know there has been an increasing campaign for a modification of the restriction scheme, and while the authorities have shown no signs of yielding to it, the belief has gained ground that it is always possible that it may be altered, and this has been accentuated by the decision to permit an extension of the standard production. When to the effect of this is added the uncertain industrial situation here it is easy to understand why the price has fallen. I have no hesitation in saying, however, that so far as can be seen there are no grounds for pessimism with regard to the outlook. If the restriction in output was removed now there would be an increase in stocks for some months, but, if the demand for rubber continues to increase as it is doing, this could only be a temporary phase, for it would seem probable that before long the world will need more rubber than can be produced by the existing plantations. As I have said before, however, an unduly high price for rubber is undesirable for the industry, and what is required is that the price should be stabilised somewhere between 2s. and 2s. 6d.

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SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report as follows under date July 31 :—

Our last report of April 15 comprehensively dealt with the extent of the yields of sultanas and figs of the past season and the distribution over the various consuming markets.

As the final returns of both yields are since available, based on the Government Tithe Bureau, we believe it will be of some interest to our clients to submit the revised figures of production and distribution for the whole year. Stocks of both sultanas and figs have been cleared and the season of 1924 has been completely liquidated.

Sultanas.—According to the official Government returns, the yield last season reached a total of 52,000,000 kilos., equal to 50,700 tons. The distribution has been as follows (in tons):—North Continent, 27,500; United Kingdom, 12,000; United States, Canada, New Zealand, South America, and South Continent, 6,000; Constantinople, Egypt, and local consumption, 5,200—50,700.

Figs.—The official return of the yield is shown as 27,000,000 kilos., or 26,300 tons. This total is inclusive of Hordas representing the sweepings of the crop, unfit for manipulation, which find a market in Central Europe for roasting and coffee blending. The distribution has been as follows (in tons):—United Kingdom, 12,800; United States and Canada, 9,500; the Continent, 1,500; Australia New Zealand, etc., 450—24,250. The remainder of the yield can be accounted for by local consumption and the quantity of Hordas shipped to Trieste and Hamburg.

Atmospheric conditions have been generally unfavourable during the past winter, a severe and prolonged drought having prevailed from October to March. Rains fell during the spring but the rainfall on the whole has been deficient, and the effects of the drought are becoming very manifest with the advance of the season. Estimates of all crops are being continually lowered. The most recent official forecasts published by the Agricultural Department assess the likely results of the vineyards at 30,000,000 kilos. and of the fig orchards at 18,000,000 kilos. Some information forthcoming from other sources would lead to the conclusion that these forecasts somewhat overestimate the outlook. We shall shortly commence the issue of our weekly reports, and we shall not fail to embody in them all further information that becomes available.

SPECIAL MARKET REPORTS.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank :—

Haifa, July 18.—The grain market is weak, and the fall in prices continues. At the end of the week there were some minor transactions. The tendency of prices at the close was to decline.

Jaffa, July 18.—Prices of cereals have risen slightly during the week owing to the depletion of stocks and the small arrivals.

Basrah, July 11.—The market shows no change. Business is restricted. An improvement in the price of wheat is to be anticipated.

It is reported that the production of the Baku oilfields for the nine months ended June 30 amounted to 204,421,000 poods.

The production of the Minerva (Roumania) Oil Company for July, including oil received from royalty wells, was 945 tons gross.

The production of crude oil by the Phœnix Oil and Transport Co. and allied companies in July was 24,177 tons gross, and the throughput of refineries was 21,746 tons.

The Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture has decided to send Aziz Effendi Bishay to Tunis and Algiers to study the cultivation of date trees there and to import to Egypt some of the best qualities.

A service of Pullman cars is shortly to be inaugurated on certain of the Egyptian State Railways. The new cars, four of which are now nearing completion in Birmingham, are to run on the Alexandria-Cairo and Port Said-Cairo routes. The cars will be double-roofed, and the windows will be of double plate-glass, to keep out dust and sand.

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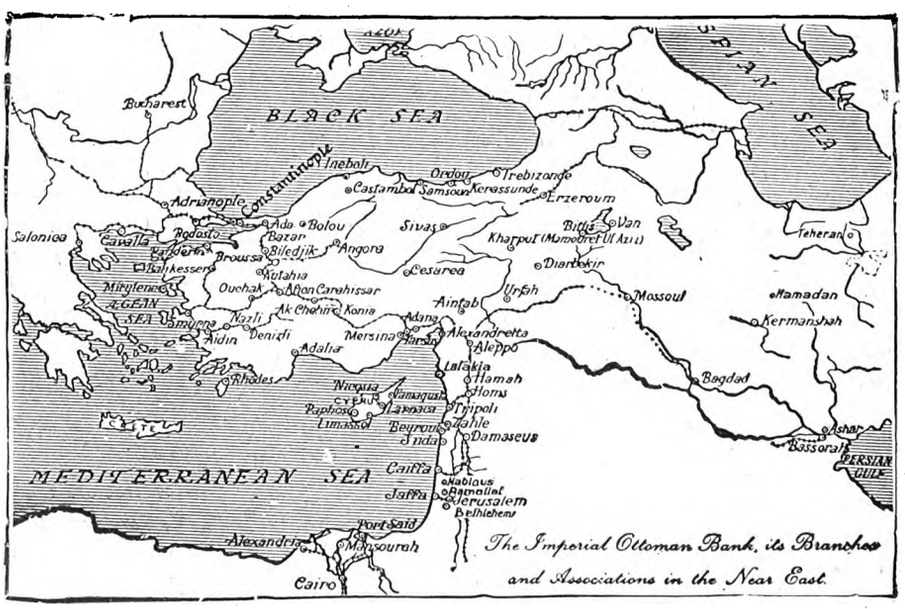

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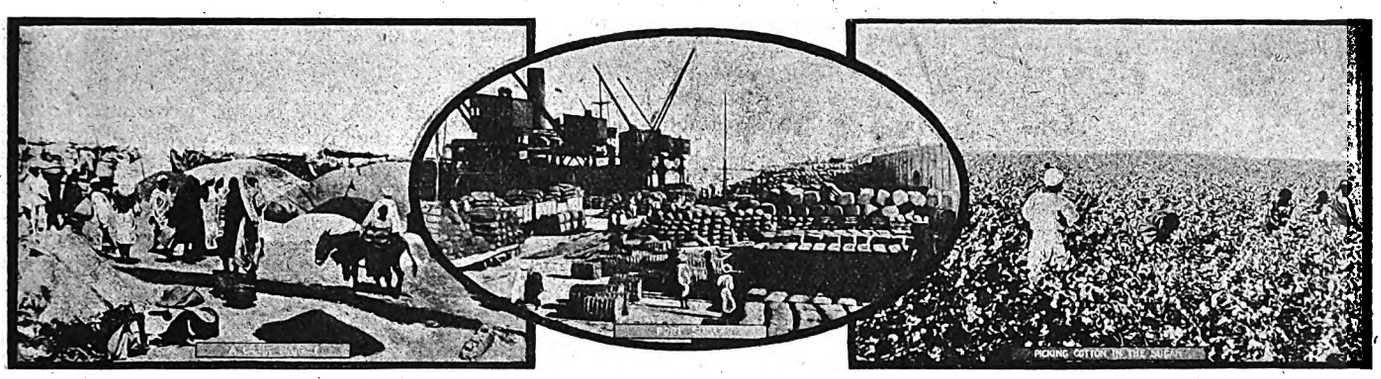
THE PROGRESS OF THE SUDAN



CHANGES IN THE SUDAN.

The year 1925 will always be a memorable one in the Sudan, as it marks the transition from the old Sudan to the new.

Hitherto the country's development has depended on the raising of crops, unaided for the most part by any mechanical contrivance. Much capital has been expended on equipment essential to administration, such as railways, steamers, telegraphs, and the other usual apparatus of Government, but generally speaking this expenditure has not been undertaken in expectation of an immediate profitable return, though the results are patent to see. External trade, for instance, has increased from negligible dimensions to £E9,000,000 per annum. Revenue, in twenty-five years, has grown from zero to about £E3,500,000. The improvement in internal prosperity is visible on all sides, especially to those who remember the country in the early days and can compare the almost naked and destitute people of that time with the well-found condition of most of its inhabitants to-day. This change is most noticeable in the northern provinces, but even in the southern negroid provinces progress has been made, and the people can now enjoy their primitive possessions in peace and are free to take the first steps on the path of civilisation.

Given normal conditions, a continuance at a moderate rate of this general improvement in trade and standard of living was to have been expected. It depended on the gradual increase in population and the extension of the means of transport and communication, and no very rapid progress such as has occurred in the past was to be anticipated. This year, however, a new element has been introduced which should greatly accelerate the rate of progress and stimulate economic activities in the Sudan in many directions. The Sudan has entered a new phase.

The great change which is taking place this year in the country's fortunes arises from the completion of the Sennar Dam and the inauguration of the Gezireh irrigation scheme for the cultivation of high-class Egyptian cotton. The main features of this vast enterprise are well known and need not be repeated.

Its cost alone—about £E12,000,000, this sum having been raised under guarantee by the Imperial Government—is obviously so large as profoundly to affect the future history of the Sudan, and to concentrate in the country widespread interest not only from those whose money is invested in the scheme or whose outlook is directly affected by the production of cotton, but also to focus the attention of those who are looking for openings for investments in other directions beside cotton growing.

The produce of the scheme, which is capable of wide extension, means an addition of some 60,000 or 70,000 bales to the present output of cotton (46,000 bales), and will add £E2,500,000 to £E3,000,000 to the value of the Sudan's exports. It will greatly enrich the inhabitants of a district, whose main source of income in the past has been the cultivation of exiguous crops of grain. This undertaking forms an entirely new permanent profit-earning addition to the country's resources, and by its magnitude dwarfs every other enterprise in the Sudan.

An additional internal market will be created for labour and for the sale of articles of native manufacture, and external trade will be improved by the purchase of imports with the money made in cotton.

The extension of cotton growing during the last two years, though relatively small, has already shown itself in this way. The import of cotton goods, about £E1,000,000 in value in 1924, has already increased considerably, and the consumption of sugar has risen by about 25 per cent.

The tonnage of shipping entering Port Sudan has rapidly increased. Before the War the tonnage (international) was about 750,000 tons. This year it should amount to some 3,000,000 tons. This has necessitated harbour extensions, which are being carried out. A bunkering trade of about 90,000 tons is done at this port.

A good deal of cotton is sold by auction at the Port, which is now connected directly by rail with the Eastern Sudan by means of the new Kassala railway, which was got through to Kassala in April, 1924.

Near Kassala the Kassala Cotton Company is developing the Gash area under cotton; the first season's crop was 7,500 bales. A much larger quantity will be produced as the scheme develops.

A further new asset to the country is the increased cultivation of cotton by means of the rainfall only in the Central and Southern Sudan. A useful beginning has been made, and it is not unlikely that 100,000 bales of this long-stapled American cotton may be produced annually in a few years' time. The future development of this type of cotton cultivation depends very largely on the provision of transport facilities; the extension of the main line of railway when the proper time arrives will do much to improve the output in the Central areas. In the South the solution will be found in the introduction of suitable mechanical transport and the erection of ginning factories.

The population, however, is not large, and this fact will have to be taken carefully into account in future developments. The present high price of cotton has made the crop a popular one, and though a fall in prices will no

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doubt affect the output, there is every reason to believe that rain-grown cotton will in future continue to be produced in comparatively large quantities.

Transport in such a vast country as the Sudan must remain for many years to come the key to the country's development. For passenger traffic the motor car now performs what 20 years ago would have been regarded as miracles, and cars now penetrate almost every corner of the Sudan's million square miles. Mechanical transport for goods and merchandise unfortunately lags far behind, but it is not too much to hope that before long the necessary facilities will have become available and that further large areas will have been unlocked for profitable development, not only of cotton, but of the other resources of the country, such as oil seeds, gum arabic, and possibly minerals.

During the last two or three years the Sudan has been fortunate in the number of influential visitors who for one reason or another have come out to see the country. The greater the first-hand knowledge and practical interest that the country can give to the general public the better it will be both for the Sudan itself and for those who are directly and indirectly concerned with its successful development. It furnishes the latest example of experiments in tropical administration, which is none the easier for the world events of the last ten years: it grows a product on which the prosperity of one of the greatest trades in England depends, and also provides the manifold interests to be found in fauna, flora, and native life over a tract of country which runs from the borders of Egypt to the Great Lakes of Central Africa, and forms part of the highway to Kenya and Uganda, Abyssinia, and the regions of the Congo.

COTTON GROWING IN THE GEZIREH.

(From a Correspondent.)

A brief announcement was made recently to the effect that the great Sennar Dam had been opened informally on July 15, in the presence of representatives of the Sudan Government, the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, and of local notables. This event marks the beginning of a new stage in the prosperity of the Sudan, for its effects will not alone be covered by the increase of irrigable land, although that, of course, is its primary purpose.

The Dam serves as a bridge across the Blue Nile, carrying the railway from Khartoum into the comparatively undeveloped districts between Sennar and Kassala. With the railway constructed from Kassala to Port Sudan, the new line when completed should prove of enormous value to the country.

Another undoubted effect, although much less direct, is the stimulus that is being given to rain-grown cotton. There is little doubt that the advantages that have already accrued to those natives, who have been tenants on the irrigated cotton fields, together with the inevitable sensation of future prosperity that must have come from viewing the great constructive activity of the last few years, have filled the native mind with the potentialities of cotton as a source of wealth. Consequently the Government's encouragement to grow rain-cotton has been rewarded already and there is promise of great developments in the cultivation of American varieties on these lines. Possibly, indeed, it may be this aspect which will ultimately prove the most important.

In the meantime, however, interest centres upon the direct effect of the Dam on cotton growing. South of Khartoum between the Blue and White Niles lies the fertile Gezireh plain. Here is the "prairie" of the Sudan. As one travels southwards from Khartoum one finds that desert sands are replaced by a dark tenacious silt, a morass in the rainy season and a desolate aching mass of cracks in the hot months. Between is the growing season when for miles the land is covered by the tall native corn, or "durra" or by dwarf vegetation in the untilled areas. Villages, sometimes with a fir tree, break the tedium to some extent; otherwise there is no variation for mile after mile.

Further south, more than 100 miles from Khartoum, the general theme of the landscape varies. Grass is much taller, may rise to the shoulder, vegetation is ranker and acacia forests and scrub break the flatness of the scene. Villages here are generally smaller and corn is much less in evidence, whilst cattle are more numerous.

This is the land that the Dam is to supply with water and, once the town of Hessa Hissa is passed, canals become the prominent feature, branching out from the main canal, which stretches over 80 miles to Makwar, the site of the Dam.

To summarise briefly the situation prior to the present year, cotton was first grown in the Gezireh on some 800, later 1,700 feddans at Tayiba, a few miles north of the provincial capital of Wad Medani. A second station was started in 1913 at Barakat, a little south of Medani, after which development was checked by the War. Both stations were supplied with water by pumps on the Blue Nile and after the War another pumping station was installed at Hag Abdallah considerably farther south, and capable of irrigating about 7,000 feddans. This was the first large scale scheme and was indeed an integral portion of the greater plan as opposed to the experimental nature of the earlier stations. 1923 saw the opening of the Wad el Nau pumping station, irrigating about 10,000 feddans and bringing the grand total up to 20,000 feddans, at which figure it stood until the arrival of the Dam water.

In the meantime the Dam and canalisation scheme were being carried out, the work having been taken over by Messrs. Pearson and Sons, to be finished in time for this year's cotton crop. Numerous accounts have appeared of the construction of the Dam, which was not without its thrilling moments in its race against time. Apart from the Dam, however, there has been much of interest in the canalisation work; the construction of great regulators in the main canal, at heads of branch canals, and in other places where required. The most interesting of these is at the beginning of the cultivation, about 35 miles from the Dam, where no less than six regulators take off from a basin in the main canal, including in the latter an enormous pile of masonry containing six sluice gates.

At the same time an enormous amount of preparation has been required to get the land ready for sowing. To increase the area of cotton from 20,000 feddans in 1924 to 80,000 in 1925 is no mean task when all the obstacles to be overcome are taken into account.

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There is the first stage of preparing the land for ploughing. Part of the area was forest, which required cutting and uprooting. This forest land is easily the most attractive part of the Gezireh since, in spite of the trees showing obvious signs of the droughty conditions under which they live, the breaking of the field of vision does much to relieve the monotony, characteristic of the cleared areas.

In the early days of preparation, before wood felling began in earnest and canal construction necessitated the inflow of a large working population, the prevailing fauna was of considerable interest. Gazelle were soon frightened away to grazing grounds that have still to feel the demands of civilisation. To have guinea fowl at one's door was another experience not to be repeated, although, generally speaking, birds continued undisturbed, doing much by the brilliance of their colouring to relieve the uniformity of the scene.

Brilliant colours of bee-birds and rollers; storks, black, white, and the amusing maribou in their seasons; hawks and other birds of prey are some of the larger inhabitants or visitors; cranes, herons and more rarely the secretary bird, which like many another animal requires to be seen in its native habitat for its fineness to be appreciated.

White clouds of the little egret, or more probably its near relative the buff-backed heron form amazingly beautiful visions, whilst there is something equally charming in trees filled with nesting storks and quarrelling egrets.

Fortunately even after clearing is completed most of these birds do not seem altogether to desert the land and with the coming of cotton and its plentiful water supply it is possible to watch the antics of the quaint, black and white kingfisher—his coloured cousin sticks to the river—or the various species of plover.

To return from this brief digression, the work entailed in clearing all this timber was considerable. Nor has the arable land been without its need for preparation. The native system of growing their crops entails the construction of banks by means of which the land is divided into manageable plots and the rain, instead of being largely lost through surface drainage, is retained, and consequently a far larger proportion is forced to sink into the ground, where it acts as a reservoir during the growing season.

These "terraces," desirable for rain grown crops, are obstacles to irrigation and require levelling before the ploughs can be put in. The hardness of the soil, together with the enormous expansive powers of the under soil as it becomes exposed, make this a far from easy task to carry out, especially in a country where an almost imperceptible ridge may have marked effects on growth of cotton or flow of water and will persist for years. Yet this task has had to be carried out over far the greater part of the new cotton area.

With the land cleared and levelled, other questions had to be dealt with. Final surveying was required for the water-feeding channels and for dividing the area into plots or "numbers" generally of 90 feddans, consisting of nine units or "hoshas" of 10 feddans. The crop rotation being a three-year one, consecutive trios of numbers are worked together, one growing cotton, the second a native crop and the third lying fallow.

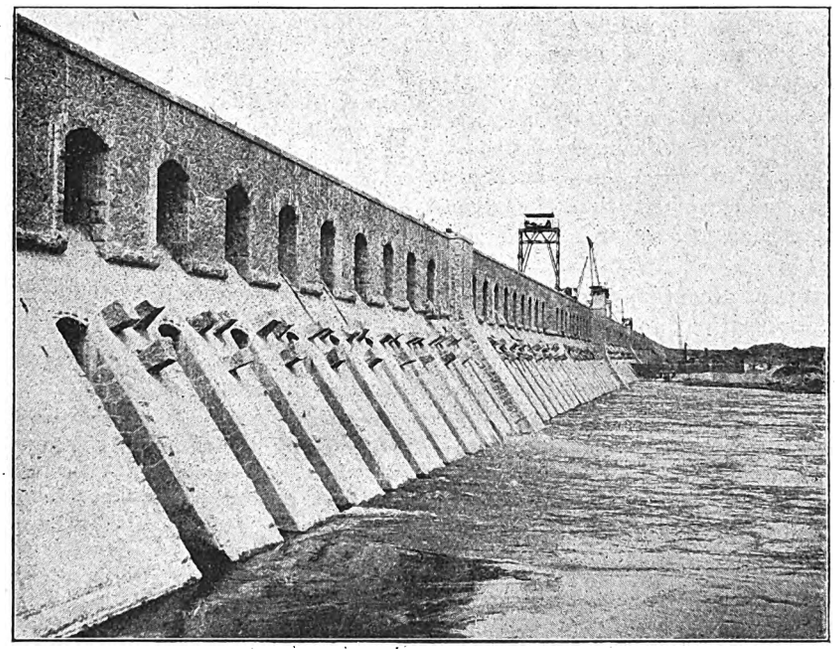
Having demarcated the hoshas, the stage was reached at which the native tenants could be put in. They form the third party in the scheme: the Sudan Government's share is to maintain Dam and canals and supply them with water; the Sudan Plantations Syndicate controls the use of the water for irrigation purposes by the tenants, supplies seed and ploughing implements, gins and markets the cotton and throughout supervises the proper cultivation and harvesting of the crop.

It is the tenant's share to do the general tilling, cultivating, and harvesting and to keep his water channels in good order. Many of them have not the remotest idea how to grow their cotton, however. They have an unlimited faith in the power of water, and left to themselves would inevitably ruin their crop by excessive applications of water. Left to themselves, indeed, no resowing would ever be done to compensate for the inevitable casualties of the rainy season, nor would more than half the final crop be marketed; the balance would be allowed to drop on the ground and get buried in the mud.

In such a large scheme affecting the welfare of a considerable native population, it would have been surprising had its reception been entirely favourable, especially considering the innate conservatism of the average native. Those natives, who had had experience of cotton growing in the preliminary stages were only too glad of an opportunity for their friends and relations to take up hoshas as these became available. The more remote districts, however might be termed distinctly "woolly" and included both the few who were distinctly hostile and the many, who were prepared to maintain a neutral opinion until they could see how they would be affected. It is satisfactory to note that further knowledge has swayed the balance of the favourable side and it says much for the carrying out of the scheme that native opinion is so favourable before the era of profits has begun for the great majority of the tenants.

Difficulties there still are, which will doubtless be overcome as time passes. For instance, many of the new areas have been sparsely populated since Mahdist times and their inhabitants are insufficient to cope with the needs of the busiest periods of cultivation. Much of the labour, indeed, is carried out by a nomad population of Nigerian tribesmen on their way to and from Mecca. As the average Sudani so long as his money lasts, will

To Irrigate The Gezireh



The Makwar Dam

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employ labour rather than work hard himself, it is not uncommon to see the labourers forcing up prices above their fair level and making full use of the economic truth of supply and demand, until some control is applied to ease the situation as far as possible.

THE SUDAN AT THE EXHIBITION.

It would be difficult not to be impressed by the distinctive note struck by the Sudan Court at Wembley. The exhibits, indeed, give just the outstanding features of a country that is now beginning to find itself and in the concentration in the main on one product promises to make rapid progress towards a prosperous future. Cotton is needless to say the keynote of the Court though the other products of the Sudan are well to the fore. One stand is devoted to the display of various types of cotton, while another shows various models of the Sennar Dam. Here, as at other stands the interest of the exhibits is much enhanced by an illuminated scene in the background, in this case, of course, of the Dam. Elsewhere can be seen varieties of gum arabic and millet, while another aspect of life in the Sudan is indicated at a stand showing some of the wild life of the country. It is not a large exhibition, but its very unpretentiousness serves only to bring into clear relief the factors on which the country depends. The Court is, in fact, *multum in parvo*, and the many thousands who will have seen it by the time Wembley closes will have obtained a clear idea of the Sudan and its potentialities.

Seeing that a bare quarter of a century ago the Sudan was practically without civilisation and had then no external trade at all, the glimpse that the Court gives of a prosperous active community with almost limitless potentialities is little short of marvellous. It shows plainly what can be accomplished by a far-sighted Administration, and it would certainly not be going too far to say that what has been achieved in the Sudan under British rule is worthy to rank with the best chapters in the long history of British enterprise overseas. At first, as was to be expected in view of the conditions with which we were confronted in the Sudan, progress was slow, but the pace of the advance has gradually quickened, and since the War, and especially in the last year or so, the work of development has been very rapid.

It is proverbial that figures talk, and nothing could better illustrate the present position than the figures for the trade of the Sudan. The volume of trade for 1922 was £E6,246,326, while last year the value of the trade was roughly £E9,000,000, and for the current year, if present indications are borne out, it promises to exceed £E10,000,000, and this time there may very well be a balance of trade in favour of the Sudan. In any case time alone is required for that to be a normal feature of the trade returns, and the gradual rise of the exports means the constant increase of the purchasing power of the country, a fact which British exporters would do well to bear in mind. At present apart from purchases of machinery, etc., for the works of development that are in progress, the imports of the Sudan are on a relatively small scale, but the fact that the imports are widening in range is an index of the growing importance of the market, and when the cotton schemes at present in view are in full operation the position will be changed out of all knowledge.

Cotton, as has been said, is the dominant feature of the Court. The Sudan, as a result of the great schemes of development now in progress, has become one of Lancashire's principal hopes as a supplier of cotton in the future. As time passes our dependence on America for the bulk of the cotton we require is seen to be more and more precarious, and so the tendency naturally is for interest to concentrate on what is being done in the Sudan and the other cotton-growing areas of the Empire. The great number of visitors who have passed through the Sudan Court has doubtless been largely contributed to by the desire to learn something of the progress of a region which in the last few years has come to bulk so largely in the public eye, but which, of course, so few have actually seen. So far the figures for the production of cotton in the Sudan are unpretentious. For 1918-19 the total was 15,997 bales, for 1919-20 23,160 bales, for 1920-21 30,519 bales, for 1921-22 24,074 bales, for 1922-23 28,306 bales, for 1923-24 47,652 bales, and for 1924-25 55,286 bales. But it is only this summer that the stage has been reached which brings within reach the immediate expansion of cotton cultivation on a great scale, and next year the Sudan will play a much more important part in the list of the cotton producing countries of the Empire. In the fullness of time there will doubtless be another Empire Exhibition, and were it possible to look forward to that time we should no doubt find the Sudan playing a leading, if not the chief part, in a great Cotton Section showing the contributions of the Empire which have made us independent of external sources for our cotton.

THE GORDON MEMORIAL COLLEGE.

A meeting of the Gordon Memorial College Fund was held recently at the offices of Messrs. Glyn Mills and Co., 67, Lombard Street, Sir Reginald Wingate presiding, to enable the members of the governing body to meet Sir Geoffrey Archer, Governor-General of the Sudan and President of the Gordon Memorial College in Khartoum.

Sir Reginald spoke of Sir Geoffrey Archer's work in the past in Somaliland and Uganda, and of his keen interest in the education of the African native.

Sir Geoffrey Archer said that the system started by the Gordon College 25 years ago was based on the idea of providing the Government offices with native workers, while trying to satisfy the national aspirations and opening a wider horizon for the natives so employed. The aim of the Gordon Memorial College was to turn out as many skilled workers as possible, and the number of workers thus turned out had always been less than the number which could be absorbed in Government offices, not to mention private firms. Out of 1,900 boys turned out by the college, less than 100 were reported as unfavourable.

A discussion followed, in which Sir James Currie, Mr. Crowfoot (Principal of the College and Director of Education in the Sudan), Mr. Wellcome (the donor of the Wellcome Research Laboratories in Khartoum) and others took part. Mr. Crowfoot described the educational progress during the past year, with special reference to the part played by the Gordon College boys, past and present, in the troubles which took place at the time of the murder of the late President (Sir Lee Stack) in Cairo.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria	Piastre to £	97⅛	97⅜—9/16
Athens	Drachmæ to £	25 22½	311-314
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	272—274
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.39—20.40
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.00-25.01
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 3/32—18 5/32
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	107.25—'35
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	935—945
Budapest	Kronen to £	24 02	345-347,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 3/32—18 5/32d
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	820—835
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.85 11/16—4.85⅞
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	103.65—.75
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	164
Rome	Lire to £	25 22½	134
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	670
Teheran	Krans to £	50	42¼
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	34.48-34 58
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	26½—27½

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British Consular Reports

II.—YUGOSLAVIA.

The steady improvement in British trade with Yugoslavia is commented on by the British Commercial Secretary at Belgrade (Captain Murray Harvey, O.B.E., M.C.), in his report on Yugoslavia, as at April, 1925. We give the following extracts from the report:—

Trade between Yugoslavia and Great Britain has shown a steady increase since 1920 as regards both exportation and importation. Not only is this increase to be seen in the yearly values expressed in dinars (apt owing to exchange movements to be misleading), but also in actual tonnage. Whereas in 1920 the value of imports from Great Britain was 7.05 per cent. of Yugoslavia's total imports, this percentage has increased by 1923 to 9.91 per cent. On the other hand, in 1923 Great Britain took 2.14 per cent. of Yugoslavia's total exports, as against 0.25 per cent. in 1920. Serbian merchants for many years past have drawn a large proportion of the supplies of textile goods for their better-class trade from Yorkshire and Lancashire. In the new provinces the orientation of trade, for many obvious reaons, such as the railway system of the former Austro-Hugarian Empire, which consisted mainly of of radial lines centring on Buda-Pest and Vienna, was chiefly towards those capitals.

The view taken locally is that it will be to the advantage of Yugoslavia's economic development to eliminate Buda-Pest and Vienna as intermediaries for foreign trade, and much as been written on the subject of establishing direct relations between the importer and the foreign manufacturer, particularly with those of countries like Great Britain, where none before existed. Although this movement principally affects the "transit" traffic, which was, and still is, an important part of Vienna's trade, and this as yet more apparent than real, yet as Yugoslavia's economic development progresses, and her ports on the Adriatic are better served by railways than is the case at present, this change should in time lead to greater business with the United Kingdom. It would seem that, when the project for a normal-gauge line connecting Belgrade with the Adriatic is realised, freight rates between the two countries should be lowered, thus minimising the handicap to British trade of high transport costs.

Cotton yarns and piece-goods and woollens are the principal articles imported from the United Kingdom. For many years past the trade in the special varieties of cotton yarns used by the peasants for weaving the white material which forms part of the national costume has been very largely in the hands of British manufacturers. Since the War Italian and Greek competition in yarns and the cheaper kinds of cotton material has been very severe. Although the Italian cotton goods are not equal in quality to the British product, lower prices, longer credit and rapid delivery are strong points in their favour. To these must be added the better facilities the Italian exporter enjoys for visiting his customers, at frequent intervals—a very important consideration, and one, the need for which cannot be overemphasised. Complaints are constantly heard that many British manufacturers refuse to transact business directly with Yugoslav merchants, referring their enquiries to shippers and agents, whose commission, it is maintained here, considerably increases the cost of merchandise. Other important articles of export from Great Britain to Yugoslavia are Colonial produce and rice; coal for use in shipping, and industrial purposes where the low-grade brown coals and lignites which abound in the country cannot be employed; and, to a lesser extent, metals, metal products, machinery and apparatus.

One direction in which it would seem possible to obtain business where little is at present transacted is in the exportation of boots and shoes. The boots and shoes chiefly worn where the peasant sandals have been superseded are, generally speaking, of very poor quality, and made to look at rather than for hard wear. The prices charged for these are very excessive if one compares those asked for ready-made shoes in England. Heavy shoes are rarely worn, and ornate styles and the thinnest possible soles seem to appeal to the local taste. Shoes made to sell in Great Britain, even if of the cheapest kind, would probably be too substantial to meet with general approval here; but, provided British manufacturers would produce styles suited to the local market, from the writer's own observation, the question of the price should not be a difficulty.

The comparative stability of the dinar and its marked recovery augur well for the future. Another aspect of the exchange question, the return to gold currencies of some of our Continental competitors, is also encouraging, as it would seem reasonable to suppose that it will tend to remove the disability Great Britain felt in competing with countries having depreciated currencies. In considering Yugoslavia as a market for manufactured goods, the comparatively low earning power of the greater part of the population, who are agriculturists, must not be overlooked. The principal demand is for goods, textile or otherwise, of the cheaper qualities. The United Kingdom is here always regarded as a source of supply for cloth, etc., of the highest qualities, and doubts are always expressed of the British manufacturer's ability, or perhaps willingness, to adapt his machinery to produce the cheaper articles, such as the cotton prints, printed flannelettes, etc., worn by the peasants, at competitive prices. On the other hand, Germany especially and other countries display great ingenuity in copying the patterns of high-class British woollens. Among the articles exported to Great Britain timber takes the first place, represented by the fine oak of Slovenia and the Bosnian soft woods. Eggs from Slovenia and prunes from Bosnia and Serbia are also exported in some quantity to the United Kingdom.

There are in Yugoslavia some seven and a half million hectares of land covered with timber, of which some five and a half million hectares is old forest. This represents some 30 per cent. of the total area, or 41 per cent, of the productive area of the country; hence the timber industry is one of the most important and highly developed industries. Water power is very largely employed to drive the sawmills. During the first part of 1924 the Yugoslav timber industry prospered, and a great deal of both soft and hard woods was exported. The soft woods of Bosnia and the well-known high-grade Slavonian oak found a ready sale abroad. Sleepers and other hewn and sawn timber were exported to the United Kingdom. Oak is prepared and exported in all forms, including quarter-sawn planks and staves for barrels. The dry distillation of wood is carried on at two establishments, and cellulose, tanning extracts, bent-wood and other furniture are also produced. During the latter part of 1924 the rise in the exchange value of the dinar

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of which the intensive exportation of timber during the first part of the year was itself a contributary cause, reacted upon the timber industry and caused stagnation in the export trade in soft woods. Hard woods, especially oak, owing to their high quality, were not affected to the same degree. Conferences have been held in order to inquire into the causes of the difficult position of the timber trade, and it was decided to ask the National Bank to increase the credits it grants to this industry as well as to discount bills in foreign currencies in addition to those in dinars, and to endeavour to obtain further concessions from the Ministry of Communications, particularly in regard to its scale of charges for the carriage of timber.

Agriculture.

The results for last year of this, the staple industry of Yugoslavia, were, on the whole, good, the principal crop, maize, having yielded, it is estimated, some 20 per cent. more than in 1923. No figures are as yet available, but it is probable that the total production of maize exceeded 3,000,000 metric tons. The forecasts for the 1925 harvest are not promising, although, of course, it is as yet too early to form any very definite opinion. The use of artificial fertilisers is not by any means extensive in Yugoslavia, and the land is for the most part dependent on the winter frosts for the function fertilisers perform in other countries. The circumstance that the winter of 1924-25 has been unusually mild does not, therefore, augur well for this year's crops. The dry and mild winter has also been the indirect cause of much damage done to the autumn sowings by field mice. The winter wheat crop of 1924 was poor in quality, but in quantity probably equalled that of the preceding year, for which the figure given was about 1,600,000 metric tons. The spring wheat crop was good, and amounted, it is estimated, to some 50,000 metric tons. Barley gave a good yield. Like maize, the crop exceeded that of 1923 by about 20 per cent., and probably amounted to 260,000 tons. Very little good malting barley is grown in Yugoslavia, the breweries importing this principally from Czecho-Slovakia. The oat crop gave a normal yield, estimated at 320,000 quintals. Rye, which is not extensively grown in Yugoslavia, gave a fair yield, estimated at 150,000 tons. Hops gave an excellent yield in 1924, the production being about 9,000 quintals. The vintage of 1924 is of good quality, but in point of quantity is much below average. The difficult period through which the wine-growing industry has been passing seems to have come to an end, and the large reserves which had accumulated at the principal centres where this industry is carried on, such as Vrsac in the Banat, have been disposed of. There was very little export of wine during 1924. There is an increased exportation of poultry, including turkeys, and eggs from Yugoslavia. Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Czecho-Slovakia, Germany, and France take Yugoslav eggs and poultry. Poland has of late become a keen competitor for this trade.

The number of cattle in Yugoslavia on January 1, 1924, showed a reduction as compared with that at the beginning of 1923, owing to the great shortage of fodder during the latter year. The year 1924 having been a good one for forage plants, the number of oxen has probably again increased. At January 1, 1923, the number of cattle was given as 4,053,115, while on January 1, 1924, it was put at 3,869,985. In 1923 over 206,000 cattle, to the value of nearly 846 million dinars were exported, while in 1924 168,100 head, valued at about 75 million dinars, were sent abroad. The exportation of fresh meat remained stationary; that of meat products showed a diminution during 1924. Austria, Italy, Czecho-Slovakia, Turkey, Hungary are Yugoslavia's principal customers for cattle, in the order named. Bulgaria, Germany, and Switzerland also take some of Yugoslavia's cattle exports. The Ministry of Agriculture and Waters has taken steps for the improvement of the cattle, and to that end has lately purchased bulls of the Siementhaler race from Switzerland for the Government stud farms.

AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION AT CAIRO.

An Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition is to be held in Cairo from February 20 to March 6, 1926, under the auspices of the Royal Agricultural Society of Egypt. The Industrial section will comprise engines and motors, agricultural implements and machinery, transport for agricultural produce, and modern types of farm buildings and methods of construction suitable for use in Egypt.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India the ports of departu e and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses :—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Massilia for Bombay (Liverpool, August 20). (For passenger sailings and date see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Malakuta for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 22).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Yorkshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, August 26).

British India Line.—S.s. Foyle for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 15); s.s. Hatipara for Bombay and Karachi (London, August 22).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Pavia for Gibraltar, Oran, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, September 5).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of York for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 17).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 5); s.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 12); s.s. Dromore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 17).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Ranpura for Bombay (London, August 21); s.s. Nagoya for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 5).

Prince Line.—S.s. Burmese Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, and Haifa (London, September 12).

The quantity of gold extracted from the mines in India during May amounted to 33,061 ounces valued at Rs.18,67,950.

Steaua Romana (British), Limited, are advised that the production of Steaua Romana, Bucharest, during July was 26,470 tons.

The condition of the cotton crop in Egypt is as follows (says a Reuter message):—Lower Egypt 96, Mid-Egypt 102, Upper Egypt 98 percentage of normal.

The British Commercial Secretary at Belgrade has forwarded the following official rates of exchange (in dinars) for the payment of port dues in Yugoslavia during August:—1 gold napoleon, 220; 1 Turkish lira, 248; 1 pound sterling, 276; 1 American dollar, 56.75; 1 Canadian dollar, 56.25; 1 German mark, gold, 13.50; 1 Polish zloty, 9.40; 1 Australian schilling, 8; 100 French francs, 267; 100 Swiss francs, 1,102; 100 Italian liras, 209; 100 Belgian francs, 262; 100 Dutch florins, 2,278; 100 Roumanian lei, 27.50; 100 Bulgarian levas, 41.30; 100 Danish crowns, 1,200; 100 Swedish crowns, 1,530; 100 Norwegian crowns, 1,020; 100 Spanish pesetas, 823; 100 Greek drachmæ, 91; 100 Czecho-Slovak crowns, 168; 1 million Hungarian crowns, 800.

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COTTON CULTIVATION IN TURKEY.

An interesting paper on cotton growing in Turkey was presented by M. N. Husni Bey, of Messrs. Husni, Sons and Chinassi, representing the Department of Commerce of Turkey, at the recent International Cotton Congress at Vienna. The following extracts are taken from the paper:—

Up to now, in the reports presented to the Congresses regarding Turkish cotton, emphasise has been laid on the production of Adana district only. Although Adana is, and will always remain, the main cotton-producing centre of Turkey, it is not the only cotton district within the boundaries of the Turkish Republic. Owing to the climate and the nature of its soil a large proportion of Asia Minor is very favourable to cotton cultivation. In the Smyrna district, Turkey possesses a province which is only second in importance to Adana for its cotton potentialities.

The cotton of Smyrna, which is known to the Continental spinners under the name of "Souboudga," is of an excellent colour. One may look forward in a short number of years to its attaining the high level which was reached during the Civil War of America, when in 1864 her export to Liverpool alone reached 64,000 bales.

In the Smyrna district the pre-War production fluctuated from 30,000 to 45,000 bales. During the War it considerably shrunk, and during the Greek occupation it fell to 5,000 bales. After the end of the occupation 9,500 bales were obtained, and during the present season the crop has amounted to 27,000 bales. It is expected that a crop of 35,000 to 40,000 bales may be obtained during the following season. Large uncultivated areas are available in this district. The greatest obstacle to a rapid expansion of cotton cultivation is the presence of very high profit-yielding crops, such as good quality tobacco, and other products for which Smyrna is renowned.

The Adana and Smyrna districts are not the only places in Turkey where cotton cultivation is possible. At the present time experiments in cotton cultivation are being made even in Adrianople. In fact, almost the whole cultivatable area of Turkey may be considered as suitable for cotton cultivation. From Adrianople in the north to the Adana district in the south cotton is cultivated now and then as a household commodity to cover the needs of the peasant, and now and then on an intenser scale, as in the protected valleys and hills of Gallipoli, and also along part of the River Sackharia. Some of the best quality of cotton produced in Turkey is obtained in these outlying districts. The methods used are as yet primitive and the cost of production high. One may venture, however, to think that with some financial help to the peasants, rapid progress may be attained, as they may be easily induced to prefer the cultivation of cotton to that of other crops. A great advantage possessed by these districts is that communications are quite easy.

In the eastern provinces of Turkey, near the Persian, Russian, and Iraq frontiers, also, cotton is grown on a small scale, but over a very large area. But in these districts easy methods of communication are not available at present, and the expansion of cotton cultivation depends in the first place on the completion of the railway construction projects energetically being pursued by the Republican Government.

In short, the total area suitable for the cultivation of cotton in Turkey is immense, and at present beyond the possibility of measurement. But although the production is increasing in all these districts, undoubtedly the largest and most rapid extension will continue to take place in Adana district, where the livelihood of its population is dependent mainly on its cotton crop.

It would, therefore, be interesting to inquire briefly what is the present cost of production of cotton in the Adana district, and how far cotton cultivation may be considered a profit-yielding investment. At this point, however, it may perhaps not be too pedantic to point out that the phrase "cost of production" in the case of agriculture has not and cannot have the same meaning as in the case of industry. In the case of the cotton industry in particular, by means of the precise methods of costing employed, the important factors that go to make up the final cost of production are clearly distinguished from each other, the unknown factors isolated, the degree of their probable variation estimated, whereby a remarkably precise estimate of the probable cost of production can be made, and at the same time the individual deviations from the average reduced to a minimum. But such a strict definition would certainly be inapplicable to the phrase "cost of production" in the case of cotton cultivation, where so much depends on rain, sun, insects, and worms, which are factors beyond the control of man. When, therefore, one speaks of the cost of production of cotton cultivation, it has to be remembered that, quite apart from the difference of cost arising from differences in the methods of cultivation employed, such a great deal depends on quite uncontrollable weather factors that not only does the average cost of production vary very much from year to year, but also in any given year the result obtained in any one farm may very much deviate from the average result.

The average cost of production per acre of cotton in the Adana district under favourable weather conditions may be estimated as follows:—Ploughing, 20s.; preparation of the field, 4s.; seed, 5s. 6d.; sowing, 3s. 6d.; hoeing, 20s. Assuming that the average yield of cotton in an average farm in normal conditions is 300 lb. per acre, the cost of cultivation may be estimated to be about 2½d. a lb. To this cost must be added the cost of gathering, which, in Turkey, is paid in kind, and generally amounts to 10 per cent. of the crop, so that the cost of the cotton at the farm is on the average of 2.75d. a lb. of lint.

In the above estimate we have assumed that the ploughing is done mechanically by means of the tractor, and the other processes by hand. This is the manner in general use. The actual cost of the ploughing, however, very much depends on the kind of tractor or steam plough employed. If oxen are employed the cost of ploughing is 20 to 25 per cent. higher. The use of tractor and steam ploughs is increasing at a very rapid rate and becoming almost universal. The larger farmers are purchasing generally mechanical tractors of 60 to 80 h.p.

In recent years the cost of production has been very much reduced by the use of the method of sowing in straight lines by means of the planter, which at the same time is rendering possible the use of the mechanical cultivator. The cost of sowing is reduced to about 1s. 6d. per acre, and that of hoeing to 5s. The increasing use and popularity of mechanical methods bids fair to revolutionise the method of cultivation. The importance of the mechanical method, however, is not only in the reduction of cost obtained but also in the fact that by saving time and labour it renders possible the extension of the area cultivated. The most hopeful point about cotton in Asia Minor is the increasing popularity of mechanical methods.

Most of the members of this Congress who are acquainted with the Turkish cotton will be aware of the fact that 90 per cent. consists of the native variety, the characteristics of which are that the bolls do not open at maturity, but are harvested with their capsules, the separation from the husks taking place at the houses.

One of the greatest drawbacks in the expansion of cotton culture in Turkey was the difficulty in distributing these cotton bolls to the various homes, and the redelivery to the ginneries for the separation of the lint from the seed. In years of abundant crops sufficient labour was not available to undertake its separation, and part of the

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crop was always under the danger of being left over until the next season. We may hope that the question of separating the bolls mechanically is now definitely solved.

We regret to report that the Adana district, which was up to the last year absolutely free from any insect pest of importance, has lost this privilege, and that pink boll-worm and the cotton boll-worm have made their appearance in the Adana district.

The Government has taken steps at once to fight against the pink boll-worm. Heaters have been imported, and the method of fighting against this evil by a German preparation called Cyclon also tried. A large quantity of seed has been introduced to Adana for plantation purposes from such districts as Smyrna and Guive—which are immune from pink boll-worm—as the machinery arrived too late for a full and regular campaign against these pests during this season.

Through the excessive rain which we have had in Adana district, and the damage caused by the activity of the cotton boll-worm and the pink boll-worm, the cotton crop had suffered very severe losses, and the hope of a large crop was disappointed; under these circumstances the crop of Adana did not exceed 90,000 bales.

It does not seem to be at present part of the policy of the Government of Turkey to grant special privileges for cotton growing in the shape of guaranteeing interests and capital, but on the other hand an immense amount of help is being given to the cultivator in the shape of financial advances through the agricultural banks, reduction of taxes, custom-free admission of agricultural and ginning machinery, sale of agricultural machinery on credit, and at very reduced prices. At the present time tests are being made with different kinds of seeds, and on the effect of fertilisers. In short, apart from granting bounties the cultivator of cotton is being in every way encouraged.

One of the drawbacks of the Turkish cotton has been its careless classification and its irregularity. The Government is fully aware of the necessity of having the Turkish cotton properly classified, and to ensure its shipment in a regular and proper manner. The Liverpool Cotton Association has been kind enough to state its willingness to admit the standards of the same to the Arbitration Rooms in Liverpool.

As Turkey is an important consumer of cotton piece goods, the development of its agricultural resources naturally increases its buying power, and the spinners of Europe by using Turkish cotton will not only be helping the extension of the outside growth for the development of which so many resolutions have been taken by the meeting of this Congress, and such valuable help has been extended in the past, but at the same time will be increasing the outlet of their manufactured goods in Turkey.

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COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

ORIENTAL CARPET MANUFACTURERS.

The report of the Oriental Carpet Manufacturers for 1924 states that trading has been rendered difficult by the strenous conditions and the margin of profit has been reduced. The turnover, however, has been increased, and the advantages derived therefrom have preventd any falling off in earnings. The situation of interests in Turkey is as satisfactory as could be expected. There has been an increase in activity and the directors are hopeful that the rate of progress will be maintained. In Persia the situation continues to be satisfactory, and the year has seen a considerable increase in the business carried out by the company in that country. In India interests are now firmly established and all production is meeting with a ready sale. The directors have considered it advisable to form an Indian limited liability company to carry on the business of the woollen mills completed under the name of "The Oriental Carpet Manufacturers (India), Ltd."

The aftermath of the War has brought about many changes in the East, and certain privileges enjoyed in the past are no longer of any practical value. Although the company's collection of designs and patterns must always be regarded as of inestimable value to the business, however it does not carry the intrinsic value that other assets of the company possess. Therefore the directors recommend that the amount of £43,647 be appropriated out of the earnings of the present year to amortise the asset of "Concessional Rights, Designs, and Patterns." The net trading profits, after deduction of all charges amount to £111,041; add the balance brought forward, £81, making £111,122. The directors recommend a dividend at the rate of 5s. per share, £60,960; to directors £2,400; depreciation of concessional rights, designs and patterns, £43,647; to extraordinary reserve, £3,744; forward, £371.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

EGYPT.

Electrical Installation.—The Ministry of the Interior, Savoy House, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and installation of an electric power station and distributing system for the town of Minieh. The contract comprises the supply and installation of Diesel driven generator sets and cables, etc. October 1.

Machine Tools.—The Ministry of Education, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of machine tools required for the Port Said Technical School. September 17. (D.O.T.)

Diesel Engine.—The Ministry of Education invites tenders for the supply of:—(1) One 100 h.p. vertical Diesel engine coupled to a generator of 65 k.w. (2) One n.h.p locomotive multitubular boiler. September 17. (D.O.T.)

Sewage Pumping Machinery.—The Director-General, Main Drainage Department, No. 2, Sharia Abbas, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply, erection and delivery of sewage pumping machinery, comprising 3 large and 1 small Diesel engines and 3 large and 1 small centrifugal pumps, complete with auxiliary plant. November 2.

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THE EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended July 30, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has been rather active but prices on balance have remained almost unchanged; the net changes on the week are the following: Sakellaridis, 0.12 dollars up for November, 0.07 dollars up for January, 0.28 dollars up for March; Ashmouni, 0.18 dollars up for August, 0.30 dollars up for October, 0.30 dollars up for December. The week opened very firm as a consequence of the substantial rise which took place in New York upon the publication on 23rd inst., of the American Bureau report giving a condition of 70.4 with an estimated crop of 13,588,000 as against 75.9 and 14,339,000 a fortnight ago. The firmness of our market, however, has been only ephemeral; the trade is still keeping out of the market and a few liquidations for profit taking have sufficed to make prices cede the advance just gained. The demand from abroad for prompt shipment has been much smaller than the preceding week, with the result that prices on the spot market have fallen considerably. With November at 47.00 dollars a week ago Fully Good Fair Sakel was worth 62⅜ dollars, whereas to-day with November at 47.12 dollars it is worth 59⅞ dollars. We consider the difference still too big, and we think it is bound to narrow as we approach nearer to the new crop. At the third July tender 1,500 Crs. dockets were issued. The difference between October New York and October Ashmouni Alexandria has narrowed sharply this week: it stands at 7.56 as against 8.65 a week ago. Nevertheless spinners still consider the present difference too big and in view of the good prospects of the extra staple American crop they expect it to narrow still further. However, one must not lose sight of the fact that this year's acreage in the Delta under Zagora has been considerably curtailed, and whatever the increased production in Upper Egypt may be it will not suffice to bring the total production of Ashmouni to last year's figures. The week's receipts amount to Crs. 1,855 against exports Crs. 56,400; the stock stands at Crs. 410,873.

Spot: Minet el Bassal has been considerably quieter this week and last week's demand from abroad has not been maintained. Sales amount to about 3,400 B/s, of which we estimate 1,500 B/s Sakel, 1,700 B/s Uppers, 100 B/s Zagora, and 100 B/s White.

Sakellarides: Has been in fair request. As for some time past, such demand as there is has been for the low and medium qualities. The grades above Fully Good Fair have been rather neglected. Spot differences are generally considerably easier.

Ashmouni and Zagora: Have been in fair demand and a moderate business has been done. Very little interest has been taken in Good and better, the demand being principally for the medium and low qualities and, for a certain amount, up to Fully Good Fair to Good. Spot differences are without change for the grades from Fully Fair to Fully Good Fair, appreciably dearer for Fair, and rather easier for Good and Fully Good.

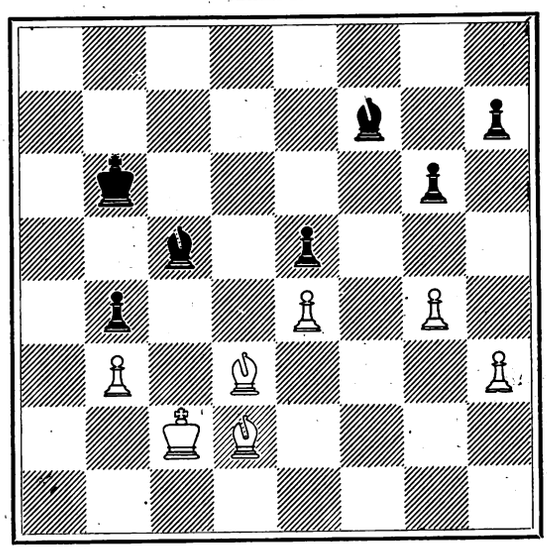
Brown and Pilion: Are neglected and only one small lot of Pilion has changed hands. Spot differences for both growths are without change for the medium qualities and rather easier for the better grades.

White: A small business has been done in the medium qualities. Spot differences are generally appreciably cheaper.

Crop, 1925.—The weather has been favourable. In the Delta, the condition of the Sakel variety is on average not as good as that of last year, whereas that of the other varieties (Zagora, While, Pilion, etc.) is better than last year. In Upper Egypt, the crop is maturing normally; the first arrivals are expected to be down in Alexandria towards the second week of August. The water supply has continued adequate everywhere. The percentage of bolls attacked by the pink boll worm is about equal to that of last year.

CHESS.

By "CARO-KANN."



END GAME No. 10.

White to play and win.

Solution to end-game No. 9:—1, P—Kt 4, K—K3; 2, K—B2, K—Q4; 3, K—B3, P—K5 (ch); 4, PxP K—K4; 5, K—B2, KxP and wins. If 1, K—B3, P—B4; 2, P—R4, PxP; 3, PxP, K—B3; 4, K—Kt3 K—Kt3; 5, K—R3, K—R4 and wins, for White cannot defend his own Pawn and at the same time effectively deal with the threatened advance in the centre.

MANCHESTER COTTON MARKET.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended August 8, states:—

There has been no special development during the past week. The principals of many firms made the August Bank Holiday extend into two or three days and this has had its effect on business but the tone has, on the average maintained the improvement noted during the past week or two. The reduction in the Bank Rate is welcomed as, of course, it will lessen the charge for borrowed money.

Yarns.—Holidays in various places and organised short time have had a strengthening effect on the section spinning American Counts and a steadier resistance is being shown to the low offers made by some buyers. Weak selling is less in evidence. For Egyptian spinnings there has been a slightly improved inquiry, but it is still very difficult for Spinners to secure satisfactory prices.

Cloth.—Business has not been quite so active as in the preceding week or two, but in view of the break caused by the holiday, this was only to be expected.

A fairly large inquiry has come from India and moderate purchases have resulted. There is nothing special to report with regard to China for which country a small business is still going through. For South America rather more has been done than recently but Near Eastern markets remain very quiet.

Raw Cotton.—Quotations have moved within very small limits but the tendency has been downward. Weather reports from the American Cotton States have been better and there appears to have been a fair amount of rain in districts where it was needed. A further Bureau Report is to be published to-day, but will not be available here during business hours. It appears to be generally anticipated that an increase in the estimated crop will be indicated. There is nothing calling for mention with regard to the new Egyptian crop. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows:—American Middling 13.35; Egyptian Fully Good Fair 32.00.

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41

SEP 4 1925

The NEAR EAST AND INDIA

A Weekly Review of the Politics and Commerce of the Balkan Peninsula, Turkey, Egypt, and the Sudan, Syria, Palestine, Arabia, Iraq, Persia and India.

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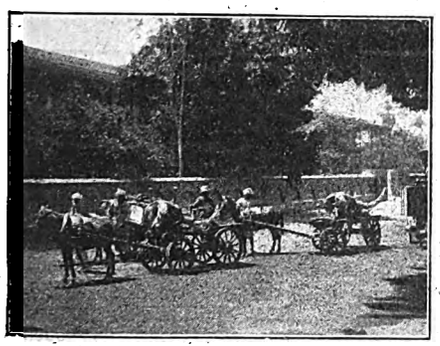

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THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

No. 745.—VOL. XXVIII. THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 1925.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	Page
NOTES OF THE WEEK	215
SPECIAL LETTERS—	
Egypt	218
Albania	218
Greece	219
SPECIAL ARTICLE—	
The Water Carrier	222
LEADING ARTICLE—	
The Revolt of the Jebel Druse ..	217
THE WEEK AT HOME	224
PERSONAL AND GENERAL ...	223
BOOK REVIEWS	222
INDIAN AFFAIRS—	
Special Letters : Calcutta ...	228
Bombay ...	229
The Indian Reform Act ...	226
Current Topics	225
Indian Exchange	230
COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
Notes and News	231
A Dalmatian Railway	233
Cotton and Cotton Goods ...	234
Near East Markets	235
Port Construction in Turkey ...	237
Company Meetings—	
Anglo-Austrian Bank ...	238
Shipping Intelligence	238
Chess	239

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

The Mosul Report.

A perusal of the full text of the Report of the Commission appointed by the Council of the League of Nations to investigate the question of the northern frontier of Iraq throws light on the peculiar finding of the Commission, but does not win conviction for the way in which the members have interpreted their duties. Let it be said at the outset that the Report leaves nothing to be desired from the point of view of fulness. The Commission has taken itself very seriously and has evidently aimed at producing a classic work on the Mosul Vilayet. Whether that is precisely what the Council of the League of Nations required may be left to the judgment of the latter. A document of more practical utility, it might be urged, would have been produced, if the Commission had not proved to be lacking in two important respects: it appears from the Report to be wholly lacking in imagination, and secondly, it has ignored the results of the Great War. In regard to the former characteristic, the implicit confidence that seems to be placed in the *ipse dixit* of anyone who has been dead long enough inevitably creates misgivings as to the Commission's capacity to sift the evidence of living witnesses. In putting on one side the verdict of the Great War the Commission is candid to the point of *naïveté*. To the British contention that Iraq was taken from the Turks in war and formally handed over to or reserved for the Arabs the Turkish delegate at Lausanne replied that "the undertaking given by the British Government could not constitute an argument against Turkey, in view of the fact that Turkey had not, by any international instrument, renounced her rights over the vilayet. That would be tantamount to disposing of someone's else territory in favour of a third party without the consent of the legitimate owner." As a Turkish attempt to counter an unanswerable contention the reply commands respect, but we imagine that not even Fethi Bey would have expected to be told in the words of the Report that "the superior force of the Turkish argument seems so obvious that there is no need to analyse the cases of the two parties." Again Turkey tried to dispose of the argument based on the right of conquest by saying that this right "can no longer be recognised in the twentieth century," and urged in its place "the argument of durable peace." The Commission is so impressed by the wisdom of this that it italicises the expression, and points out that in any event the argument based on the right of conquest is open to question "because, some time after the Treaty of Sèvres, the political situation underwent so radical a change that it was thought necessary to summon a new conference and do over again all the work that had been done at Sèvres. This change of situation was the outcome of the Turkish military successes, which, although they were gained in a different theatre of war, set up a new military position for all the territories which belonged or had belonged to Turkey." In defeating the Greeks the Turks disposed of Greek claims to Asia Minor, but, except in the opinion of the three members of the Commission, they did not upset the verdict of the Great War.

A Discursive Document.

The Commission would seem to have developed such a keen interest in its task that it was betrayed into going beyond the requirements of the case. To enable it to discuss the word Iraq the members state "we have consulted the early Arabian historians and geographers, a long series of Arabian maps, hundreds of European maps ranging from the sixteenth to the twentieth century, travel books of every period, authoritative geographical works, and the geographical text books in use in the Arab secondary schools in Egypt," and four foolscap pages follow devoted to what some of these authorities have to say on the subject. Yet the salient points bearing on the task that they undertook are few in number and briefly expressed.

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The greater part of the population of the disputed territory (about five-eighths) is undoubtedly Kurd.

The Kurds are neither Arabs, Turks nor Persians, though they are most nearly related to the Persians.

Yezidi are not Moslems . . . they are not related either to the Turks or to the Arabs. They have some affinities with the Kurds.

The frontier claimed by the British Government is topographically a very good one . . . is an excellent strategic frontier.

Although the disputed territory does not constitute a distinct natural region, it has none the less a certain unity.

From the purely economic point of view, the Commission thinks that the most advantageous settlement for the disputed territory would be to attach it to Iraq.

The Commission recognised the impracticability of a plebiscite as a means for determining the wishes of the inhabitants, and hoped to find a better guide interviewing individuals. The total number of persons questioned individually, we are told, was about eight hundred; but of these the Report states: "Several witnesses appeared incapable of judging the question . . . Certain witnesses who were consulted twice reversed at the second interview the opinion they had given on the pervious day . . . In short, it was difficult to estimate the importance of the various witnesses and the value of their statements." In spite, however, of its practical findings and of the impossibility of gauging the real opinions of the inhabitants, the Commission was constrained to go off at a tangent into political matters with which it was not concerned. Thus we have the ruling that "Turkey retains her legal sovereignty over the disputed territory so long as she does not renounce her rights," and the recommendation that a decision in favour of Iraq must be conditional upon a definite continuance of the Mandate. Although the Council of the League of Nations may not feel called upon to follow the Commission in the multifarious paths along which it has sought to blaze a trail, there can be no doubt that the Council's library has received a useful acquisition in the Report.

Egypt to India by Air.

A provisional agreement has been signed by the Air Ministry and Imperial Airways Limited, for the establishment and operation, under a five years' contract, of a commercial air service between Egypt and India. Although steps will be taken at once to prepare for the inauguration of this service, it is not expected that it will be in actual commercial operation until the autumn of 1926. In view of the special character of the route there is good reason why the authorities concerned should firmly set their faces against a premature start. With adequate organisation the service can be made as simple and as safe as the Paris air mail; but it would be foolish to ignore the fact that its organisation is a much bigger problem. The reported decision that only three-engined machines are to be employed will, it is to be hoped, prove true. Atmospheric conditions between Egypt and India, over the Syrian Desert and across the Persian Mountains, impose a greater strain on machines than they experience in Europe, and it is essential that the risk of forced landings should be reduced to a minimum. Another point to be borne in mind is that the exploits of individual airmen in long distance flying should not be allowed to form the standard for the pilots of a commercial company. It is one thing to fly "on one's own" one or more special journeys, and a very different proposition to undertake the work of routine flying. The Egypt-India Air Service must be equipped with a large staff of experienced pilots, who must not be overworked.

Coalition in Yugoslavia.

The official seal has been set on the coalition of Radicals and Raditchists in Yugoslavia by the visit of King Alexander to Zagreb on the occasion of festivities in connection with the millenium of the first Croat-King. Although the weather marred the proceedings, the people of Zagreb were able to testify to their endorsemnt of M. Raditch's abandonment of his republican views. His republicanism in all probability was never a serious conviction. Antagonism to Serbian centralisation was his guiding principle, and being carried away himself by his eloquence quite as much as his hearers, he could embrace any theory at a moment's notice with an amazing display of wholeheartedness, provided that it promised to help him in his fight against M. Pashitch. All that has now passed. M. Raditch is as eloquent a monarchist as ever he was a republican, and no little credit is due to King Alexander for his tactful handling of a peculiarly difficult situation. In Zagreb, it is to be hoped, he has been given convincing proof of the unity of the Kingdom. The opposition in Croatia to M. Raditch has undoubtedly been strengthened by his political *volte face* and his acceptance for his party of portfolios in a Pashitch Government. But this opposition is mainly personal, and, as far as is known, is not anti-monarchist. The test of the coalition will come when the period of M. Pashitch's convalescence is over, and an attempt has to be made to reconcile divergent views regarding the relative merits for Yugoslavia of centralisation and a greater degree of local autonomy.

The Black Sea Fleet.

A year ago the report that the French Government proposed to hand back to Russia the ships of the Black Sea Fleet that have been interned at Bizerta caused considerable uneasiness at Angora and was responsible for the decision of the Cabinet to strengthen the Turkish fleet. The ships have not yet been handed over, but it is again announced that they will be shortly. In the interval steps have been taken to improve Turkey's position at sea. As far as can be gathered from spasmodic information the advocates of a unified fleet have lost the day and the politician has been allowed to override the naval expert. Turkey will obtain a battleship from one country, a cruiser from another and will go to a third for her submarines; technical advisers will be obtained from a variety of nations mainly under the guiding principle of not allowing one to know what the other is doing, and the Turkish Navy will suffer from all the disadvantages of a heterogeneous collection of units lacking uniformity. Responsible officers of the Navy realised that, if the Turkish Fleet, which cannot be a big one, was to attain the highest possible standard of efficiency, it must be in close touch with a live Navy, and they made no secret of their desire to bring their Fleet into line with the British Navy. Unfortunately for them, they are ahead of Turkish politicians in their grasp of essentials in regard to world politics. For one reason or another—the chief is the Mosul question—Angora is unwilling to "encourage" Great Britain, and the Turkish Navy pays the penalty.

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M. Politis, the Greek Minister in Paris, has been recalled to Athens by his Government.

The Albanian Government last week closed the Greek-Albanian frontier on the ground that there is plague in the Piræus.

The Indian Pavilion at Wembley has just been enriched, states the *Morning Post*, by the loan of a collection of water-colour paintings by the Indian artist, Mr. S. Fyzee Rahamin, of Bombay. Two of his paintings have been acquired by the National Gallery, and on his last visit to the Pavilion the Earl of Birkenhead also bought two of them to hang at the India Office.

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THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 1925.

THE REVOLT OF THE JEBEL DRUSE.

Although it is doubtful whether so much would have been heard of the revolt in the Jebel Druse had not the French people and Press been so bitterly divided into Clerical and anti-Clerical camps, the incident is, quite apart from its repercussions upon the domestic politics of the mandatory Power for Syria, not without importance. The fact that the eight hundred casualties which the French have suffered were mostly of soldiers of Asiatic or African origin is little consolation to a State which prides itself that men from its possessions in the two Continents nearest to Europe can compensate for its own declining birth-rate; nor is the reported conduct of these troops in face of hostile action a very good bolstering up to the hopes of those abundant Frenchmen who ardently desire an increasing limitation to their commitments overseas. There is, also, another aspect of this rebellion, to which little attention has yet been drawn; we refer to the apparent innocuousness of the French aerial operations in depressing the Druses. Command of Middle Eastern countries by the aerial weapon is, it would appear, seen more and more obviously to be an advantage limited to the plains, or at least to level ground: in the mountains of the Hauran, as in the mountains of Kurdistan, the advantage is rather with the bombed than with the bomber. These things apart, however, there is no sense at all in exaggerating the military importance of the Druses' revolt. Stories to the effect that Bedouin from such tribes as the Anaizeh and the Roalla are staunchly behind the inhabitants of Bashan in resisting the French will certainly vanish into water with the rains of October, if not before, for no cause on earth would keep these fickle Bedouin from moving to their deserts when the rains begin. Nor is it reasonable to suppose that the Druses will receive anything more than passive sympathy from the majority of Moslems inhabiting Syria, for the Arabs have not forgotten that four years ago, when they received such a drubbing from the French, the Druses withheld their assistance. And lastly, it is well to remember that this is no revolt of the whole Druse population in the Hauran, but only of a disaffected portion.

Not for its own sake, then, but rather for the possible effects that it may have on the rest of mandated Syria, is this rebellion in the Jebel Druse to be considered by the student of the Middle East. Already vague and enormous rumours—as vague and as enormous as the desert from which they spring—are being set about of general unrest in the Arab world, and that the French authorities themselves have not been unmindful of the potentialities of the situation would seem to be proved by their attitude of suspicion towards the Nationalists of Damascus. If, owing either to the lack of water in the Jebel Druse, or to the unreliability of the troops at General Sarrail's command, or to the difficulty of finally accomplishing anything by the aerial arm, this Druse revolt is but slowly crushed, the loss to the French of the harvest of the Hauran, which is the granary of Syria, may be the least of their evils. As is well known now, the separation by the French of Jebel Druse from the rest of Syria was, in the eyes of the local population, but barely compensated for by the granting to it of autonomy; the independence of the Lebanon the Syrians could understand, if only for historical reasons, but the division of the rest of the country into the States of Syria, the Alaouites, and the Jebel Druse has, apparently, never been comprehended by the natives except as a move to check the growth of national unity. Particularly will this sympathy with the Druses on the part of the Moslem and Christian population of Syria be liable to grow if continued and fruitless bombing of villages is indulged. The situation calls indeed for most tactful and, one is inclined to add, generous handling.

But, as we have already indicated, we are not disposed to overestimate this revolt in Syria. It is pertinent to remember that of few of those six previous revolts in Syria of which the decriers of French colonial administration are now making so much, was anything heard at the time of their happening. In other words, it is because an atheistic French Government is now in power, and because General Sarrail, the High Commissioner for Syria, is an atheist, that so much wild writing has been indulged. Certainly, the difficulty of administering Syria has not been minimised by the changes of attitude which the successive High Commissioners have exhibited. For whereas General Gouraud (whose troubles with Transjordan were at least partly the fault of the Emir Abdullah's State) and General Weygand (who was on extraordinarily good terms both with Palestine and Transjordan) leaned beneficially upon the Christian element in the Syrian population, General Sarrail has rather flouted the Christians, and has endeavoured to conciliate the Moslems. Sufficient evidence of this is to be found in his treatment of the instigators of the Damascus riots at the time of Lord Balfour's inappropriate visit. Yet, despite this rather bewildering difference, which to the Syrian Christians is nothing less than a *volte face*, there is insufficient evidence at present available that General Sarrail alone is responsible for this outbreak of Sultan Pasha el Atrash. Not only did he retain at Sueida the nominee of General Weygand, Captain Carbillet, who in some quarters is regarded as being solely responsible for the trouble, but so recently as last April he was received with every appearance of welcome by the population of the Jebel Druse. Whether, at the beginning, a few weeks ago, of a local agitation by this mysterious people for a wider autonomy or a change of governor, he could have been more generous, is an affair upon which it is perhaps indiscreet for Englishmen to judge. There are always some people ready to make mountains out of mole-hills. And this brings us to the final point which we should like to emphasise, a point which it is gratifying to observe has already been made by the French Government; we refer to the attitude of complete good-will on the part of the British authorities in Transjordan and in Palestine. Whatever be the ills of, and whosoever be responsible for, the division of the present Syria into four autonomous provinces, the responsibility of the greater ill of dividing the traditional Syria into three distinct parts remains with the Allies, and it is, therefore, the equal interest of France and of Great Britain that unrest in any part of this region should be quickly dissolved. The time is happily gone when refugees from justice could seek a safe asylum in Transjordan, where, indeed, the authorities are now doing invaluable work in the cause of peace. No doubt the British are better beloved of the Druses than are the French; no doubt in times past the French may have had some legitimate grounds for accusing the British of indifference to their troubles in Syria. Matters now, however, are on a very different footing, and that Anglo-French co-operation in the Middle East upon which we have so often insisted is at last becoming a reality. It may be that France would prefer that a race like the Druses should be brought within the polity of nations, where this country would try to bring it within the comity of nations: but the main desirability of the moment, as is happily perceived by both British and French representatives on the spot, is, peace, which, moreover, we have little doubt will be shortly secured.

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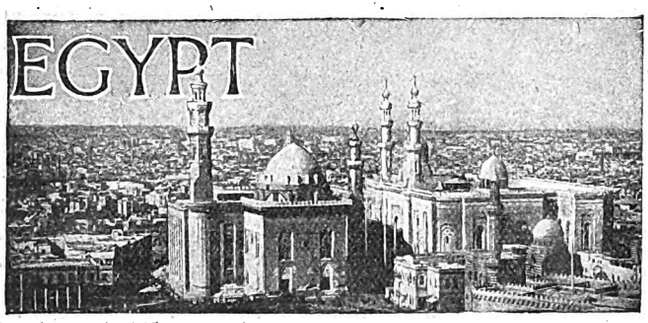
The Near and Middle East*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, August 10.

The Flood.

The second week in August has brought the Nile flood to Cairo, and the piers of Kasr el Nil bridge are now washed by a turbid, swirling stream, heavily charged with mud. Unfortunately, the flood, after an excellent early promise, now proves to be disappointing, and there is a prospect of much *sharaki* land going waterless this year. The only consoling thought for landholders so affected must be that, in three or four years' time, the new works at Gebel Aulia and Nag Hamadi will have been completed, when there should be much more abundant supplies of summer water than are now available.

Journalistic Offenders.

Journalists have been in the limelight again this week. The editor-proprietor of the *Minbar* and the contributor who wrote the article, referred to in my letter last week, criticising the administration of the Royal Wakfs, were on Wednesday ordered by the committing magistrate to be kept in prison pending trial at the Assizes next month, while, on the following day, the proprietor of the *Mahroussa*, which journal published a similar article to that of the *Minbar*, was also arrested and thrown into jail. He, too, will probably have an enforced holiday from editorial troubles, pending his trial.

Supplementary Examinations.

The present Government has shown much courage in tackling a number of problems that had long needed resolute handling, but which previous Ministries had shirked because applying the required remedy might not always have been a popular proceeding. No member of the present Cabinet has displayed greater resolution than the Minister of Education, Aly Pasha Maher. To him and to his predecessor, Rifaat Pasha, there is due infinite credit for taming the insubordinate schoolboys, whose idleness, insolence, and conceit had, during the last few years, increased to an astounding extent, until, under the Zaghloul Ministry, the students, encouraged by the Government of the day to form themselves into a kind of Zaghloulist Fascisti that roamed the streets, intimidating opposition, wherever encountered, were completely out of hand. Rifaat Pasha and Maher Pasha changed all that, and now a further excellent decision has been taken, namely, not to hold supplementary examinations for boys who failed in the tests held at the end of the school year, just closed. It was also under Zaghloul Pasha's Ministry that the scandal of supplementary examinations attained its worst level, but Maher Pasha has put his foot down hard, and declared that there shall be no supplementary examinations whatever. Moreover, he has requested newspaper editors, who have previously filled many columns at this time of year with schoolboy complaints, to publish no more of these juvenile petitions.

The Abuse of Education.

This is not the only excellent decision of the present Minister, who, convinced of the necessity for the presence of foreign schoolmasters and mistresses in the State schools, has engaged several new foreign teachers, in the face of fierce opposition from no small section of the Egyptian Press and of the Egyptian school staff. Moreover, when he discovered that certain Egyptian masters and mistresses were fostering the anti-foreign agitation and were themselves contributing to the Press articles on the subject, Maher Pasha did not hesitate to take severe disciplinary action. Perhaps it is difficult for anyone who has not lived in Egypt during recent years, and been aware of the anarchy previously prevailing throughout the whole educational system, to appreciate the courage necessary for the carrying through of so firm-handed a policy. Maher Pasha has shown himself not only courageous, but also always willing to listen to advice from anyone who can speak with authority on educational subjects, and for his admirable work during his few months in office Egypt has much reason to be grateful now, and, in the future, will doubtless appreciate even more fully the wisdom of the new policy.

Traffic in Drugs.

Tanta has been giving the rest of Egypt a lead in applying the new law regarding traffic in drugs. Over 300 convictions have been secured in two months, which seems to show that the evil had attained alarming dimensions in the Delta town. The official vigilance seems to have stirred the wives of Tanta's dope fiends to individual action against drug-taking husbands, if a story published in the local Press is to be believed. A workman of the town not only spent all his wages on cocaine, but had sold all his furniture, too, with the exception of the double-bed, which remained the sole survival of the equipment with which he and his wife had begun married life. Having no money, and feeling the cocaine craving strong upon him, he proposed to sell the bed also. But at this his wife rebelled, a scene ensued, and blows were exchanged. The quarrel was patched up, and the husband, weary of wrangling, lay down to rest on the bed which had been the bone of contention. As soon as he was asleep, the wife, thinking to cure him of his fatal habit, seized his razor, and with one well-directed blow sliced off the nose, up which, in the form of white powder, had disappeared all her furniture, and her peace of mind with it. It will be interesting to hear whether, when fitted out with a new olfactory organ, this Tanta husband retains his cocaine-sniffing desires.

ALBANIA.

Tirana, August 12.

The Ceded Territory.

Detailed particulars of the cession of territory by Albania to Yugoslavia are now known to the public. In addition to the compromise effected with respect to the Monastery of Sveti Naum and its immediate district, whereby the village of Piskopeia is definitely attributed to Albania, Vermosch in the extreme North has been granted to Yugoslavia.

This cession is causing considerable bitterness at Scutari. The district comprises the upper waters of the River Vermosch, which flows eastwards into the Plava Lake, where lie the two townships of Gusinje and Plava, inhabited by fiercely independent Mohammedan clans of Albanian nationality. It will be recalled in this connec-

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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tion how, when Gusinje and Plava were attributed to Montenegro by the Treaty of Berlin, the latter were unsuccessful in their attempts to obtain effectual possession, with the result that the Powers again intervened, and after long negotiations ordered and effected an exchange of territory by which Dulcigno, on the coast, came into the possession of Montenegro, while Gusinje and Plava remained Turkish.

Actually, these townships lie north of the great barrier of the North Albanian Alps (highest peak about 8,000 ft.), which forms Albania's natural frontier in these parts. When Montenegro eventually acquired Ipek, the importance of controlling Gusinje and Plava became manifest, as the shortest and only convenient route between Ipek and Podgoritza and the sea passes through Plava. The claim of Albania, therefore, to the district (always granted that Ipek was to remain Montenegrin) could hardly be sustained.

Vermosch, likewise, remains beyond Albania's natural frontier; but on the one hand it is a *cul-de-sac* affording no through route of any value to Montenegro, and, on the other hand, forming part of the territory of the Catholic Clan of Klementi, who for centuries have made use of it for the pasturage of their flocks in summer, when their own bare limestone mountains are deprived of water and grass. Its cession to Yugoslavia is, therefore, a very serious matter to this Clan.

The Klementi form one of the group of clans known as the Maltsori (High Mountaineers), composed besides of the clans Hoti, Gruda, Kastrati, Shkreli, and a few other smaller units. Under the provisions of the Council of Ambassadors it was decided to leave Hoti and Gruda in Montenegro, a decision both unjust and impolitic, since it divided this age-long tribal federation between two sovereign States. The majority of the population is, moreover, Catholic, and the whole is purely Albanian. Catholic and Albanian Scutari is their natural capital, whereas Podgoritza, the alternative market centre in Montenegro, is Orthodox and Slav.

Nevertheless, there are arguments of a geographical character which might have justified the transfer of the whole of the Maltsori group to Montenegro. The natural frontier of Albania in these parts does, in fact, follow the line of high mountains descending from the North Albanian Alps towards the Lake of Scutari, which happens to be also the traditional line of demarcation separating the Maltsori group from the neighbouring Albanian group of Clans (known as the Pulati) to the South. The division of the Maltsori group into two, however, has no valid defence whatever.

An Unstable Settlement.

If the Council of Ambassadors had consulted the desires of the local inhabitants and had taken the few elementary geographical facts more into consideration, a compromise for which a good deal could have been said might have been brought about by an exchange of territory on a wider scale—that is, by the granting of Dibra to Albania (and with this town, which is an indispensable market centre for the population of Eastern Albania, the natural geographical and tribal boundary of Albania in the East) in exchange for the sacrifice of the Maltsori. As things are, conditions of great instability have been perpetuated, and the cession of Vermosch only makes matters worse. Only if the cession could be regarded as the thin end of the wedge, leading to a settlement on the above lines, would there be something to say for it.

In that it now inflicts a great hardship on the Klementi clansmen, it may indeed result in an agitation for the transfer of the whole of the Maltsori to Yugoslavia. Thus an opportunity of reopening the whole question may be given; and it is not beyond reasonable conjecture that Ahmed Zogu, who would not be averse from weakening the Catholic element in Albania, has actually agreed to the cession as a first step whereby Dibra should be eventually restored to Albania.

Meanwhile it should be noted that the feelings of the Catholics in Scutari, who are for the most part opposed to the present régime, have been outraged—a fact which may well result in the course of time in further trouble of a serious kind.

GREECE.

Athens, August 10.

Disaffection with the Government.

The various political parties are very busy adjusting themselves and their programmes to the new and surprising situation created for them by the unexpected success of the Pangalos *coup dètat*. From their point of view the accession to power of the present Government constitutes a serious breach of their caste privileges, and they are actively engaged in repairing the breaches between the parties in order to be in a position to deliver a general assault upon General Pangalos when the propitious moment comes. The briefs of the Constitutional parties are numerous and the vigorous actions of the Administration in arresting deputies of the National Assembly, in condemning journalists and suspending their papers for alleged improper comments, in dealing with a heavy hand with the principal leaders of the Communist Party, have aroused indignation amongst the political friends of the victims. The feelings of the Army and Navy are also said to be unstable; there have been a large number of permutations in the senior ranks and the Government is accused of "sacking" competent and experienced officers to make room for their friends who have not seen a shot fired in anger since 1912, if then.

Old Party Lines Disappearing.

The development of this situation is manifesting itself by signs of a very serious set of political alliances. The old antagonism between the Venizelists and the Royalists is gradually fading and ceasing to be the party touchstone. There are signs of a *rapprochement* on the one hand between the Moderates of both the Right and the Left including the Royalist, and on the other between the extremist republicans and the extremist Royalists. The latter group forms the main support of the present Government and the former of the Opposition. It would appear on the face of it that in personnel at any rate the Opposition is immensely stronger than the Government faction, but all the parties, especially of the Left, are more or less split by the intrusion of this new element in party politics, and it would not be surprising to see a reasonable success of the Pangalists at the polls, if it is decided to hold elections in the early autumn. If the elections are delayed unduly, and the Government is carried on too long by "unconstitutional" decree this will operate to the advantage of the present Opposition. Nobody knows when the elections will be held, probably not even General Pangalos himself, and the reports concerning the Government's intentions in this respect contradict themselves on the average about twice a week.

Governmental Activities.

Meanwhile the Government is doing things; it has put through the much-discussed order for 100,000 rifles for the Army—and given it to an Italian firm—it is pushing ahead the question of the machine guns; it has carried out a number of fiscal changes; it is keeping a very tight hand on the subversive elements and generally putting a

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"jerk" into the administration, a most unusual state of affairs in the heat of summer. It is justifying its sobriquets of "Fascist" or "Council of Action" which are being applied according to the political predilections of the critic.

Schemes of M. Rendis.

In foreign affairs M. Rendis, who is certainly one of the weightiest members of the Cabinet, has been energetic and ingenious. His proposal for the conclusion of a pact of compulsory arbitration between the Balkan States (always excluding Bulgaria) fizzled like a damp squib, for only the ostracised Bulgaria deigned to take any serious notice of it. He has since propounded an ingenious scheme for bridging over the gulf which separates Athens from Belgrade on the crucial question of the Salonika-Ghevgheli Railway. In brief it comes to this, that the control of the line should be handed over to a French administration and be in a sense internationalised, with the proviso, however, that this control shall extend right through to Bucharest and Prague. The plan may have been inspired from outside or it may be the native product of M. Rendis' brain. Whichever it was, the choice of France as the controlling Power and the buffer shows considerable acumen, for the influence of France is not negligible in Belgrade; also the proposal to extend the control of the railway communication as far as Prague and Bucharest is a cunning move to draw the attention of those capitals to the fact that their one line of communication with the Aegean is dependent upon the goodwill of Yugoslavia, and a Yugoslavia that has lately surmounted some of its prinicpal internal difficulties and is credited with the ambition of playing a preponderating rôle in the councils of the Balkans.

Refugee Settlement Commission.

The difference of opinion between the Greek Government and the Refugee Settlement Commission which is a *dépendance* of the League of Nations has caused a certain amount of stir and incidentally raised a pretty point of international law. Financial irregularities in the administration of the Commission's funds are alleged to have taken place in Macedonia, and some officials of the Commission have been arrested by the authorities and are to be brought to trial. The Greek Government, in its best Fascist mood, wishes to apply in this case the provisions of its recent decree in virtue of which the embezzlement of public funds is indictable before a military court and punishable by death by hanging. The Commission on the other hand, while not impugning the right of the Government to hale alleged criminals before the Greek courts, maintains with some show of reason that its defaulting functionaries should be tried by the ordinary civil courts under the civil code. There has been a good deal of ink-slinging; the Greek has naturally enough ridden to death the stock argument about the unjustifiable infringement of Greek sovereignty, while the Commission's supporters have also naturally enough made some play with the argument that the money has been supplied by means of the influence of the League of Nations, that the Commission is responsible to the League, and that, while disclaiming any intention of interfering with Greek sovereignty, it feels justified in protesting against the application of such measures by the Greek Government as will place their officials in such a position that the legitimate work of the Commission will be impeded. There is something to be said on both sides, and a compromise has now been reached by which the delinquents in the present instance will be tried under the extraordinary decree by the Military court, but that this shall not constitute a precedent and in future cases they will appear before the civil courts under the provisions of the civil code.

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ORIENTAL TYPES.*

The Water Carrier.

By F. W. Chardin.

What is more typically a home-bred oriental growth than the *saqqa* or water carrier? With his water skin on his own or his donkey's back, he is known from Morocco westward throughout all North Africa and most of Southern and Central Asia. What is more redolent of the dusty East than the sound, conjured up in the mind of the returned traveller, of the metallic clapping of his two brass cups together as he forces his way through the crowded lanes of the market place with his refreshing burden on his back? With strident and insistent calls of poetic phraseology, he addresses the passers by in words that remind one irresistibly of the Bible "O ye that are athirst, come ye to the water," and many a parched passer-by whose throat is full of choking dust, purchases for a minute sum, a drink of the tepid, doubtful-looking liquid.

The *raison d'être* of the *saqqa* is, of course, municipal inefficiency and corruption. Very few cities or towns of Turkey in Asia have ever boasted of a water supply since the days of Assyria and Babylon. Official incapacity and lethargy had never conceived of a thing so beneficial to the public being advisable, and private enterprise had never been able to overcome the dead weight of officialdom, and so, in countries where water, freely supplied, was perhaps a more vital necessity than in any other countries of the world, water was a costly and precious commodity. In some of the more important cities, the coming of the European armies has brought in its train a water supply. Such has happened in Jerusalem and some other towns, and one sees in such places, pipes in the streets where men, women and children come to fill jars, pots and skins, for only the wealthy can afford water "laid on" in their houses.

The advent of a water-supply in the East, although it would make for health and cleanliness, would deprive the *saqqa* of the greater part if not all, of his picturesque task, and what the city would gain in well-being, it would lose in interest to the stranger. The passing of the *saqqa* would deprive the Eastern town of one of its most picturesque figures, and many would look back on the days when he carried on his moist task with regret.

There are several grades in the profession, from the water contractor or *quntratji* owning many animals and employing a number of hands, to the humble fellow with a swollen goat skin or sheep skin, its legs and all holes tied up, lashed on his back.

Of course, the very poor cannot afford to buy water in this way, and the womenfolk of the household, from the bent, tottering old grandam to the little girl of six years of age or so, may be seen going down to the water at the river bank in all weathers and returning with a soaking skin or earthernware jar on their backs, the water saturating the thin garments covering their legs and their backs from their shoulders downwards. The hardship of this, in cold weather, can only be imagined, and must make for a great deal of rheumatism and consumption. The Arabs are, however, a hardy race, far hardier than we ourselves with our warm fires and windows which keep out draughts. The writer has seen women and girls in the process of washing their clothes on the river bank, stand-

* See The Near East and India of April 30 and June 4.

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ing in the icy water up to their breasts and with only a loose cotton garment on, calmly rinsing their washing in the river and chatting and joking with their neighbours on the bank the while. These mermaids seemed in no hurry to come up out of the water; perhaps they found it warmer than the bitter wind which was blowing, making the northern Englishman turn up the collar of his "British Warm." The *saqqa* himself is a hardy fellow, all the year round he must be in and out of the water, and sometimes, when he is loading up a number of beasts, he must stand in the water for a long period of time, pleasant enough in warm weather, but horrible enough in cold. Then, if he carry the water skin himself, he must bear the saturated thing on his back all day and every day. It is indeed a marvel that the human frame can stand such conditions and remain in good health. For the *saqqa* is, as a rule, a man of extraordinarily good physique with particularly well developed legs, due, doubtless, to his running up and down the river bank with his burden and to his generally physically active life.

Other members of the craft own donkeys which carry, lashed across their backs, ordinary undressed water-skins, or else earthenware bottles fixed in a wooden frame and hanging on both flanks of the beast. Others, more important still, possess a number of ponies of poor breed and small value and which carry a water receptacle worthy of a description. This is a large bag of thick tanned leather fastened at the edges with copper bolts; it is wide at the bottom and has a narrow elongated opening or mouth. One of these hangs on each side of the pony, supported by means of a leather crosspiece across its back. The mouth of this water jacket is hooked up to a hook on the pony's harness; when it is carrying the water it is unhooked and held up for the water to be poured in and down for it to be poured out. Each water-jacket is filled by means of a sort of leather bucket, wider at the bottom than at the top, with a jug-like lip and a wooden handle runnning down one side, with which to scoop up the water of the river and to tip it into the narrow mouth of the jacket. These ponies are, as often as not, driven by small boys, sometimes absolute children, who sit on the leather cross piece and guide their patient beast with a rope or chain attached to its mouth. They seem to spend their time shrieking and belabouring the animal with a stick, or, sometimes, a chain, or prodding some wretched sore on its back. Driven thus, particularly when the water skin is returning empty, the pony will gallop or canter rapidly over the cobbled streets, yet these children, sitting cross-legged on its back, never seem to fall off, so accustomed are they to the habit of the country of riding by balance. The filler, who generally seems to be the man in control, stands in the river up to his knees filling and refilling the ponies' water-jackets as they arrive.

Needless to say, the condition of ponies and donkeys engaged in this work, is terrible; it must almost needs be so when one considers the nature of the burden borne for hours on end. Owing to that burden, one cannot see often the sores on its back, but a look at its tortured eyes is generally enough. Their condition, however, when animals of this kind are brought to the veterinary hospital for treatment, is unbelievable. Beasts doing this class of work generally belong to some contractor in a good way of business, and he would hold such contracts as watering the main roads in summer, providing water for the various *hammams* or public baths, or filling the water cisterns of large households. Smaller houses are served by donkey or man-borne water, the donkey driven by a small boy as a rule. Each *saqqa* has his regular clients, and generally he takes payment of a few pence per skin of water on delivery and gives no credit at all. Of course the fellow who peddles the water through the streets, gets a better return per skin of water carried, especially in summer, but in the cold winter his trade must be small. The man with the regular clientele at so much per skinful for household purposes has, however, the more regular and satisfactory returns. Of course, if the pedlar is in luck, some Believer, wishing to perform a pious act, will buy up a whole skinful and instruct the *saqqa* to deliver it gratis to all comers, particularly beggars and poor folk, this is quite a common way of practising philanthropy. Sometimes indeed, the *saqqa* himself, with the sublime charity of the poor to the poor, will give to such wretched ones free of charge receiving in return the blessing of Allah.

The water delivered in the town by these agencies, is usually in a condition which defies description, and a bacteriological examination would, one has reason to believe, disclose the germs of most internal diseases. At any waterside approach, one may see cloths being washed, sheep, donkeys, horses being bathed, personal ablutions, involving a prodigality of soap, being performed, household refuse and filth of all descriptions being thrown into the water and a yard or two away, not necessarily upstream, waterskins being industriously filled. The marvel is that human life can exist at all and that enteric and similar diseases claim comparatively so few victims. Doubtless however, physical immunity is obtained through long usage; yet the well-known "Baghdad Boil" or "Aleppo Button" so disfiguring in its effects, is said by some to arise through drinking bad water.

The water delivered at the house by the *saqqa* is generally very muddy, and no wonder, when one considers the agitation that the water nearest the river banks is subjected to. It is therefore put through a *hub* or filter. This consists of an enormous jar of porous clay usually quite large enough for Marjana to hide her robbers in, although there are many sizes, the smallest holding perhaps a gallon. This jar rests in a four-legged wooden framework so that its round or pointed bottom is a foot or two above the ground, under it a smaller non-porous jar or other utensil being placed to catch the water as it percolates through the filter. It is then used for household purposes and may be considered clear of mud, but not, unfortunately, of germs. It is this *hub* that the *saqqa* pours his water when he arrives with his full skins. After a short time, the coating of slimy mud inside the *hub* becomes very thick and the water percolates with difficulty; the receptacle must then be discarded and replaced by a new one.

The water purveyed by our picturesque friend, the itinerant water seller of the market streets, is in truth, *eau naturel* although it is certainly not *aqua pura*. The liquid which flows from the hole in the untied foot of the goat-skin, which had hitherto been covered by a broad thumb, has, most probably, not been even through a *hub*, and the same may be said of that of the more well set up tradesman who possesses a long, decorated brass spout attached to his skin. The water which flows into the brass cups, contains enough bacilli to slay an army, and the European who essays to drink it is a bold man indeed.

Until the East becomes modernised, the *saqqa* will remain and perform his vital public duties, but the days that see the flotation of water supply schemes are bad days for those of his craft. In the future life doubtless, he will rest for ever from his very laborious days, for is not Paradise described in the Quran as: *Jannatin tajri min takhtiha'l anhar*—"gardens through which flow streams of water," and the *saqqa* will not be needed, a water supply being already installed.

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Book Reviews and Notes.

FROM SYRIA AND NEJD.

'THROUGH INNER DESERTS TO MEDINA." By the Countess Malmignati (London: Philip Allan and Co., 10s. 6d. net).

The value of this book lies in the fact that it is the record of an attempt made to reach the great uninhabited region of Arabia known as the Ruba el Khali, the "Empty Quarter" that was the unattained ambition of explorers like Wellsted, von Wrede, Halevy, and Leo Hirsch, and, to come to our own day, of Mr. St. John Philby. That the intrepid lady who is the author of this volume should have failed in her quest is, in view of the experiences of earlier travellers, hardly to be wondered at: the marvel rather is that a European woman should have dared to hope to cross a desert which it is not certain that even an Arab has traversed. And so of this great South Desert we still, in the words of Dr. D. G. Hogarth know "about as much as Istakhri knew in the tenth century, and about as little as Hajji Khalfah recorded in the seventeenth."

Some time before the War—no dates are mentioned in this work—Countess Malmignati set out from Damascus with the intention of penetrating the Syrian Desert and Nejd and so of getting through to the Indian Ocean. To this end she employed the assistance of Mahmoud Bassam—the same old Arab, presumably, who once helped Miss Gertrude Bell in her wanderings and who now is of infinite assistance to the Nairn Transport Company. Through his offices she attached herself to the Roalla tribe (a section of the Anizeh) who at that time were round Palmyra. Under the special protection of the Sultan Al Tayar, she moved with the tribe southwards to the Hamad Desert, and thence though the El Wadian Desert on to the wells of Mbehara, which were the *dirat* of the Roalla. The party was now approaching real desert, east of the Wadi Sirhan, and it was somewhere, apparently (the authoress's geographical indications are far from precise, and her one map is, in consideration of the importance of her journey, ridiculously inadequate) in the neighbourhood of Jof, that a fight between the Shammar tribe and her Roalla might have earlier frustrated the expedition. However, the Roalla were sufficiently victorious for the trek south, through the inner deserts and along unbeaten tracks, to be resumed. Aim was made for the Wadi-al-Umstarri (the Wadi Rumma?), and is was now learned from the Sherrarat, friends of the Roalla, that big events were taking place at Hail, and that fighting was universal throughout the country. (It is curious that no direct mention is anywhere made of the Wahhabis, nor of their country, Nejd). The great purpose was nevertheless held to, although the authoress confesses to having felt qualms on having to move with the Sultan to Zilfi (near Boreidah, in Nejd), where he wished to exchange camels for horses. The country she was in is familiar to readers of Palgrave, Doughty and Philby. She was now half-way to the Ruba el Khali; another nine hundred miles, or two months' marching, and the northern fringe of the Empty Quarter—the fringe which possibly no European has ever seen—would be reached. The lack of fanaticism of the northern Arabian tribes had so far enabled her to do more than probably better-equipped male explorers who tried to approach the Sandy Desert from the south or the Red Sea could with the fiercer southern tribes.

On, therefore, through the Dalma Desert, across the Wadi-al Mustarri, they moved; and at last they came to Zilfi. Here they stopped; and the Countess noted that "the Arabs there were unfriendly; they had not the proud, open look of the Bedouin, but had sly, cunning, shifty eyes." And, as it happened, it was there some Arabs—doubtless Wahhabis—who prevented the "Roumi" from passing another step south. Not without some trouble, however, did they deter her from her purpose, for she attempted flight into the Dahna Desert (hoping to rejoin the Roalla at Safáh). But the Arabs of Zilfi captured her and brought her back to their town, whence the Roalla tribe had by this time disappeared. She was taken to Boreidah, and westwards through Shabitiyah, Rass, Zirzawaiyah, Hanakiyah, Sabiyah, to Medina. Here the severely tried explorer succumbed to a serious fever, from which she had by no means recovered when she took the train back to her beloved Damascus.

Hers was a worthy quest, indeed, and magnificently essayed. But of her recounting of it one cannot speak except with restraint. It is at times graphic, although it is to find any passage that is meet for reproduction; but her narrative is too loose, discursive, and, it must be admitted, too fulsome to enable her book, which might so easily have been of the highest value, to rank with the classics of Arabian travel. Perhaps she may, in her next book—and it is gratifying to learn from her that she intends again to make for the Ruba el Khali—remember that science is no less a necessary ingredient than poetry of the "mistresspiece" of travel. Yet, although no serious student of Arabia can fail to be disappointed with this story of a journey through the inner deserts of the Peninsula, there is none that can afford to miss reading so unusual and daring an adventure. One should add that the photographs in the book are supplemented by some naive but curiously attractive drawings by the author. One or two of her sketches of the desert—"God's great caravanserai"—are worthy of her pen pictures of the same moving subject.

LORD PLUMER.

Field-Marshal Lord Plumer embarked at Tilbury on the P. and O. liner Cathay on August 14 for Palestine, where he will take up the duties of High Commissioner. Accompanying him was Lady Plumer, and Major Brooke, his son-in-law, who is acting as his A.D.C. Captain Drummond, his private secretary, is following shortly. Amongst those present to bid farewell to the new High Commissioner were:

Major-General Sir John Hanbury-Williams (his Majesty's Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps), Colonel Weston Jarvis, Lady Rookwood, Mrs. Hamilton, Air Vice-Marshal J. M. Steel (representing the Air Ministry), Sir Samuel Wilson, Permanent Under-Secretary (representing the Colonial Office), Admiral Sir Alfred Chatfield and Lady Chatfield, Major and the Hon. Mrs. Orpen, Mr. W. Brooke, Mrs. Bairstow, Captain Plumer, Miss Plumer, Miss E. Plumer, Mrs. Mackenzie Lowe, Captain and Mrs. Gubbins, Mr. Rideout, and several others.

KING FAISAL.

King Faisal of Iraq, accompanied by a few members of his suite, arrived in London on Auugst 17, having travelled from Paris *via* Calais. He was received at Victoria Station on behalf of the King by Sir John Hanbury Williams, Chief Diplomatic Marshal. Others present included Sir Percy Cox (former Administrator in Mesopotamia), Mr. Nigel Davidson (late Judicial Adviser to the Iraq Government), Major H. W. Young (of the Colonial Office); and Colonel de Satgé (representing the Colonial Secretary). King Faisal entered a Royal carriage which was awaiting him and drove to the Hyde Park Hotel, where he will stay.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY

August 20, 1925 (New Style).
August 7, 1925 (Old Style).
Muharram 23, 1344 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Ab 23, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

Princess Nicholas, of Greece, left London on August 12 for Paris.

Sir L. Worthington-Evans, the Secretary for War, has cancelled his intended visit to India.

Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby and Viscountess Allenby arrived last week at Stanley, Perthshire, for fishing.

Lieutenant-General Sir Harold and Lady Walker have arrived in England from Bombay.

The marriage of Mr. Hugh Whistler and the Hon. Joan Ashton will take place in Bombay on October 1.

Sir Edward Grigg, the newly appointed Governor of Kenya, and the Hon. Lady Grigg, will leave London for Kenya on September 4.

General Sir Ian Hamilton has left 1, Hyde Park Gardens on a visit to the Mediterranean Fleet, where he will be the guest of Admiral Sir Roger Keyes in H.M.S. Queen Elizabeth.

Prince Nicolas of Roumania left London last Sunday for France to join his mother, the Queen of Roumania, who is staying at St. Briac.

Major-General the Maharajah of Patiala had the honour of being invited to Luncheon with their Majesties at Buckingham Palace on August 11.

The marriage arranged between Mr. R. E. Gibson, C.I.E., I.C.S., and Mrs. E. K. Gordon will take place on August 28, at Long Bennington, Newark.

The Master of Elibank and the Hon. Mrs. Gideon Murray left town last week for Vernet-les-Bains, where they purpose making a stay of a few weeks.

The marriage between Mr. Percy Ball, Sudan Political Service, and Maraquita Laura (Tiny) Phipps will take place at Bromham Church on September 10.

The marriage of Mr. Maxwell Elrington, the Border Regiment, and Beryl Joan, daughter of Mr. D. G. Ommanney, Indian Police, and Mrs. Ommanney, of Karachi, India, will take place on September 5, at Loughborough.

The marriage arranged between Captain J. L. Carter, M.C., 4th (Sikhs) Battalion, 12th F.F. Regiment, and Joyce, second daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Cockerton, Musbury, Devon, will take place on Friday, Sept. 25, at Bomaby.

The engagement is announced of John Robert Vaughan-Russell, H.B.M. Vice-Consul, Damascus, son of the late Mr. John Stanley Vaughan-Russell, of Merthyr, and Charlotte, daughter of the late Mr. William Kirkaldy Willis, J.P., of Cardigan House, Richmond, and Mrs. Kirkaldy Willis, of Albany Park, Kingston.

The engagement is announced, and the wedding will take place shortly, of Charles George Cooper, of Calcutta, eldest son of the late Mr. C. H. Cooper and Mrs. Cooper, Redington, Northwood, Middlesex, and Audrey, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Holman, Queen Anne's Mansions, London, S.W.1.

The marriage arranged between Captain John Sydney Lethbridge, M.C., R.E., eldest son of Lieut.-Colonel S. Lethbridge, O.B.E., late R.A., and Mrs. Lethbridge, and Katharine Greville, second daughter of Sir John Maynard, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., and Lady Maynard, of Townsend, Simla, and late Bovey Tracey, Devon, took place last Saturday at Simla.

The Empress Marie Féodorovna of Russia and the Crown Princess of Roumania were sponsors at the baptism of the infant daughter of Mr. W. B. Leeds and Mrs. Leeds (Princess Xenia), which took place on August 12 at the American Cathedral, Paris.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place between Captain Arthur Iron Sargon, D.S.O., of Mosul, Mesopotamia, and Miss Hilary Margaret Stratton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Duncan Stratton, of Enton Lodge, Witley, Surrey.

The marriage arranged between Mr. Maysmor Nowill, of Athens, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. John Nowill, of Sheffield, and Muriel, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Travers, of Godalming, Surrey, will take place on September 1, at Compton, near Guildford.

Major-General Sir Richard William Ford K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O. (late R.A.M.C.), of King's Hotel, Brighton, who saw service in Egypt, in Burma, and in South Africa, and died on March 31, aged 67, left estate of the gross value of £15,297, with net personality £15,193.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place next April at Quetta, India, between Captain Charles Douglas Ogilvie Pugh, R.A., only surviving son of Mr. Cecil Pugh, Briarwood, Broadstone, Dorset, and Mrs. Pugh, and Enid Mary, youngest daughter of Mr. H. A. Rose, I.C.S. (ret.), Milton House, St. Brelade's, Jersey, and Mrs. Rose.

PROMOTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Colonel C. Kirkpatrict has been appointed to command temporarily the brigade area at Zhob.

Major-General D. J. Collins, C. B., C.M.G., has been appointed to officiate as Director of the Medical Services in India during the leave of the holder of the appointment.

Colonel C. G. Fuller, Commander of the Devon and Cornwall Territorial Infantry Brigade, succeeds to the command of the brigade at Alexandria next month.

Mr. Kumar S. Roy has been elected President of the Bengal Legislative Council in succession to Mr. Evan Cotton, defeating the Swarajist candidate by sixty-seven votes against sixty-one.

Major-General Sir Herbert C. Holman, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., has been posted as officiating General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Southern Command, India, whilst Lieut-General Sir Harold B. Walker is on leave.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

A Coal Commission.

It is arguable whether the modern tendency of Cabinets to hand over their problems to non-political bodies is good, but, granted the principle, it is not open to doubt that the Prime Minister, in his endeavour to find a solution of the Coal Question, has been absolutely right in in inhibiting the presence of mineowners and of miners on the Royal Commission which will begin work next month. To gather a small group of able and impartial men, and so to get a unanimous report—that is the aim of Mr. Baldwin.

Neither side, of course, approved of his decision to exclude partial representatives. On the whole, however, it has pleased the miners more than the owners, who appear to attribute the whole trouble to "British Reds." Naturally, both the owners and the miners will be called to give evidence, but if they were actually on the Commission it is fairly obvious that no unanimity of judgment could be secured. With this exception, however, the Commission is to be constituted on the widest possible basis, for its terms of reference include nationalisation, royalties, unification, coke, by-product industries, and the relation of the coal industry to other industries. From which fact alone is manifest the sincere desire of the Government to arrive at a just solution or decision.

Subsidies.

One would not have thought that there were many who approved of the Government's resolve temporarily to subsidise the coal industry apart from its being a warding off a hideous lock-out, but it appears, from a letter that Mr. John Wheatley, Minister of Health in the Labour Government, has sent to the Press, that there are political observers who approve of subsidies on principle. According to this argument, a nation is wise to pool its economic resources. "The coal department is poor. The beer department is rich. Agriculture is starving. Pleasure cars are booming. The number of super-tax payers is increasing. Engineers cannot get a living wage." This, from the author of last year's Housing Act, is both ingenious and ingenuous.

But it is not convincing. The normal Englishman, who remains at heart an individualist, will certainly not consent to the prescription of subsidies as a regular thing. He has consented to a subsidy for coal, only because he feels, and always has felt, that coal is a far more national industry than is anything else—he feels, incidentally, that the coal industry will never be divorced financially from the State again. But to suggest that he is complacent about it would be untrue.

Catholicism and Christianity.

Few weeks can elapse nowadays without some symptom of the strife that is being incessantly waged between the Anglo-Catholics and the "broader" type of Anglican churchman. The latest dispute concerns a sermon preached by the Bishop of Birmingham in Westminster Abbey last June—a sermon to which the Anglo-Catholics took great exception, and concerning which they wrote to the Archbishop of Canterbury. It appears that Bishop Barnes introduced the contention, more familiar, possibly, in the nineteenth than in the twentieth century, that the Christian Sacraments originated at least in part in Pagan mystery cults—a contention which would, it is claimed by the English Church Union, be deadly to historic Christianity if it could be sustained. What also appears to have riled the Anglo-Catholics is the Bishop's allegations (1) that "Catholicism" and "Christianity" are different and mutually opposed systems, and (2) that Catholics worship a God who is not reasonable and loving. In face of such statements as this, what, the English Church Union asks, is the good of talking about *rapprochement* with the Holy Orthodox Church of the East?

The Archbishop of Canterbury's reply is typically English. It is strictly non-committal: "I realise the importance of the matter . . . you will realise that I do not regard the matter lightly." Whether one should glean from this that Dr. Barnes will soon be wishing that he were again a mathematical tutor at Trinity, or that the Anglo-Catholics should consider themselves as having been politely snubbed, I leave you to decide.

The Achievement of Hobbs.

The agony of Hobbs that for so long and stupidly the newspapers have described is at last at an end, and his equalling at Taunton of W. G. Grace's record of 126 centuries has been greeted by all cricketers with the admiration it deserves. Hobbs is not only a great bat—no man could possibly bat better, though there will always be some to say that men like Victor Trumper or Woolley or Macartney were more attractive—he is, as all his captains have been quick to realise, and what some at least of his predecessors have not been, a most likeable man and a sporting cricketer. He is on the field not only when he is batting, for even at the age of forty-two he is the equal of any cover-point that we have. But all these things are perfectly familiar to all followers of *the* game, and the news of his great achievement will certainly have reached the most distant parts of our Empire long before these lines are read. His name will now, more than ever, be an Imperial watchword.

The New Waterloo Bridge.

It has been extremely fascinating to watch the engineers at work on the new Waterloo Bridge, and now that it is finished one can but look with pride on this English accomplishment. It was opened to traffic last week, and the experts have stated that they are quite pleased with it. To the ordinary pedestrian there is something queer about the quivering of the bridge, even though he knows that the oscillations are intentional. For, being built on "cushions," the bridge in its early stages is bound to suffer very considerable vibration, but when it has settled down this shaking will probably decrease.

An immense difference in the traffic is already visible. Everything going South uses the new bridge, but things will, of course, be just as bad if the Vandals have their way with Rennie's Bridge.

Broadcasting Dead Voices.

One of the most interesting enterprises that the British Broadcasting Company have tackled is their reproduction by arrangement with the gramophone companies, of the voices of dead artists and celebrities. This reproduction will have all kinds of interest, and is a very different affair from the freakish attempts to reproduce the sounds of cats and elephants and birds and human crowds.

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Indian Affairs.

CURRENT TOPICS.

The New Delhi.

Miss Cornelia Sorabji, in a letter to *The Times*, pleads for a great pageant to mark the opening of New Delhi for occupation by the Government of India—"it would be both a tragedy and a blunder if the Government were to slink into Delhi . . . and to leave such an occasion unpageanted and unsung would be to write ourselves down as utterly without the larger imagination."

There is a strong party in India that believes that a Royal Prince—perhaps even the King himself—will preside over a stately and formal opening of the new Capital: and that this function will take place in the near future, probably during the coming winter. It is, however, permisible to express the hope that they are mistaken. Building operations on the Secretariat and the Council Chamber have been pressed on, to the neglect of those on Government House, which certainly cannot be ready next winter, and quite probably not by the winter after. There have been recent occasions when the formal opening of an exhibition has been marred by the fact that it was not by any means ready: an unfortunate state of affairs that has led to humorous or sarcastic comment, harmless enough in such a case, but not to be faced in the case of the Capital of a great Empire. And, even when all the public buildings of Delhi are finished, the new Capital will still be only in the nature of dry bones; the living city that is to spring up round it shows little sign of arrival—perhaps it will grow with the trees that have been planted along its roads, and one may expect them both to reach maturity together. But, whatever the decision may be, as regards the formal opening of New Delhi—for it is indubitable that it will have to have a formal opening—there is everything to be said against the presence of the King-Emperor himself to preside over it. It is not because their Majesties laid the foundation stone of the new Capital in a place many miles away from its present actual site; though, in a country with a mentality like that of India—or, for that matter, in any Oriental country—that counts for a good deal: it lies more in the great change that has come over articulate Indian opinion in the intervening years. Nobody who was present at the King's Durbar can ever forget the magnificent reception accorded to His Majesty—the whole-hearted, almost fanatical, loyalty that greeted him: but the more recent Royal visits had a sadly different spectacle to show. No one can doubt that the heart of India is still in the right place, or that the traditional loyalty of India to her Emperor still burns as brightly as ever; but, at the King's Durbar, there were no malcontent politicians to lead the honest peasantry astray, as there were in 1921 and 1922 and as there would undoubtedly be in 1925 or 1926. The ordinary Indian word that we translate as "loyalty" is, literally "truth to salt," and that is the only form of loyalty that can be offered to an impersonal alien Government—so long as its hand holds plenty of salt, so long may it expect to be loyally served; should another hand appear, offering a larger supply of salt, it might well expect to supplant the first. But in India there still is real loyalty—untranslateable into Hindustani, perhaps, but truly existent none the less: loyalty to the idea of the King, loyalty to the person of the King Emperor. Let us not give to the malcontent politician the opportunity of undermining that true and real feeling which found such splendid manifestation in 1911 but which, one can but fear, would not be allowed to repeat itself in 1926. The masses of India still remember, and still talk about, the coming of the Great King and the wonder of his visit; let them keep their personal loyalty, the greatest asset that British rule in India possesses, and do not let us expose them to the peril of lessening it or finally, perhaps, losing it altogether, through the machinations of malcontent politicians.

Swarajist Defeat in the Bengal Council.

The Swaraj Party in the Bengal Council have suffered a defeat in their first trial of strength since Mr. Das death, their candidate for President of the Council having been defeated by an Independent. The voting was close, the Independent winning by 67 votes to 61, all the other parties in the Council having combined to vote against the Swaraj candidate. The result is certainly a set-back to the Swaraj Party's hopes of absorbing the Independent Party in the Council, and some observers see in it a probability of the fusion of the Liberal and Independent parties in the Council into an anti-Swaraj bloc. It is, however, one thing for the Moderates—who did not run a candidate of their own—to give their votes in favour of an Independent, and against a Swarajist, in a matter of personal selection such as that of the President of the Council, and quite another for Independents to give their support to Moderates when the question at issue is assistance or opposition to the "bureaucracy"; so that it would not be wise to lay too much stress on the incident. The most that one can see in it is a revolt against Swarajist domination, very probably brought to a head by the frankly political election of a Swarajist Mayor for the Calcutta Corporation: and a reminder to the Swaraj Party that, though the strongest party in the Council, they still cannot command a majority without Independent help.

Indian Markets and British Producers.

Mr. George Pilcher's second article on the above subject appears in the *Financial News* of August 11. The immediate result of the separation of the Railway Budget has been a considerable programme of fresh railway construction, for the first time since the outbreak of the War. Before the War, railway expansion had proceeded but slowly in India, during the War it was non-existent, and since the War all the money that could be found for railway expenditure was needed for the rehabilitation and improvement of existing lines and the completion of lines already in hand. But one of the most crying needs of India is increased railway construction which has, in the past, invariably been followed by rapid increase in the productivity of rural areas and the consequent expansion of land revenue. The Railway Board has put forward a programme which will extend to the construction of over two thousand miles of line, to be completed by 1932, at a total cost of about 33 millions sterling; but, with British prices what they are, it is a question whether, with justice to the Indian taxpayer, even a considerable proportion of the money can be expended in Great Britain. If the British Government were to accord a loan, on specially favourable terms, to the Indian Government in respect of a large programme of railway construction, with the proviso that the money was to be spent in Great Britain, the result would be of the greatest value to India, whose urgent requirements in railways are vastly greater than even the imposing addition now proposed by the Railway Board, and of almost equal value to Great Britain owing to the extra employment accruing in the iron, steel and engineering trades: and the expenditure of the British Government, in granting such a loan, would be immediately offset by the reduction of outlay in respect of extended unemployment benefits under the Insurance scheme.

It is interesting to note that the programme of new construction, referred to in Mr. Pilcher's article, includes the connection of the main Bengal-Nagpur line between Calcutta and Bombay with the new port of Vizagapatam, now in process of construction. This will open up an area of 125,000 square miles in the Central Provinces, at present wholly without railway communication. The first independent railway budget, says the *Financial News*, "for the first time brings into foreground view the fact that the possibilities of transport development in India are still large." This is, indeed, to understate the case—the possibilities are much more than large: but, if the first independent railway budget has brought even so much of the real facts prominently into view, it has done a very great service, on which, one may reasonably hope, it will improve in the years to come.

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THE INDIAN REFORM ACT.

By COLES PASHA, C.M.G.

[This article was written before the publication in England of Mrs. Besant's "Commonwealth of India" scheme.—ED.]

Seeing that we had all been led to believe by the Press that Lord Reading's presence in England would enable the Cabinet to come to some decision as to the future working of the Montagu-Chelmsford Act, Lord Birkenhead's declaration of policy in the House of Lords was somewhat disappointing. All he told us was that no decision had been reached and nothing would be decided for the present as the Act must have its full ten years of trial. His Lordship hinted, however, that we might possibly hear more of the Cabinet's policy when Lord Reading was once more in Simla and had consulted the Council of India. We were also given to understand that any alternative scheme which might be put forward, with the full support of the Swarajist leaders, would receive a sympathetic hearing: and, although it was subsequently explained by Lord Winterton in the House of Commons that this must not be taken as an invitation to make such proposals, there can be little doubt that Lord Birkenhead meant what he said, and we shall probably hear more later when Mrs. Besant arrives in England. But what seems to the present writer the most remarkable part of Lord Birkenhead's speech is the statement that, at the close of the ten years' trial, everything must necessarily be "thrown into the melting pot." Now, if anything can be gained by a continuation of the Diarchy experiment, it surely is that, as experience is acquired, more and more subjects will be transferred to Indian administrators, till finally the whole machinery of Government is Indianised. At least, that is how many of us have interpreted the object of the Act; it is surprising, therefore, to learn that the Act is not what we imagined it to be, but is only a temporary expedient having no connection with the future constitution, which will have to be entirely re-cast at the close of the experiment. Could the late Mr. Montagu have heard that his pet project was destined for the "melting pot," he surely must have turned in his grave. It seems remarkable also that Lord Chelmsford, the joint author, took no part in the debate and had apparently nothing to say in the defence of his scheme.

Alternative Schemes.

But we must all agree with Lord Birkenhead that co-operation is essential whatever constitution may eventually be evolved and, if this co-operation can be obtained, any scheme of Home Rule, short of our immediate departure, is surely worth consideration.

It is many years since the present writer served in India and, apart from what he has learned from the Press, he has no knowledge of what Mrs. Besant or any other Swarajist leader is likely to propose. But when Mr. Montagu was framing his scheme, he failed, in the writer's opinion, to attach sufficient importance to the composition of the existing units of Government, notwithstanding that it is just this organisation which is in reality the crux of the whole Home Rule problem. For it must be borne in mind that these units of administration were not originally thought out for the better government of the people, but are the result of accident rather than design, the fact being that the old East India Company, partly by conquest and partly by bribery, kept adding to its dominions till what was a Fort became a Presidency, and Native States were absorbed into Provinces as their rulers were disposed of or bought out. After the Mutiny the whole show was taken over by the British Government as a going concern, and it was no one's business to inquire whether the grouping of the various units of Government could be improved on. There was indeed no necessity to do so, as at that time there was no question of Government by the people for the people. It may reasonably be asked, supposing that these provincial units have been strung together in such a haphazard fashion, how it is that our rule has been so successful, and the majority of the people are (or were) so contented? The answer is simple: the organisation of the district unit saved the situation; whatever the higher grouping may be, the districts are homogeneous and are administered in their own vernacular by the most able Civil Service in the world. The man in the mud-hut was sure of a hearing in his own language, and soon learned to look upon the district officials as specially delegated by the Almighty to look after his interests. The Provincial Units might be composed of half a dozen different races speaking various languages, but what did it matter to the man in the mud-hut, so long as the district Officers administered justice and the Pax Britannica did the rest? But, directly you introduce self-government, the whole temperature is changed and the composition of the electorate becomes of paramount importance.

Reconstruction of Provinces.

This Mr. Montagu failed to realise: he had made up his mind that diarchy was all that was required, and diarchy it became. Those who disagreed with him, and argued that, before democratic rule could successfully be introduced, these Provincial Units must be reconstructed, were told that, "it would be very unwise to unite the sufficiently difficult task of revising the Constitution of India with the highly controversial labour of simultaneously revising the political geography of the entire country."

The writer maintains that our first task should have been to break up the Provincial Governments into homogeneous States, to each of which self-government could have been granted with some hope of success. The "man in the mud hut" might then have been asked to elect representatives to form a Parliament or Council to rule each State. There need have been no diarchy, but, until able to walk alone, the respective State Cabinets, selected from the elected Parliament, might have been controlled from above, the division of authority being horizontal, not vertical. The Members might have been elected by a direct suffrage, the possession of a mud hut or other property being a qualification for a vote. Mr. Montagu was strong on the subject of a direct vote, and rightly so, provided that the constituencies are not too large. But, in a country like India, where the seat of government is often remote, even from the District Headquarters, it is absurd to expect the electors to have any influence on their representatives except perhaps in the District Councils.

It is true that the larger the constituency the better chance there is of obtaining able representatives, but the vote is then governed by party organisations: you cannot have it both ways. It is a parody of democracy to ask the "man in the mud hut" to elect a representative in even a Presidency Council, much more so when he is called on to select a Member for the All India Assembly. The "man in the mud hut" had far better be called on to vote direct for the village Elders alone—for all other bodies the vote should be indirect.

An Example.

But let us see how this proposed reconstruction can be carried out, say in the Bombay Presidency. This Presidency contains roughly 18,000,000 inhabitants grouped in four divisions, and each division has a distinct language of its own—Marathi, Guzarathi, Sindi, and Canarese. There are, of course, many dialects spoken, but these four languages are all recognised as official for administrative purposes, in their respective spheres.

The people composing these groups are quite as distinct as the nations of Europe, though a century of British rule has given them one form of Government and may have created certain other common conditions of life. It would seem clear, therefore, that, if the inhabitants of this Presidency are to reap any real benefit from self-government, there must be four States each with a Parliament or Governing Body of its own. The only question is, whether these four States should form a Western Confederation of States or should be directly under the Government of India. The writer is of the opinion that although, as a temporary measure, whilst the States are under tutelage, the control of the Presidency Government

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must continue, in the final Constitution there should be no governing authority interpolated between these States and the Government of India. As already stated, in these State Parliaments there should be no diarchy: each should have its own Ministers or Cabinet selected from the elected Parliament, administering all subjects other than those reserved for the Government of India. The reserved subjects might be Army, Customs, Coinage, Post, Railways, Board of Trade, Penal Code (not regulations), Appointment of Judiciary (other than Magistrates), Change of Constitution. The Government of India might delegate the administration of certain of these reserved subjects to the Presidency Government as a temporary measure. But no provision should be made for a Presidency Constitution, as, when the States can stand alone, the Presidency Government would entirly disappear and the several States would (under the scheme suggested) be federalised into one Government of India. But this might be reserved for future consideration. For the moment we should concentrate on creating these self-governing State units and mothering them until they can walk alone.

Supervision.

Whilst under tutelage, the States' Government might be supervised by the Governor of the Presidency (in Council). As regards legislation, the Presidency control should take the form of a Senate or Second Chamber with powers of revision and veto. As regards general administration (apart from the reserved subjects, the administration of some of which the Government of India might delegate to the Presidency Government) the Presidency control should consist largely of inspection and report by British Inspectors attached to the Presidency Government. Moreover, during the transition stage, the Government of India should reserve to itself (or to the Presidency Council) the right to suspend the legislative powers of a defaulting State by the simple process of dissolving its Parliament and refusing to convoke another, the duties of the Ministers dispensed with being, for the time, taken over by officials nominated for that purpose. At the expiration of the tutelage, a Senate or Second Chamber within each State would take the place of the legislative control, and the general supervision exercised by the Presidency Government would be handed over to a Resident Political Officer. Under this system the control which would be brought to bear from above would be more effective than Diarchy. At the same time, as long as a State Government did not abuse its power, the controlling authority would have no cause to intervene. Some States might obtain their independence earlier than others whose Ministers were less competent; but complete independence is surely a goal which all will do their best to attain, and the transition stage would soon pass.

It is contended that this form of Home Rule will give the local leaders not only ample opportunity for demonstating their ability for State Rule, but will also better qualify some of them for All India Government later. Moreover, it will enable the "man in the mud hut" to be introduced to the mysteries of democracy, and taught to take an interest in the administration of his District Council and State Legislative Assembly, or whatever they may be called.

What is perhaps still more important, this decentralisation will lessen the chance of the whole machinery of Government being captured by foreign extremists to further their own ends. Last, but not least, the control brought to bear from above will be general and not partial, as it is at present. Moreover, the Ministers will feel that the subjects reserved for the Government of India are reserved for a Federal Government, not because they are not to be trusted. They will, too, soon realise that, in this hierarchy Government, as long as they do not abuse their power they will not be interfered with from above, as they themselves will not interfere with the District Councils below.

Indian States.

In connection with the constitution of these States and their future confederation as a Federal Government of India (when we are no longer there to control) there is another very important question which no one in authority appears so far to have considered. Native States ruled by Princes, and small Republics (as British India will then have become), are a somewhat incongruous mixture for confederation.

So long ago as June 1923, the present writer ventured to deal with this side of the problem in an article which he contributed to the *Contemporary Review*. Seeing the important part which Monarchs have played in all Eastern Governments of the past, the idea suggested itself to him, that we should create from British India a series of Constitutional Monarchies, resuscitating if possible the heirs of the reigning houses of the past, or permitting the adoption of others, if the heirs are not to be found. In this way we should have (on the Bombay side) once more a Peshwa in the Deccan, a Rajah of Bijapur, an Amir of Sind (there were many Amirs in the past, but one would suffice now), and a ruler in Guzarat, possibly the present Gaikwar of Baroda. This would bring the whole of India under one form of Monarchic Government, though British India would be Constitutional Monarchies and the remainder absolute Monarchies.

It was considered that by the force of our example, and possibly with the assistance of promises of an extension of territory, we might be able to persuade the rulers of the existing Native States gradually to adopt our methods and themselves develop into Constitutional Monarchies. The Council of Princes might then perhaps be the first step to confederation, and serve a more useful purpose than it does at present.

But until these States, whether Republics or Monarchies, are all going concerns, "Hands off the Government of India" should be our declared policy. There might be an advisory Council of Indians and frequent conferences of State Prime Ministers, but the Government of India should remain purely bureaucratic till we had devised some stronger ties than sentiment and the English language to bind the several States to each other and to the British Empire.

Indianisation.

The English language has in a measure been our undoing, as the ability to debate in English has given the Pundit classes an inordinate idea of their own importance, whereas the martial races would give them very short shrift were we to depart. Lord Birkenhead in the House of Lords dwelt on the Cabinet's determination to continue the Indianisation of certain regiments and explained the difficulties in this connection. But to the writer it seems strange that we should be still relying on Sandhurst and not long ago have created Military Schools in India after the Egyptian model. Undoubtedly this Indianisation of the Army is a very important factor in this Home Rule problem, and we will return to it later. Before doing so let us inquire to what extent the Civil Service has been affected by Mr. Montagu's scheme of diarchy, as no one can pretend that we can achieve success without the support of the British Civilian, whom the Indian Politician is endeavouring to supplant. Human nature being what it is, one can hardly expect the Civil Service as a whole to take an enthusiastic part in its own obsequies, although the novelty of governing by explanation and discussion may have attractions for individual members.

The Civil Service.

This Civil Service problem comes under two heads—(1) the welfare and contentment of existing members: (2) the method to be adopted to keep up our supply of recruits. The existing members must be assured that, whatever may be the eventual fate of the Service, the individual will not have his official life shortened and, financially speaking, he will be no worse at its close. The recommendations of Lord Lee's commission should help considerably to reassure them. As regards recruiting, University graduates must be equally convinced that although they may not, as of yore, be able to reach exalted official posi-

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tions, which must be reserved for politicians, they may nevertheless be sure of a periodical rise in pay irrespective of how or where employed: and, further, that their prospects will not depend on the reports of Indian Ministers. Judging from the lists of candidates offering for competition, the Universities are not altogether satisfied on either score. In the matter of this open competition the writer holds somewhat strong views, as he considers that it was a mistaken policy, in the past, ever to have allowed natives of India to compete for the I.C.S. and that to continue to do so now is absolutely wrong. A superior Civil Service is certainly required for India as it is for England, but this service should be recruited in India from the Secondary Schools and Universities as is done at present in Egypt. The I.C.S. is, however, something apart and above a superior civil service as its members are (or were) called on to govern rather than confine themselves to ordinary clerical work. The I.C.S. still requires British recruits (though in restricted numbers) capable of governing. Indian youths with special aptitude in this respect have now a political career opened to them and it will not help matters to have a governing Civil Service of Indians as well as governing Indian politicians. Moreover, the pay of the I.C.S. is (or was) calculated to attract the best British manhood to a life of exile in unhealthy surroundings and climate. India, being a poor country, cannot afford to pay its superior Native Civil Service at such liberal rates. Let us then reduce our demand for British recruits to suit the requirements of the *new* conditions, but let us reserve the new I.C.S. for British born. In fact, as the men we now require must be endowed with exceptional qualities of tact, etc., it might even be wiser to close down the competitive examination altogether, leaving it to a Board of Selection to appoint a certain number of Honour Graduates from each University, as has been done with great success for many years for the Egyptian and Sudan Civil Services.

Further, apart from a fixed salary with periodical rises, the selected candidates must be covenanted with and assured that they are the servants of the Government of India and, if serving in an Indian State or under an Indian Minister, they will still remain subject only to the Government of India as regards disciplinary measures that may affect their future career. This does not mean that the Indian Ministers are not to be trusted, but is intended to encourage many would-be recruits who now hesitate on this account.

In the space of an article it is not possible to discuss all the details of the new service (and it is a new service that is required); but, briefly speaking, all Englishmen serving in the Provincial or State Governments should be regarded as servants of the Government of India and liable for duty wherever sent. They should be brought on to a general list, and all their rights and privileges should be guaranteed by the British Government; though this would not prevent any Englishman from severing in the future his connection with the Government of India and taking service on his own in one of the new States. Indeed, seeing the gradual liquidation of the Service which is in view, they should be encouraged to do so.

This may sound paradoxical: on the one hand to seek to attract recruits, on the other to encourage others to leave by granting them favourable conditions to do so. But one must recognise that the experienced officials seeking service in a Native State on their own are likely to promote honest administration quite as much as the young Englishmen whom these States will still require, but who are now fearful of trusting themselves unless protected. Moreover, an Egyptian experience teaches one that Native Ministers are more willing to obtain expert foreign advice when unhampered by any right of appeal, which they regard as detrimental to their authority. We should, therefore, encourage men to cut themselves adrift and replace them by younger men under protection whom we should do our best to attract.

Briefly there should be two classes of Englishmen serving in India in the future: (a) those holding covenants with the Government of India, (b) those who have been engaged direct by Native States or who have remained in the service of Native States after severing their connection with the Indian Government.

The Army.

But, if the organisation of Provincial States and the creation of a new Civil Service offer no insuperable difficulties, it is quite another matter when we get to the Army, the Indianisation of which we have latterly heard so much of. If the States are the foundation on which the superstructure of the Government of India has hereafter to be erected, the Army is the bedrock on which depends the holding together of the whole construction. Indianisation is the problem, but not the Indianisation that the Indian agitator is clamouring for. The separate States would not be allowed to keep up armies of their own, beyond military police for the maintenance of internal order. What is required is the creation of an Army which will owe allegiance to the Government of India and the Government of India only, and which will take the place of the Pax Britannica. The magnitude of the task will be realised when we remember that, since the Mutiny, our policy has been to have no officer class in the Indian Army. Until quite recently there have been no Military Schools, as we have thought it safer that all subordinate Officers should be promoted rankers, and that all above Company Commanders (Subedars) should be British. An officer class has therefore to be created without the assistance of the traditions which have proved so helpful in fashioning the British Regimental Officer. We are endeavouring to create this tradition by sending Indian Cadets to Sandhurst, but the regimental training is the great difficulty, as we must either spoil the young officers by making them Company Commanders straight away, or, if they come in as subalterns, they must associate with British officers in their mess, and be commanded by rankers on parade, a combination not conducive to discipline. Perhaps it would be wiser to attach them to British regiments until qualified for Company Commands.

But our difficulties by no means end here, as the best fighting forces of the Indian Army are regiments recruited in the north, southern regiments even having Punjabis and Pathans to stiffen their ranks. The Deccan Mahrattas, who proved very reliable during the War, are the exception. Will these northern regiments accept orders except from officers of their own race? Must fighting qualities be sacrificed by a mixture to prevent the northern regiments developing into a Pretorian Guard when we are gone?

One gathers from the Press that, apart from the Military Schools, the Government is endeavouring to create an Officer Class by granting special facilities for the education of youth of the martial races. This creation of an Army Conscience, if we may call it so, seems to be rather asking for trouble for the Governing Politician when we are gone. However, sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof: the first thing we have to create is an Indian Army which will be loyal to the Government of India and subsequently to whomsoever we hand over as the Federal Government.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, July 29.

The Den of Lions.

Mahatma Gandhi was the guest of the European Association at their meeting this week, and anything further from Daniel in the den of lions and lionesses—as he put it—could hardly be imagined. He had accepted an invitation to explain why he had made Mr. Sen Gupta the Mayor of Calcutta, and, by so doing, he had accepted the responsibility for the appointment. He was perfectly frank; he stated that his prime motive had been to give more power to the leader of the Swaraj party; his hosts were equally frank, and described the appointment as pure political jobbery, and Gandhi, while disliking the terms, apparently was unable to pretend that it was anything else. There

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was an ingenuous atmosphere in the room, and this probably accounts for the fact that nothing happened when Gandhi impressively insisted that he was "dying to co-operate with the Europeans." What does it all mean? Is he the delegate of the Swaraj party with an olive branch concealed in the folds of his *dhoti*? Is he a leader who has given up hopes of leading the party which has already left him, and is seeking new disciples with more stability of outlook? Or has he been brought down to earth by Lord Birkenhead and begun to understand that some form of Government has to be maintained in the country? It appears clear that he is doing more than putting out feelers in the direction of co-operation, for he has since met some prominent members of the Anglo-Indian community and discussed politics with them, and these may be the first steps to an attempt to work up a conference which shall consider a draft constitutional scheme in response to the suggestion of the Secretary of State.

Negotiations?

Considerable stir has been caused in Swarajist ranks by the publication in the *Bengalee* of an article which alleges that, prior to the death of Mr. Das, he had been engaged in secret negotiations with Lord Lytton for the working of the Reforms on certain lines. The article states that a Ministership had been offered to Mr. Das, which he had tentatively accepted, but, as he could not make his followers see eye to eye with him, he had been constrained to refuse the appointment by letter. After the Ordinance arrests, the matter was revived, and an agreement was arrived at, but, as the terms of settlement contained no reference to the release of political prisoners, the disturbance at the Faridpur Conference resulted. It is stated that Mr. Das, in his last letter to Pandit Motilal Nehru, set forth at length the terms of settlement, and this letter has been referred to by the Pandit as "the last will and testament" of Mr. Das. The *Bengalee* states that, following a conference with Mr. Gandhi, the Pandit offers himself in place of Mr. Das in the furtherance of the scheme. The terms of settlement include the transfer to Ministers of all subjects with the exception of the Police, and agree that Diarchy is to be worked until the 1929 Commission. It was only to be expected that the Pandit would at once declare that the account was "an entire perversion of the truth," and he is backed by Mr. Sen Gupta. Mr. Gandhi, however, admits that communications were going on between Lord Lytton and Mr. Das, although he would not call them negotiations. Although *Forward*, as the recognised organ of the Swaraj party, denies the allegations, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* rather welcomes the idea, and, in view of the acceptance of a seat on the Skeen Committee by the Pandit, further developments will be watched with interest.

The Swarajist in Power.

The Swarajists are actually governing and running the Corporation; and they are establishing a policy and a practice which will be familiar to those who know India. It is impossible to transact any business expeditiously, particularly in those departments which have Swajarists at their heads; among the executive there are still a few of the old school who privately deplore present conditions, but for obvious reasons they do not publish their opinion that affairs are approaching a point at which normal working will be impossible. Swaraj councillors regularly interfere directly with the executive, who now work in an atmosphere of continual intrigue, and a new type of obstruction takes the form of keeping matters off the agenda of the meeting which should approve them; in a recent case the whole file had been lost by a councillor, who took it home to read, because it interested him! It is not surprising that a feeling of distrust has arisen which makes heads of departments diffident in giving a decision, even on minor points, and the result is that matters of the slightest complexity are delayed inordinately by references to committees. In short, the Swarajists are giving an object-lesson in the working of a Western form of government by an Eastern mind which refuses to accept advice or control, or to co-operate with experience. The hand of a strong man is required at the helm of the Corporation, and it is yet to be seen whether Mr. Sen Gupta can carry out the assurances he gave at the time of his election. His first duty is to keep the Councillors in their proper place, and the task is one which will not tend to make him popular, but the course is one he must take if he is to save the face of his party.

Protection.

At last Government have taken a step which appears to show that they have not altogether sold themselves body and soul to the Protectionists who up till now have found the ear of the Tariff Board always wide open to listen to their demands for financial salvation at the expense of the pockets of the general public. The Cement Companies demanded a bounty, and, in recommending that this should be granted to them, the Tariff Board read a homily on the suicidal effects of price-cutting competition carried to unreasonable limits. It is by no means clear that the companies have had much choice in the matter; cement making and distribution is a highly organised industry, and it is probable that more than a little dumping takes place in countries where it is necessary to maintain markets in the face of attempts to establish new industries. There are several powerful companies manufacturing in India, and in the end it appears probable that they will be forced to come to terms with their competitors who have had an uninterrupted field until recent years. The Indian market is by no means negligible, and it will not be given up by home interests without a struggle; in the end the consumer will probably have to pay more, as he usually does, but Government have refused to take any action at present in the direction of a bounty for local manufacturers.

Markets.

There is but little change in regard to jute to record this week. The market is still very firm, although little trade has been passing, and the mills appear to be holding out for a weakening on the part of the sellers. Up-country prices are no longer rising, and buying for the July shipments appears to have been completed. Gunnies show practically no change, although at the time of closing there is a very slight easing in hessians. The Share Market reflects confidence in jute, and there have been more dealings in the current week, particularly in the investment stocks. Prices closed somewhat better than for last mail. There has been some activity in coal shares, but this is chiefly confined to the Yule group, the market apparently considering that recent railway contracts promise well for these. Tea shares are quiet, and, having regard to the satisfactory state of the tea market and the reserves which have been created in the last few years, the present quotations appear to be attractive. Rubber shares are attracting less attention. The prominent feature of the Share Market during the week has been the increased attention paid to sound investments.

The tea market does not alter; enquiry is limited to the better grades, and anything good in them is at once sold. There is no chance in the piece-goods market, and the Bombay mill-owners are demanding protection against foreign competition; if it is impossible to distinguish between the countries of origin they would have an import duty on all goods. Exchange has remained steady throughout the week, but there has been very little business passing, and this applies also to the money market; there are no takers of short money at one per cent.

INDIAN LABOURERS' WAGES.

(By Our Bombay Correspondent.)

Bombay, July 30.

At the end of last week the *Indian Daily Mail* in a leading article attacked as thoroughly unreasonable the refusal of labour to consent to a reduction of wages. It pointed out that wages still stand at about 75 per cent. above the pre-War standard; that the cost of living, as modified by the Rent Act and the fact that mill hands can draw most

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of their clothing at cost price, has not risen in anything like the same proportion: and it finally insinuated that the only benefit the coolie got from high wages was that he could work for shorter hours and still have more money to spend on drink.

The *Indian Daily Mail* is controlled by a member of a family of Indian mill owners, and its views are not likely to be very sympathetic towards labour, but there seems to be a good deal of truth in its statement of the present position.

It is no longer possible to speak of the Indian industrial labourer as the most miserably paid man in the world. A good weaver in a Bombay cotton mill draws anything up to £4 per month. This is no doubt a great deal less than his opposite number in Lancashire, but for reasons of climate alone it goes, or ought to go, very much further.

In the case of a man with a moderate family, most of the difference disappears at once over the necessaries of clothing and firing. Omitting the women's clothes, the Indian coolie can dress himself and his three children on the equivalent of half a dozen cheap cotton shirts a year: that is literally all: and, if it is considered that he has no need of any fuel except for a small cooking pot, the margin available for house rent and food is not so very greatly in favour of the Englishman.

And when it comes to house rent the margin disappears entirely. It is for the present impossible to believe that the Indian coolie has any conception at all of a European standard of comfort, privacy or decency. When quarters are found for a labourer—and many of the cotton mills both under Indian and European management have attempted the problem—which are known to be well within his means, he, without exception, fills them to the brim with friends, relations and paying guests, while the accommodation provided for them is left vacant.

When it comes to food it is not really an argument in favour of the poverty of the Indian workman, that his *vis à vis* in Lancashire has a better and more varied table. The Indian has what he needs, and what is suited to the climate, for far less than is necessary to support an Englishman. And the conclusion seems clear that, after providing for the necessaries of life the Indian coolie on £4 per month has a much larger surplus than an Englishman who draws much larger pay.

Very much lower down the scale of employment, this is proved by the case of the people who are supposed to be the worst paid in the world: the agricultural labourers on gardens of every kind. Their pay is very small indeed: but practically everything is found for them: and, when every six months or so they return to their villages for a holiday, they take with them their savings to an average of £5 a piece. It is surely safe to assume that the ordinary farm labourer at Home cannot save more than that.

And where do the savings go? A great deal is, of course, locked up in India's annual purchases of gold and silver which disappear into the hut of every coolie in the country: a great deal goes in wedding ceremonies, drink and gambling: and the balance simply maintains the coolie in idleness till it is time for him to earn a bit more money.

It is claimed for Prohibition in America that it increases the working man's efficiency, and enormously improves his standard of living. Some years ago, a crusade of total abstinence had a good deal of success on the Bengal coalfields. The result was to decrease the output of coal by 25 per cent. The coolie found that, by giving up drink, he need work only three days a week.

The *Indian Daily Mail* is, therefore, very probably right in thinking that a reduction in wages would do the working classes very little harm. But, while its contention is that wages are too high, it would probably be much more just and truthful to say that the standard of living is too low. Bullion to the amount of £70 million passed through Bombay last year. Yet in all the quarters of the mill hands there is not a single picture, even cut out of an illustrated paper, and not a single stick of furniture which would escape burning in an English slum.

Questions are at this moment being asked in the House of Commons about the miserable conditions under which labour exists in India: and it is perfectly true that those conditions ought not to be tolerated by any European country, though whether they are in fact much worse than those of many English slums is doubtful. But the conditions are very far from being the fault of the employer alone. Even from the most sordid point of view, it would suit the mill owner just as well to employ men with an interest in improving their standard of living: and in fact much has been attempted in the way of solving the housing question both by the mill owners themselves and, on a grand scale, by Sir George Lloyd's Development Directorate.

INDIAN EXCHANGE.

There is little change to report in this market, although a temporary weakness in Bombay towards the end of the week, was reflected here and business was feasible at 1/64 under 1s. 6⅛d. There has however, been next to nothing doing, and the reports to hand from the Indian markets indicate a similar state of affairs there.

Forward rates, however, do not seem to show any signs of sagging, and September telegraphic is quoted at 1s. 6 5/32d., with higher rates for delivery further ahead. October is called 1s. 6 3/16 and November to January 1s. 6 7/32d. with no inquiry except at 1/32 higher. Monday's rate in London was steady at 1s. 6⅛d. for spot, buyers, but no sellers under 1/64th over. The latest forecast of the Jute Crop is far short of the bumper yield which some optimists predicted. Various estimates put the outturn in the neighbourhood of 93 lakhs of bales and as all markets are practically bare of stocks, there is no reason to anticipate any further setback in the price which should rather show some early signs of recovery. It may be safely assumed that the Continent will endeavour to obtain supplies without delay, as they were caught short at the end of last season.

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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

170, Strand, London, W.C.2.
Tuesday Morning.

Sudan Trade Expansion.

The figures for the trade of the Sudan for the five months ended May 31, which are now available, show that the improvement that has taken place during the early months of this year has continued. The value of the total trade for the period is £E4,654,629 which compares with £E4,311,760 for the corresponding period of 1924. Of this total exports account for £E2,302,073, re-exports for £E129,530, and transit trade for £E46,438. The corresponding figures for 1924 were respectively £E1,932,430, £E86,391, and £E21,173. The value of the imports was £E2,176,588 as compared with £E2,271,766, the total comprising Government imports of the value of £E728,680, a decline of £E165,065, and public imports of the value of £E1,447,908, an increase of £E69,887. The figures above show that this year the total and that there may be a not unimportant balance of trade in favour of the Sudan. When the developments now being carried out in the Sudan are borne in mind the significance of these figures will be readily appreciated. As was emphasised in these columns last week in the special section devoted to the Sudan this summer marks a turning point in the country's economic history. The opening of the Makwar Dam will have many other consequences besides enabling cotton growing in the Gezireh. It means that the country now has a new source of wealth at its disposal which will help to raise the standard of living and by so doing will immensely increase the importance of the Sudan market. As Great Britain takes increasing supplies of cotton from the Sudan so the Sudan in its turn will import goods on a constantly widening scale. The market is one, in fact, which it behoves British traders to watch most carefully in the future, for if our trade is to expand as it should it will be by catering for the market's changing and increasing requirements.

The Sudan Market.

Representation is, of course, a vital matter as regards the Sudan market. The question is referred to in the current issue of the monthly journal of the Sudan Chamber of Commerce, mention being made of the growth of applications during recent months from British and Continental manufacturers for suitable agents. "Until quite recently," it is pointed out, "it appeared to be considered quite satisfactory that an agent in Egypt should cover both countries, the important fact of distance apparently being overlooked. Very few realise even now that the earliest reply to a letter posted from Egypt on a Tuesday may only be expected by the following Sunday week."

Harvest Prospects.

If the expectations for this year's harvest are borne out it is evident that the economic situation in South-Eastern Europe will undergo a great improvement. Last year in the Balkans the harvest was generally indifferent, and Yugoslavia alone was able to export agricultural produce on an extensive scale. This time the reports are fairly good from all quarters, in particular from Roumania where it is anticipated that the production of grain will be far in advance of last year's totals. The result of a bountiful harvest in South-East Europe will be that the region as a whole will require to import a greatly increased supply of goods, and, given adequate enterprise by British traders, I shall look to see the figures for British trade with the Balkans in the next twelve months show a marked improvement. The stagnation of world trade, which has existed so long to the embarrasment of our manufacturers, and which has been very marked in some of the Near Eastern markets, has been due in the main to the lack of purchasing power. A few good harvests would go far to restore that vital factor in world economics.

Anglo-Austrian Bank.

At the general meeting of the Anglo-Austrian Bank the Chairman, Sir Herbert Lawrence said that in the past year slight but definite progress has been made in Central Europe toward the restoration of normal relations, and he added that "in the Succession States in which we operate it is possible to state that there has been a definite improvement." During the past year the bank took a leading part in arranging for the provision of substantial amounts of short-term credits for financing industry in Austria, the movement of crops in Hungary, the production of sugar in Czecho-Slovakia and tobacco in Yugoslavia. The general position of the bank, Sir Herbert Lawrence stated, is greatly improved and stabilised. "Everywhere," he continued, "excepting in Austria, we are earning good profits, and in Austria we believe that, in the near future and with an improvement in the industrial situation, our prospects are reasonably good."

Overseas Banking.

News of the most notable consolidation of banking interests that has taken place for a considerable period was forthcoming last week. It was announced that with the passage of the Colonial Bank Bill the Colonial Bank will be re-incorporated. Its name will be changed to Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas), and it will proceed to carry out arrangements which have been made for the acquisition of the businesses of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank and the National Bank of South Africa as soon as the special resolutions which will be submitted to the shareholders of those banks have been passed and certain legal formalities have been carried out. Thus will be brought about an extensive consolidation of banking interests throughout the greater part of the African Continent, and it is justly anticipated that this policy is calculated to promote development and further the interests

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of Imperial trade. Barclays Bank have held for some time a controlling interest in the Colonial Bank and in the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, as well as an interest in the National Bank of South Africa, and when the consolidation has been completed Barclays Bank will hold a controlling interest in the institution. Barclays Bank and Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) will work in close co-operation. Mr. F. C. Goodenough, chairman of Barclays Bank, will be chairman of the re-incorporated bank, while the deputy-chairman and vice-chairman will be Sir Herbert Hambling and Mr. Edmund Henry Parker respectively, who hold similar positions in Barclays Bank. The existing board of the three overseas banks will act as local boards for each institution, and certain members of each local board will join the central board.

The Rubber Position.

Developments in the rubber market during the past week have been in accordance with expectation. We are now in the period when the demand for rubber is at its lowest, hence the relative weakness in the quotations for the commodity. I say relative because the present price is actually of course, most satisfactory for the industry, and one which it could not expect to maintain for any length of time. In the last quarter of the year buying is usually on an extensive scale, and in view of the strong position of the commodity it will not be surprising if we have a further period of firm prices before the end of December. What will happen next year depends entirely on the expansion of demand. If it goes on increasing at the present rate it is perfectly evident that the production will be unable to keep pace with it, but if the price is raised unduly then it is obvious that consumption will be checked.

Indian Banking.

Elsewhere in this issue will be found the full report of the Imperial Bank of India for the half-year ended June 30 last. The period was marked by a number of changes in the bank rate, which was 6 per cent. at the beginning of the year, and in January was raised to 7 per cent., being subsequently reduced to 6 and then to 5 per cent. These changes have their inevitable repercussion on business, and the results obtained by the bank must be regarded as satisfactory in the circumstances. There was actually a reduction of Rs. 4,00,531 in the gross rereipts, while expenses rose by Rs. 5,41,508. The net profits were Rs. 69,39,660, and the dividend is maintained at 16 per cent. per annum free of tax, Rs. 10,00,000 being allocated to the reserve and Rs. 5,00,000 to pension funds, making the carry forward Rs. 21,97,874. Nine new branches were opened during the half-year leaving fifteen to be opened before the end of January next for the completion of the bank's undertaking to open a hundred new branches within five years.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £ ...	97½	97⅜—9/16
Athens	Drachmæ to £ ..	25.22½	312-315
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	270—272
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.41—20.43
Berne	Francs to £.....	25.22½	25.04-25.05
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 3/32—18 5/32
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	108.95—109'05
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	940—950
Budapest	Kronen to £	24 02	345-347,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 3/32—18 5/32d
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	805—820
New York	Dollars to £	4 86 2-3	4.85 13/16—4.85⅞
Paris	Francs to £.....	25.22½	104.60—.70
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	164
Rome	Lire to £	25 22½	135
Sofia.....	Leva to £	25.22½	670
Teheran	Krans to £	50	42 40
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	34.48-34.55
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	27½

Rubber and the Suez Canal.

It is interesting to note that the Suez Canal has been appreciably affected by the increasing demand for rubber in recent years. In 1919 the shipments through the Canal amounted to 186,000 tons. The total was 371,000 tons in 1922, while last year it was 411,000 tons. This year the figures will obviously be much higher.

Commentator.

COMMERCIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

EGYPTIAN COTTON.

To the Editor of The Near East and India.

Sir,—The importance of cotton-growing in the Sudan, so well described in your issue of August 13, is proved by the demand in this country for Egyptian cotton at a fair price. At the 28th annual meeting of shareholders of the English Sewing Cotton Co., held in Manchester on July 22, the Chairman (Mr. T. F. Tattersall)) attributed the reduction in the Company's earnings largely to "the high prices of raw material, especially Egyptian cottons and yarns." He added "that most of our products are made of yarns spun from the best qualities of Egyptian cotton."—I am, Sir, yours, etc.,

R. R.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

EGYPT.

Electrical Installation.—The Ministry of the Interior, Savoy House, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and installation of an electric power station and distributing system for the town of Minieh. The contract comprises the supply and installation of diesel-driven generator sets and cables, etc. October 1. (D.O.T.)

Machine Tools.—The Ministry of Education, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of machine tools required for the Port Said Technical School. September 17. (D.O.T.)

Diesel Engine.—The Ministry of Education invites tenders for the supply of:—(1) One 100 h.p. vertical Diesel engine coupled to a generator of 65 k.w. (2) One n.h.p locomotive multitubular boiler. September 17. (D.O.T.)

Sewage Pumping Machinery.—The Director-General, Main Drainage Department, No. 2, Sharia Abbas, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply, erection and delivery of sewage pumping machinery, comprising 3 large and 1 small Diesel engines and 3 large and 1 small centrifugal pumps, complete with auxiliary plant. November 2.

Machinery, Etc.—The Controller, Technical, Industrial and Commercial Education, Sharia Qasr el Aini, Cairo, invites tenders for the machinery and machine tools required for the engineering and the carpentry also the metal plate sections of the new Mansurah Trades School (September 9); hand tools and machinery required for the Workshops of the School of Engineering (September 17); supply of Diesel engine, generator, switch board, etc., and locomotive boiler, for Assiout Model Workshops; machinery for the Engineering and Carpentry Section, for Port Said Trades School; machinery for the Engineering Section of the Bulaq Technical School (September 17).

Trunk Record Table.—The Superintendent of Stores, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of a trunk record table. Copies of the specification may be obtained on application, against payment in advance of 500 milliemes (not acceptable in postage stamps) at the Stores Department, Saptia (Cairo), or Gabbary (Alexandria). September 10.

Iron Bolts, Etc.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of a considerable quantity of galvanised wrought iron bolts with nuts and washers. September 12.

TURKEY.

Machine Tools and Furnaces for Metal Smelting.—The "Commission d'Achats des Postes et Telegraphes," Stamboul, Constantinople, invites tenders for the supply of lathes, milling machines, shearing machine press, etc., also metal smelting furnaces. September 8. (D.O.T.)

Machine Tools.—The Department of Marine at Constantinople invites tenders for machine tools. September 8. (D.O.T.)

YUGOSLAVIA.

Various Goods.—Tenders are being called for in Belgrade for cylinder boring machines, closing date September 3; boiler plates, closing date September 3; chemicals, colours and varnishes, drugs, cotton wool, bandages and gauze. (D.O.T.)

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A DALMATIAN RAILWAY.

The New Lika Line.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Liubliana, August 13.

July 25 was a day of rejoicing for all Dalmatia, because upon this day the new Lika Line, as it is called, was thrown open to public traffic with all the pomp and circumstance appropriate to the occasion—the first railway line of note to connect Dalmatia with the interior beyond the mountains. And Dalmatia had waged a long and weary struggle for this connection.

Even as under the domination of Venice she had fought hard, and practically in vain, for road connection with Bosnia, so she strove for decades, and scarcely less vainly, under Austria-Hungary for the same connection by rail. "All commerce must gravitate towards Venice," was the watchword of the Republic of the Lagunes; and "All commerce must go to Trieste and Fiume," was the policy of Austria-Hungary. And so Dalmatia, with her magnificent natural harbours, remained neglected, and the considerable natural wealth of the province was unexploited.

The only gleam of light in Dalmatia's history was the short Napoleonic interlude, when Dalmatia was incorporated with the Kingdom of Illyria. With equal zeal and efficiency the French built roads in all directions, and Dalmatia was given at least the most necessary connection with the interior. There is a characteristic anecdote told with reference to this road-building activity of the French. It so happened that the Emperor Francis Joseph visited Dalmatia, and several times found occasion to ask who had constructed this or that excellent road. "The French, Your Majesty," was the invariable reply, until at last the Emperor remarked, "What a pity they didn't stay here a little longer."

Dalmatia's fight for railroad connection dates from 1850. In that year the Diet of Dalmatian communes, chambers of commerce, and business corporations passed a resolution recommending the construction of a Dalmatian railway line. Every year this resolution was passed afresh, but the Austrian Government remained deaf to all appeals. Not until she had lost Venice, in 1866, did Austria begin to consider the question of a Dalmatian railway.

Years passed, however, before anything definite was done in the matter; but at last, on April 30, 1873, the Vienna Parliament passed a Government measure whereby the concession for the construction of a Dalmatian Locomotive Railway" was duly granted. But that very year the financial crash on the Vienna Exchange prevented the carrying out of the concession. It was impossible to raise sufficient private capital for the scheme, and so a second Bill was passed, in the following year, whereby the State itself undertook the construction of the line.

The first part to be built was the section from Split to Perkovitch, then the section from Perkovitch to Sibenik; and on October 4, 1877, this 70 km. section was opened for traffic. This, however, meant no more than that Split and Sibenik were now connected by rail, whereas Dalmatia as a whole remained as much cut off from the interior as before. And now began the real struggle for the continuation of the construction of the Dalmatian line. As Bosnia was at that time still under Turkish sovereignty, it was decided to take the line through Lika, and for that reason it came to be referred to as the Lika Line.

The Dalmatians were most eager in their agitation for the completion of their line. Not once did the Vienna Parliament or the Austro-Hungarian Delegation meet but the Dalmatian deputies would urge the construction of the Lika Line. All the same, work progressed but slowly. In 1883 the line was carried from Perkovitch as far as Knin. But here fresh difficulties arose, because now it was necessary to secure the favour and permission of the Budapest Government as well for the line. After lengthy negotiations the continuation of the line was again resolved upon in 1907, and finally, under the pressure of the military crisis, work was actually resumed in 1912.

In 1914 work upon the line was in full swing, and in October of that year the new section from Ogulin to Plaski was inaugurated. Then the war once more delayed operations, and further construction was suspended until 1917. The Revolution in 1918 brought yet another setback for the Lika Line. There followed the Italian occupation of Dalmatia, and all the material for the practically finished line was removed and taken away.

As soon as the Italians evacuated Dalmatia, work was once more resumed, and by 1922 the Gospitch-Gratsatz section (45 km.) was open to traffic. Next to be finished was the long section (117 km.) from Ogulin to Gratsatz, and finally the 64 km. section from Gratsatz to Knin. Hereby Dalmatia is at last linked up with the Continental world market, and Split, its most promising harbour, is placed in direct railroad connection with Belgrade, Zagreb, Liubliana, and Prague.

Not unconnected with the opening of the new and most important Yugoslav line is the highly interesting Adriatic Exhibition at Split, which will be open for a few weeks more. Visitors to the exhibition are entitled to the usual half-fare on all Yugoslav railways accorded to all visitors to fairs, etc., in this country.

On August 15, M. Duca, the Roumanian Foreign Minister, opened at Sinaia a conference attended by representatives of the Press of Czecho-Slovakia, Yugoslavia and Roumania. A permanent bureau is to be formed which will work at Bucharest, Prague, and Belgrade in turn, and will deal with problems common to the Press of all three countries with a view to settling them by mutual agreement. The Press bureaux of the Foreign Offices of the three States are to work in close liaison with this Permanent Bureau.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company in their report for the week ended August 6, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has been quiet, the undertone being weaker; the net changes on the week are the following: Sakellaridis 0.57 dollars down for November, 0.40 dollars down for January, 0.38 dollars down for March. Ashmouni, 0.70 dollars down for August, 0.57 dollars down for October, 0.55 dollars down for December. The weaker tone of our market may be attributed to the drop of about 1 C/ at New York and the very poor trade demand for both prompt and new crop shipments. The conditions of the textile industries in England and on the Continent are not at present altogether satisfactory either on account of threatened labour troubles or exchange depreciation, etc., and this naturally is not conducive to purchases of cotton on a free scale on the part of spinners. The activity of our market has been the result of straddling operations. November Sakel and October Ashmouni have been sold against purchases of Egyptian in Liverpool and American in New York. At the August 1 tender Crs. 3,250 dockets were issued. The week's receipts amount to Crs. 338 against exports Crs. 45,768; the stock stands at Crs. 365,443.

Spot: Minet el Bassel has been a very dull market this week and demand from abroad has fallen off still further for prompt shipment. Sales amount to about 2,800 B/s of which we estimate 1,200 B/s Sakel, 1,500 B/s Uppers and 100 B/s other varieties.

Sakellarides: has been in moderate request. The medium and lower grades continue to attract what little demand there is and the good grades continue neglected. Spot differences are unchanged for the medium grades, rather stiffer for the lower grades and somewhat easier for the good qualities.

Ashmouni and Zagora: have been in fair request and a moderate business has been done principally in the low and medium qualities, high grades being neglected. Spot differences are without much change except for Fully Good and Good which have eased somewhat.

Brown and Pilion: No business has been done in Brown and a retail demand has been met with for Pilion. Spot differences of Brown are quotably unchanged but for Pilion they are rather dearer except for Good Fair which is unchanged.

White: A few bales have been done. Quotations of Spot are nominally a little stiffer.

Crop 1925: Climatic conditions have been in general favourable. The present state of the crops tends to indicate that whereas the average yield of Sakel may be somewhat lower than in 1924, that of all the other varieties—Uppers, Zagora, Pilion etc.—will in all probability be quite equal to that of last year. The critical period of the water supply question is now over; it has passed without any real serious shortage being noted. The pink boll worm attack is developing; the proportion of bolls attacked varies considerably from field to field, 5 to 25 per cent. being the proportion found at present; on average, the attack may be considered as normal.

The Report of the Alexandria General Produce Association for July reads:

Lower Egypt.—The temperature during the month of July has been favourable to the cotton plants. They have made satisfactory progress, they look well but they have not developed as much as last year at this time. Flowering is general but from 8 to 15 days late, according to district. Generally speaking there are less flowers and fewer bolls on the Sakellarides plants than last year; as regards the other varieties the flowers and bolls are more abundant. Leaf worm has disappeared, the damage done by this pest is insignificant. Bollworm and pink bollworm have made their appearance but examination shows that the number of bolls attacked, to date, is less than in previous years. Water for irrigation has been sufficient.

Upper Egypt and Fayoum.—Under the influence of the favourable temperature experienced during the month of July the plants have continued to make satisfactory progress, they look well, flowering is finished and in general the trees are well covered with bolls. Some cases of bollworm have been reported. Water for irrigation has been sufficient.

The Report of the Ministry of Agriculture for July reads:

Weather was on the whole favourable to the growth of the plants and formation of bolls. The crop is, however, still about one week backward. Demands for water increased this month owing to irrigation of sharaqi. Some complaints were received of shortage of water; these came chiefly from localities at tail ends of canals. Such complaints were duly taken into consideration by the Ministries of Agriculture and Public Works and necessary compensation was given. Despite some hatching which did but slight damage, the cotton-worm attack is under control. The attack of wilt has not spread any further since last month: it has been most noticeable in lands under Sakellarides in Behera, Gharbiya and Daqahliya Provinces. The boll-worm infestation is not more, if not less, this year than at the corresponding date of last year.

MANCHESTER COTTON MARKET.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended August 15 states:—

During the past week there has been some falling away in the volume of business transacted. This is attributed to the decline which has taken place in raw cotton prices, and a feeling which prevails that still lower levels may possibly be reached. Spinners and manufacturers have, however, cut down their prices to such an extent that they are sure to fight hard to retain for themselves the benefit of cheaper cotton, and it appears doubtful whether, in the long run, buyers will reap any advantage from their present cautious attitude.

Yarn.—Business has not been so active as in preceding weeks, but the better feeling then noted remains. The annual holiday in the Oldham district is now very near, and will, of course, mean a considerable temporary curtailment in supplies. Quotations are slightly lower, but not to the full extent of the fall in raw cotton. Shipments of yarn in July amounted to 14,044,700 lbs., as compared with 13,272,800 lbs. in the preceding month and 12,665,000 lbs. in July last year.

Cloth.—Inquiry has been on a fairly extensive scale, but there is a reduction in the business actually carried through. An interesting feature has been the reports of large sales to the Russian representatives now in this country. India has taken a certain amount of light goods, but the heavier lines are difficult to move. A moderate business has been done for China, but little for Egypt and the Near East. Shipments of cloth during July amounted to 370,841,700 sq. yds., as compared with 337,963,300 sq. yds. in the preceding month, and 383,760,900 sq. yds. in July last year.

Raw Cotton.—The American Agricultural Bureau Report published on Saturday last gave the condition of the crop on the 1st inst. as 65.6 per cent., and the estimated yield at 13,566,000 bales This was not so good as expected, but the weather reports since the date to which the report was made up have been favourable, and prices, instead of moving up, have declined Business in Liverpool has been restricted both for American and Egyptian. The news with regard to the new crop of the latter continues to be favourable. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows:—American Middling, 12.93; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 30.45.

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Near East Markets.

SPECIAL MARKET REPORTS.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank:—

Basrah, July 18.—The market is quiet. Business in colonial produce has been limited. Some business has been done for Mosul in wheat and rice. Some weakness has been shown in the European markets for dates, offers being made at prices that are not encouraging.

Jaffa, July 28.—There is nothing of special interest to report. Owing to the bad crops, considerable quantities of barley, maize, hay, etc., have been ordered from abroad.

Teheran, July 11.—There has been another week of stagnation, with no appreciable change in prices. The Government are considering the introduction of a Stamp Act. The draft has not yet been sent before the House, and it is considered unlikely that it will in its present form, which is very vague. It allows for a 5 shahi (0.25 krans) stamp on all commercial documents payable at sight; also 5 shahis for each 2,000 krans on other documents not at sight, such as commercial bills payable to bearer, bills of lading and other transferable documents. It also insists on commercial and stock companies depositing copies of their statutes and paying to the Government ½ per cent. of the capital of the institution before they may trade in the country.

Teheran, July 18.—The Teheran district is experiencing the hottest weather known for a number of years past, and this, with the very serious lack of water, is adversely affecting crops. The temperature in Teheran has risen to 107-108 degrees. Another result is a very considerable increase in the cost of animal transport.

AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS IN IRAQ.

The following extracts are taken from the Agricultural Bulletin of Iraq for the month ended July 15:—

The calender month of June was comparatively cool particularly towards the latter end of the month. This coolness was accentuated by continued low relative humidity.

The unprecedentedly low level of the Tigris and Diala rivers is causing the greatest anxiety to cultivators. On the lower Tigris canals a great shortage of water is being experienced and pump-owners are almost all in difficulties.

In spite of a very efficient temporary dam at Table Mountain all the Diala canals are short of water, and this shortage is being particularly felt in the left bank areas where cultivators are seriously considering abandoning part of their summer crops. At the Departmental Experimental Farm on the Diala the position is very acute. The lift for the pumps is at present 27 feet and the river continues to fall. There would appear to be little hope of any amelioration of these conditions.

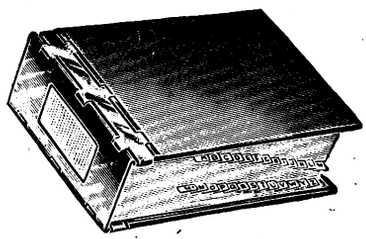
Threshing of winter cereals continues. Progress in this has been slow and delayed in some districts by revenue assessments, and the crop is by no means completely threshed. Prices have remained fairly steady during the period under report and are therefore still high, wheat varying from Rs. 380 per ton at Mosul to Rs. 200 per ton at Basrah, and barley being Rs. 275 per ton at Mosul and from Rs. 90 to Rs. 120 per ton elsewhere. High prices are being paid for new season's tibn, but animals are being largely grazed on stubbles.

The cotton crop is progressing favourably. In no plantation has the spotted boll-worm done any damage this year, and freedom from this pest must be attributed to the severity of last winter. The pest Platyedra Vilella, which caused some anxiety early in the season by an apparent tendency to migrate from holly-hock, its normal host plant, to cotton seems to have suffered from the hot dry winds, and is now almost entirely absent. The areas put down to cotton this year are small, but the yield per acre over the country will probably be higher than last year. A number of specially selected early strains have been sown in the Mosul district by cultivators in an experimental way, to determine the possibility of obtaining remunerative yields, if sown after all danger from locusts has passed.

One of the reasons for the lower acreage under cotton has been the universal desire to grow summer food grains such as maize millet, and rice. This desire is of course caused by the high prices ruling for all food-stuffs, and in some cases fantastic prices have been paid for seed of these crops.

It is reported that as much as Rs. 1,000 per ton has been paid for maize. The issue of millet seed to cultivators in the North whose winter cereals were a complete failure has checked the tendency shown by these people to migrate.

Good reports are to hand of the Basrah date crops; the palms have set an unusually heavy crop of fruit, and



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yields are estimated well above those for next year. The high winds of late June and early July, caused a good deal of shedding, but this amounts to little more than a much needed thinning. Some growers feared an attack of Hashaf disease but an examination of the fallen dates showed only a very small proportion to be attacked by insects. Ghubber disease made its appearance in exposed plantations in late June. It is much later than usual and is probably too late to spread seriously.

The investigations into the locust pest continue. Over 11,000 acres of breeding grounds have been located and experimental work has elicited the fact that each acre may be expected to contain at least half a ton of eggs. The limited utility of egg-buying is distinctly indicated by these figures.

The life-history of certain insects parasitic on locust eggs is being studied and specimens have been sent to the Imperial Bureau of Entomology for confirmation of identification.

Following the exceptionally cold winter stone fruit has been exceptionally good in both quality and quantity. Figs and grapes are now coming into the market and the crops are reported to be good.

The July 1924—June 1925 exports of wheat from Iraq were 1,207 tons and of barley 31,359 tons, total 32,566 tons, as compared with 186,982 tons exported during the same period last year. The August 1924—June 1925 exports of dates from Iraq were 142,931 tons valued at Rs. 1,85,27,952 as compared with 124,076 tons valued at Rs. 1,57,01,581, exported during the corresponding season last year. The July 1924—June 1925 exports of wool from Iraq were 19,259 tons, as compared with 7,720 tons exported during the corresponding period last year

SUDAN PRODUCE.

The following extracts are taken from the report of the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government for the month ended July 1:—

Cotton.

Blue Nile Province, June. Great progress has been made by the Sudan Plantations Syndicate in preparing the new land in the Gezireh Scheme now coming under cultivation for the first time. The seed for next season's rain cotton crop has been distributed.

White Nile Province, June. 1,273 sacks of American cotton seed have been distributed for rain cultivation. Great interest is shown everywhere, and, provided rains are good, the prospects are excellent.

Kassala Province, June. Land allotment is commencing. Applications received correspond to an area of 75,000 feddans, but land available is only 25,000 feddans. The indigenous tribes show greater enthusiasm to cultivate this year than last.

Red Sea Province, June. The total cotton crop was 31,450 kantars.

Upper Nile Province, June. Cotton is being planted in the Central District (Shilluk) and natives are being encouraged to plant in the southern portion of the district and on the Sobat river.

Berber Province, June. Over 3,000 kantars of cotton were brought in in the season 1924-25 at Shendi, of which a small amount was watered by private pumps, and the rest by sagias. This is more than double the previous year's figures. Also about 1,000 kantars of cotton were sold privately and despatched by special permit. The demand for seed for 1925-26 season has increased, and if conditions are good, a larger output can be anticipated next year. The Director of Agriculture hopes to be able to institute local auctions next year at Shendi and possibly at Berber.

Cotton Yield in Berber Province 1924-1925. Government pumps, 9,403 kantars of 315 rottles. Sagia cotton brought into Government Collecting Stations (including a small amount of privately owned pump cotton), 5,119 kantars of 315 rottles. Cotton grown by privately owned pumps and despatched by owners by special permits. Estimated at 17,615 kantars of 315 rottles; total 32,137 kantars. For the coming season, a larger amount of seed has been asked for, and given normal conditions, a larger crop is anticipated.

Miscellaneous.

Kassala Province, June. During the period May 28 to June 17, 394 ardebs of sesame were imported into Gedaref and 951 into Mafaza. Exports were 345 and 949 ardebs respectively. The average market prices were:—Gedaref £E1,525 m/ms. Mafaza £E1,507 m/ms.

Darfur Province, May. A May report states that the tobacco crop this year has been excellent. Nearly 3,000 kantars were exported during the month and it is evident this year's figures will far exceed those of any previous year.

Kassala Province, June. Imports of cattle for the season at Gallabat up to June 6, reached a total of 4,650 head. 231 sheep were exported from Kassala to Port Sudan. 134 cattle were exported from Gallabat.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.

The report of the Imperial Bank of India for the half-year ended June 30, states that with the Bank Rate at 6 per cent. when the half-year opened, and money in strong demand, it was soon found necessary to strengthen the cash resources by throwing a further two crores (in January) from the Paper Currency Department against trade bills, the first two crores having been borrowed on December 23, 1924. The Bank Rate was raised to 7 per cent. from January 22, and pressure for money increasing, a further four crores were borrowed from the Paper Currency Department in February. There was considerable tightness of money from then onwards until the end of April, when, indications of easier conditions becoming apparent, the bank repaid two crores to Government, followed, as pressure subsided, by further repayments of two crores each on the 18th, 23rd, and 26th May respectively. The Bank Rate was reduced to 6 per cent. as from May 21, and again reduced to 5 per cent. from June 18. The average rate for the half-year was 6.585 per cent.

The net profits of the bank for the half-year amounted to Rs. 69,39,660-11-7 which with Rs. 12,58,213-12-7 brought forward from the half-year ended December 31, 1924 made a total of Rs. 81,97,874-8-2. This sum the Governors of the bank disposed of as follows:—1, in payment of a dividend to the shareholders at the rate of 16 per cent. per annum free of income-tax Rs. 45,00,000; 2, transferred to reserve fund Rr. 10,00,000; 3, transferred to pension fund Rs. 5,00,000; 4, carried forward to the profit and loss account of the current half-year Rs. 21,97,874 8a. 2p.; total Rs. 81,97,874 8a. 2p.

Since the publication of the report for the half-year ended December 31, 1924, nine new branches have been opened, viz., Ellore, Gaya, Kasur, Khamgaon, Muzaffarnagar, Purnea, Thana, Tirupur and Wardha. This leaves fifteen branches to be opened before January 27, 1926, in accordance with the undertaking to Government to open one hundred new branches within five years.

AFRICAN AND EASTERN.

The directors of the African and Eastern Trade Corporation, Ltd., are recommending to the shareholders the payment on October 1 of a final dividend on the ordinary shares of 4 per cent., less income tax, making with the 4 per cent. interim paid on June 8, a total dividend of 8 per cent., less income tax, for the year ended December 31, 1924. The report and accounts will be posted to shareholders on the 18th inst., and the annual meeting will be held on the 28th inst.

The Air Ministry regrets to announce that as a result of an accident near Ur, Iraq, to a D.H. 9.A. of No. 84 Squadron at Shaibah on August 12, Pilot-Officer John Jellett FitzGerald, the pilot of the aircraft, was killed, and No. 348,244 A.C. 1 Frank Edward Leatherdale was slightly injured.

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PORT CONSTRUCTION IN TURKEY.

The question of the construction of ports at Mersina, Trebizond, and Samsoun has been under consideration for some time past (says the British Commercial Secretary at Constantinople in his annual report). Rights were acquired by the National Bank of Turkey in 1911 in connection with the survey and the optional construction of the ports of Samsoun and Trebizond.

In July, 1924, a law was promulgated relative to the construction of a port at Mersina. According to this law:—(a) The survey work is to be carried out by the end of the financial year. (b) At the end of each year an estimate of the value of the work to be carried out in the following year will be made, and a corresponding credit will be provided for in the budget. (c) A credit of £T200,000 was provided to cover preliminary expenses in connection with these works.

Little progress has been made since this law was promulgated, but it would appear that previous to the promulgation of this law a French group had been negotiating with the Turkish Government. These negotiations had progressed to the extent that a draft contract was submitted by the group.

It was stated that as the result of a recent visit to Mersina of the late Minister of Works the question of the construction of the port was again under consideration and that the Turkish Government would be prepared to consider proposals from any responsible group.

Shipping Conditions.

Although there has been some improvement in port conditions in regard to towage and pilotage, no serious effort has been made to co-ordinate Turkish administrative methods of controlling shipping and port services, which continue to be reserved to Turkish subjects only.

The Government has had the opportunity of examining the reports submitted by such bodies as the Turkish Chamber of Commerce and the "Union Nationale de Commerce Turc," and although it would seem from above, no changes have been effected in maritime taxes certain measures based on the recommendations submitted by these organisations, such as the unification of port control, with the exception of a draft law governing certain port services, the administration of which is to be undertaken in Turkish ports by Turkish manutention companies, which will be held responsible for the loading and unloading of vessels, nothing effective has been done to date.

Certain advantages would be derived by the institution of competent institutions of the nature described above if the same are made responsible for (a) the adherence to manutention rates; (b) maintaining discipline in the ranks of the lightermen; (c) the safeguarding of goods in lighters.

In the meanwhile port control orders are continually being changed, and shipping companies find some difficulty in keeping up to date in respect to these changes.

Attempts have been made, however, to abolish guilds such as those of the hamals and lightermen. The hamals' guild has been abolished officially and tariffs revised, but no effective control exists, and, therefore, no very great improvement can be recorded. Tariffs have also been drawn up for the boatmen in the port of Constantinople, but here again there is no proper organisation to see that these tariffs are respected.

Further storage accommodation has been found by the Customs, but, as already stated, private transit sheds have been closed, and it still remains to be seen whether the Customs Administration can grant advantages equal to those acquired hitherto by the use of private transit sheds. If Customs charges are higher, if stevedoring is defective, and if proper precautions are not taken against theft and pilferage and for safeguarding merchandise from exposure to rain owing to defective upkeep of sheds, and if, as the result of lack of proper organisation, difficulties arise in connection with the insurance of goods stored therein, the acquisition of further Customs storage accommodation resulting in the closing of private transrt sheds may be prejudicial to trade.

Rates for Sanitary Dues.

In April, 1924, certain changes were effected in the rates for sanitary dues. The new rates are as follows:—Two piastres per ton on vessels up to 250 tons. Vessels over 750 tons now pay sanitary dues on the scale of 4 piastres per net registered ton, and although Turkish shipping no longer enjoys a preferential rate, the graduated scale of tariffs, which is 2 piastres per net registered ton in the case of vessels of below 250 tons and 3 piastres for vessels from 251 to 750 tons, is in favour of merchant vessels under the Turkish flag, as a large proportion of the present merchant fleet consists of vessels of small tonnage.

With the exception of the sanitary dues mentioned above, no changes have been affected in maritime taxes furnished in last year's annual report, but an ad valorem tax of 10 per cent. in the case of first-class tickets, 7½ per cent. in the case of second-class tickets, and 5 per cent. in the case of third-class tickets is imposed on the cost of tickets purchased for any journey in Turkey.

The situation as regards cabotage remains unchanged. Representatives of the allied concerns which, in virtue of the Lausanne treaty, are called upon to negotiate with the Turkish Government the conditions under which they may eventually be authorised to continue cabotage beyond the two years provided for in the Treaty, were requested to proceed to Angora in this connection, but no useful purpose was gained by this visit.

Since the nationalisation of port services and the reservation of cabotage to vessels under the Turkish flag, quite a large number of vessels were purchased by Turkish shipowners in the hopes that the dawn of a new era of prosperity was at hand. Their hopes were, however, of short duration. Most of their capital was sunk in the purchase of vessels for which freight is lacking, and in some cases owners have been obliged to lay up some of the vessels of their fleet.

Private Turkish shipowners complain that the growing development of the Seiri Sefaine Steamship Co. is paralysing their activities, and they have consequently formulated certain proposals to the Government which would entail considerable sacrifices on the part of the aforesaid company.

The Maharaja of Patiala visited the International Headquarters of the Salvation Army in Queen Victoria Street last week.

The Yugoslav delegation to the forthcoming session to the League of Nations will be headed by M. Ninchitch, the Foreign Minister.

The doctors attending M. Pachitch, the Yugoslav Premier, who is taking the cure at Carlsbad, state that his health is now completely restored.

According to *The Times* Cairo correspondent, King Fuad has ordered the establishment of a naval training school, and has given £E12,000 towards its expenses.

Mr. Sperling, British Minister to Switzerland, on August 11, signed on behalf of India at the Secretariat of the League of Nations the instruments of the Second Opium Convention (Geneva, 1925).

The heavy rain has caused floods in the principal rivers in North India. The latest report shows that the River Ravi has flooded the northern outskirts of Lahore, and the municipal waterworks are under water, resulting in the stoppage of the water supply to the city.

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Company Meetings.

ANGLO-AUSTRIAN BANK.

Sir Herbert Lawrence's Speech.

The Third Ordinary General Meeting of the Anglo-Austrian Bank, Limited, was held on August 14 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C. General the Hon. Sir Herbert A. Lawrence, K.C.B., chairman of the company, presided.

The Secretary (Mr. M. McK. Turnbull) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: In the balance-sheet laid before you you will notice a general increase in the figures as compared with last year. Generally speaking, this may be taken to imply a steady expansion of the business of your bank.

I propose to refer in detail to two figures which seem to require explanation. The rest speak for themselves. You will see that the bank premises and fittings now stand at £320,000, as against £165,000 last year. This increase is accounted for by buildings purchased in Vienna some time ago, for which payment has now been made, and by premises in Trieste, which we were obliged to acquire and remodel. Our building in Budapest has also been rebuilt and made into a very valuable property.

Our opening reserve account stands to-day at £265,000, as against £375,165 5s. 2d. a year ago. This is accounted for by the payment of compensation according to law to employees in Austria who have been retired. Although the process of reduction is not yet completed, the charge is a non-recurring one, and is, in our opinion, properly charged against our reserve account. The reduction in our profit for the year is what might be expected in view of the conditions obtaining in Austria. However, when our plans for reduction of staff in Austria are completed, as we hope they will be by the end of this year, we see no reason why our branch in Vienna should not regain some of its former prosperity.

With regard to the economic situation in Central Europe, the past year has witnessed a slight but marked progress towards the restoration of normal conditions. There have been no upheavals, no violent fluctuations of currency such as characterised the years immediately succeeding the war, and in the Succession States in which we operate it is possible to state that there has been a definite improvement.

Czecho-Slovakia has made a notable effort to extricate herself from the crisis which overtook her industry as a result of the drastic deflation policy inaugurated in 1922, and, although it would be rash to prophesy that the crisis had been entirely overcome, there is every reason to believe that the worst is past, and that she will now reap the benefit of a policy which in itself was sound.

In the Czecho-Slovak Republic our interests, as you know, are represented by the Anglo-Czecho-Slovakian Bank, the steady progress of which gives us great satisfaction, while in Yugoslavia the results already achieved have fully justified the action of your board in acquiring a large participation in the active and ably managed Croatian Discount Bank, to whom we have transferred our Maribor branch.

Thanks to the resolute policy of the Yugoslav Government, the State finances of that country have been put on a sound basis. Borrowing from the National Bank has ceased; taxation has been raised in a high degree; the Budget has been balanced, and a policy of deflation is being carried out with praiseworthy perseverance. As a result of these measures a certain economic crisis has arisen, but this crisis is a healthy one, and forms an inevitable stage in the financial recovery of the country.

Our position in Austria is, unfortunately, not so satisfactory. The year 1924 was a further period of trial, and a severe stock exchange crisis, combined with industrial stagnation and unemployment troubles, placed a heavy burden on the financial resources of the country. The Austrian currency, however, has maintained its stability unshaken. The public revenues have continued to be favourable, and the Budget is nearing the equilibrium provided for in the League of Nations reconstruction scheme. The position of the National Bank is satisfactory, while the new Bill, prescribing the drawing up of gold balance-sheets for all joint-stock companies, will help to restore public confidence.

I said last year that it was our intention to extend our business in Italy. The branch in Milan was opened in January. This is the first new branch to be opened since 1922 and Milan, as the financial centre of Italy, is a necessary link in our foreign service. We have also opened a small exchange office in Grado for the benefit of travellers, and propose to follow the same course in Venice. The functions of these offices, however, will be strictly limited to exchange business.

In Hungary we have had a good year, and we note with satisfaction the successful effort which the Hungarian people have made during the last 12 months to rehabilitate their economic position. In May of this year, Hungary completed the first year of reconstruction under the League of Nations scheme. Hitherto the results have been gratifying. The currency has been stabilised; an independent Note Issue Bank has been established, and an equilibrium in the Budget has already been attained. This substantial progress has not been achieved without considerable sacrifice, and heavy taxation has imposed a serious burden on commerce and industry. The economic crisis, which stabilisation has produced in Hungary, is a natural phenomenon, coming as it did after a period of reckless inflation, and must be regarded as an unpleasant but essential part of the process of financial regeneration and of the return to normal conditions. That the Hungarians will emerge successfully from these difficulties, few will doubt. The great majority of the population is engaged in agriculture—a fact that in itself is a guarantee for the country's stability, and, provided that Hungary continues to advance along the path of normal and steady reconstruction, she should not fail to secure the foreign credits which are required to restore industry and agriculture to a healthy state and to enable the country to fulfil its obligations.

Our branches in Roumania have had a satisfactory year, but, in view of the uncertainty which prevails in that part of Europe, we are pursuing a policy of steady consolidation.

To sum up, the general position of our bank is greatly improved and stabilised. Everywhere, excepting in Austria, we are earning good profits, and in Austria we believe that, in the near future and with an improvement in the industrial situation, our prospects are reasonably good.

Mr. M. Spencer-Smith, D.S.O., M.C. (the vice-chairman), seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously without discussion.

On the motion of Mr. F. S. Arnold, seconded by Mr. Franz Petschek, Messrs. Binder, Hamlyn and Co., chartered accountants, were reappointed as auditors of the company for the ensuing year.

The proceedings then terminated.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Massilia for Bombay (Liverpool, August 26). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Malakuta for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 22).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Yorkshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, August 26).

British India Line.—S.s. Manora for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 29); s.s. Nirvana for Bombay and Karachi (London, September 12).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Pavia for Gibraltar, Oran, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, September 5).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Florence for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 31).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 5); s.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 12); s.s. Dromore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 17).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Ranpura for Bombay (London, August 21); s.s. Nagoya for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 5).

Prince Line.—S.s. Burmese Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa and Haifa (London, September 12).

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*CIRCASSIA, Sept. 29.	*SCINDIA, Nov. 27.
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THE P. & O. AND OCEAN CRUISING.

The P. and O. Company's new steampship Ranchi of 16,600 tons, left London on Saturday with five hundred passengers on a cruise to Norway and the Northern Capitals. In pre-War days the company ran, every year, an extensive programme of pleasure cruises and this voyage marks their regular resumption of the practice. A programme embodying six cruises for the middle months of next year is to be announced at an early date. The Ranchi will leave London for Bombay on October 2, on her initial voyage in the Indian mail service.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The exportation of olive oil from Greece has been prohibited.

British engineers are supervising the erection of a beam wireless station at Poona.

The production of Hamilton's Oil Concessions (Roumania) for July was 3,360 tons.

It is reported that large areas of new orange groves are to be planted in Palestine during the coming season.

The production of crude oil by the British Burmah Petroleum Company and the Rangoon Oil Co., Ltd., for July amounted to 60,916 barrels.

It is reported that considerable congestion prevails at Piræus owing to delay on the part of many consignees in taking up delivery of their goods.

The Radio Technical Council of the Greek Ministry of Marine recommends the installation in Greece of the Marconi wireless telegraphic system.

The production of the Indo-Burma Oilfields for June was 3,684 barrels, being 2,444 barrels from Yenanma field and 1,240 barrels from Padaukpin field.

The traffic receipts of the South Indian Railway Company for the week ended July 18 amounted to Rs. 4,41,854, making the total from April 1 Rs. 1,63,21,811.

The value of Bulgaria's imports for the first five months of 1925 was 3,004,000,000 levas, that of the exports being 2,177,000,000 levas.

The Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway has placed an order for 40 motor-cars and 120 trailer cars with Cammell, Laird and Co., Limited.

The directors of the National Bank of Egypt announce an interim dividend of 8s. per share, payable September 1, on account of the profits for 1925.

An order has been obtained by Joseph Foster and Sons, Preston, for the boiler-house plant for the Gya power station and Dhanbad power station of the East Indian Railways.

Old machinery and old parts of installations or complete sets for industrial use may not be imported into Roumania unless previous authorisation has been obtained from the Minister of industry and Commerce.

The Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture proposes to ask the Egyptian Minister in Brazil to report on the methods of cultivation of pine-apples in that country.

The interest on the Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per Cent. Loan, due September 1, will be paid by Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons, St Swithin's Lane, E.C., on that day and on each succeeding day (Saturdays excepted) between 11 and 2 o'clock.

Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co., Limited, have entered into a working agreement with Breitfeld Danek, Limited, of Prague, for their technical co-operation in the erection and installation of beet sugar factories in the United Kingdom and throughout the British Empire.

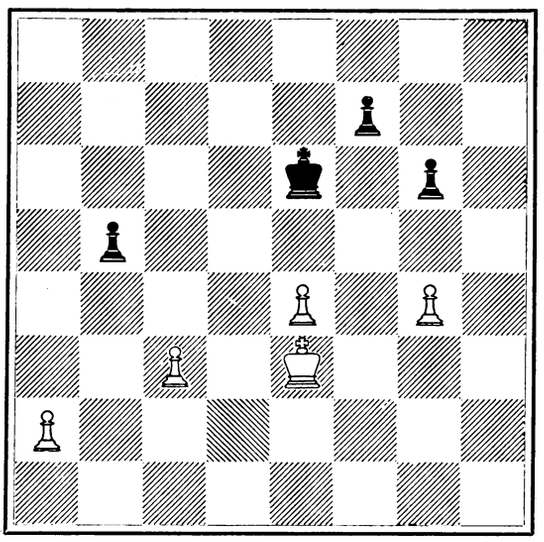
The contract for the erection of an electric power station at Plevna has been given to the Bergmann Electricity Works of Berlin.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended July 20 amounted to £E8,108, making the total for April 1 £E81,502.

The Dacia Romano Petroleum Company reports that well No. 10 Moreni has been brought in with an initial flow of 60 to 80 tons per day. After continuous flowing for some days this has decreased to 30 to 40 tons, and cleaning will shortly be necessary. No 9 Moreni has passed final water test. A further well at Moreni, one at Baicoi, and two at Runcu are nearing completion.

CHESS.

By "CARO-KANN."



END GAME No. 11.

White to play and win.

Solution to end-game No. 10:—1, B—B4, B—Q (the only alternative is BxB, which will be dealt with subsequently); 2, K—K3, B—B3; 3, P—Kt5, B—K2; 4, P—R4, B—B3 (B—R6 is replied to by K—Q2); 5, B—Q3, BxB; 6, KxB, K—B4; 7, B—Kt7, and wins. If 5 . . . . B—K2; 6, BxB, etc. If 1 . . . . BxB; 2 P x B, K—R4; 3 K—Kt 3, B—Q2; 4, P—Kt 5, B—B4; 5 B—Q, B—Q2; 6, P—R4, B—B4; 7 B—Kt3, B—K5 (best); 8, B—R2, B—B6 (forced); 9, B—Kt, B—K5; 10, B—R2, B—B6; 11. B—Kt3, B—K5; 12, B—Q, B—B4; 13, B—K2, B—K3, 14, B—K3, B—B; 15, B—R7, B—K3; 16, P—B5, B—B2; 17, B—Kt6 (ch), BxB; 18, PxB, KxP; 19, KxP, and having the opposition speedily wins the pawn at Q4 and the game.

Monday saw the commencement of the British Chess Federation Congress at Stratford-on-Avon. The entry for the British Championship includes several players who have not previously taken part in this competition. Sir G. A. Thomas, Bart, is unable to play this time, while other notable absentees are Mr. R. H. V. Scott, and Mr. R. P. Michell Mr. H. E. Atkins is defending his title, and Mr. F. D. Yates is also playing, and the championship, in my opinion, lies between them, with the result probably depending on their individual game. Since the last Federation meeting, many modifications in the openings have been introduced, and it will be interesting to follow the opening strategy on this occasion. In due course I shall hope to give a number of the games played at the Congress.

The King of Roumania celebrated his 60th birthday on August 12.

The Yugoslav Government, on August 11, decided to close the Græco-Yugoslav frontier in view of the appearance of plague in Greece.

It is stated from Brussels that the King and Queen of the Belgians will leave shortly on a visit to India, and will not return before the end of October.

A circular has been issued by the Turkish Minister of the Interior laying down that all officials must refrain from wearing any head covering indoors, abolishing the graceful *temmenah* salute, in which the hand is carried to the head, and substituting a slight stiff bow.

The British and Foreign Bible Society is preparing copies of St. Mark's Gospel in Tibetan, which are to be printed in Calcutta, in size and form similar to the literature used by the Buddhists. The paper on which the Gospel is to be printed will be made at Bhutan, and will be of the tough fibrous kind used in native books.

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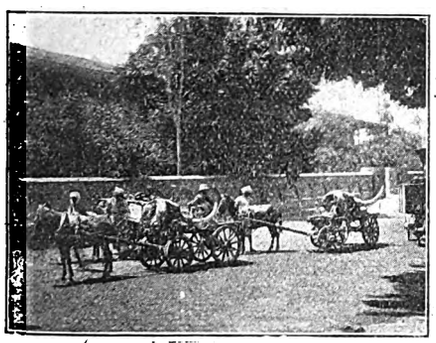

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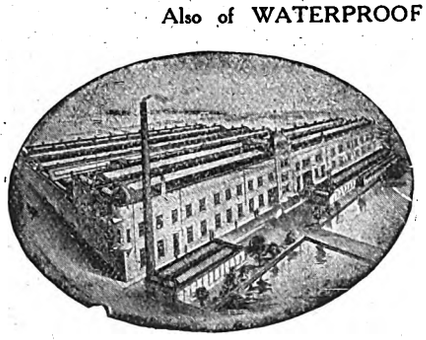
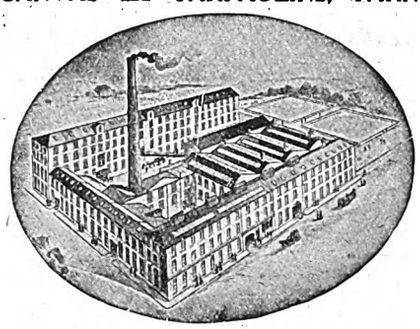
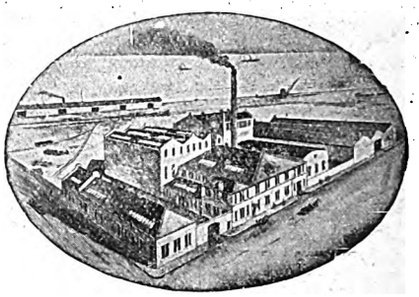

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THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

No. 746.—VOL. XXVIII. THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 1925.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	Page
NOTES OF THE WEEK	241
SPECIAL LETTERS—	
Egypt	244
Yugoslavia	245
Bulgaria	246
Iraq	246
Persia	247
SPECIAL ARTICLE—	
Land Registration in Egypt ...	249
LEADING ARTICLE—	
Mosul and the League of Nations	243
THE WEEK AT HOME	252
PERSONAL AND GENERAL ...	251
BOOK REVIEW	248
INDIAN AFFAIRS—	
Lord Reading's Address ...	253
Lord Milner and India	254
Current Topics	254
Special Letters : Calcutta ...	256
Bombay ...	257
Simla	257
Indian Exchange	258
YUGOSLAV SUPPLEMENT: No. 7—	
Naphtha in Yugoslavia	261
Yugoslav Maritime Policy ...	263
Yugoslavia's Exports	263
COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
Notes and News	259
Shipping Intelligence	260
British Consular Reports—	
III. Syria	267
The Egyptian Cotton Market ...	269
Chess	269

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

The Jebel Druse Revolt.

Earlier reports last week indicated that the end of the Jebel Druse revolt was about to be reached by settlement rather than by arms. Naturally an attempt would be made to represent this solution as a blow to French prestige in Syria; but we should be inclined to regard it as more likely in the long run to improve France's position in the mandated territory. Suppression of the rising by force could easily be attained, but it would inevitably leave bitter memories and sow the seeds of future unrest. If a friendly arrangement can be reached, both parties will be able to benefit by experience. The French, it may be supposed, will appreciate the wisdom of listening betimes to local grievances, and there will be less encouragement among subordinate officials to play the satrap over the inhabitants confided to their charge; the Syrians will have the satisfaction of having vindicated their accusations and will be shrewd enough to infer that in future they will stand to gain proportionately more by constitutional procedure, without the necessity of resorting to arms.

An Uncertain Position.

Later information, however, appears to throw doubt on the sudden collapse of the rebel movement; but this may be merely an erroneous deduction from the fact that in sending supplies to the Sueida garrison the French lost an aeroplane, which caught fire over the citadel and came down in flames. According to earlier statements the Druses had raised the siege of Sueida and had set free a number of French prisoners captured early in the month in the attack on a French relieving column. A garrison, it may be pointed, might still need supplies, even if the besieging troops had been withdrawn. General Sarrail, according to the same account, having recognised that Captain Carbillet, *fons et origo mali*, was not the man for the Druse post, had transferred him to Alexandretta, and had liberated a number of Druse leaders who had been arrested or taken prisoners. A settlement by agreement on the lines indicated would have reflected credit on both sides; but it was difficult to believe that more than a truce had been reached in view of the demands that the Druses were alleged to have made. Their "terms," it was reported, included the evacuation of the Jebel Druse by French troops, the limiting of French control to five French officials, the rebuilding of all villages destroyed by French aeroplanes, and—an ominous condition—unrestricted commerce in arms in the Jebel Druse. Throughout the rising there has been a marked contrast between the scarcity of French information, whether official or unofficial, regarding the movement and the steady supply of news through other channels. In the circumstances, it will be well to await the official termination of hostilities before an attempt is made to gauge the full significance of the rising.

Towards a Balkan Understanding.

It is all to the good that projects for compulsory arbitration or any other kind of pact should be discussed in the Balkans. In this direction lies the ultimate salvation of the Peninsula, and to this end those responsible for this journal have planned and worked from the earliest days. An essential preliminary, however, is to realise the difficulties in the way, and to have a clear understanding of the goal that it is sought to reach. Only in this way can obstacles be overcome and practical results achieved. The subject is once more to the fore as the outcome of certain overtures on the part of the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs. As far as can be gathered, M. Rendis has proposed an Arbitration Board for the Balkans, a conference of representatives of the different States, meeting at Constantinople, to which all questions affecting Balkan interests could be referred for settlement. The proposal in itself is an admirable one, but it is only necessary to note the reception accorded to it to understand that M. Rendis has not been happy in his choice of the time for putting forward his scheme. Negotiations between Greece and Yugoslavia for a treaty of alliance have recently broken down owing to the impossibility of reaching agreement over the problem of the Yugoslav Free Zone at Salonika and the railway line leading to it. The first

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question asked in Yugoslavia, therefore is whether Greece is working for the good of the Balkan Peninsula as a whole, or, is seeking a means of checkmating what are regarded as the legitimate aspirations of the Yugoslavs.

The Question of Motive.

Another flaw in M. Rendis' scheme, as far as public opinion outside the Peninsula is concerned, would seem to be that it is not intended that Bulgaria should be an original member of the Arbitration Pact, although her subsequent participation is not excluded. If the effort to come together on the part of the Balkan States is to be made at all, it is worth while trying to round it off completely at the outset. There can be no finality for any arrangement that still leaves open sores in the Peninsula, nor would the end in view be attained. Yugoslavia is hardly likely to cut herself off from Salonika for all time merely to see Bulgaria kept out of Dedeagatch or Kavalla. She is much more likely to be impressed by the altruism of the Greek Government's motives, if the latter can show that Greece is prepared to make sacrifices herself, in order to bring about a state of affairs that will benefit Yugoslavia as much as it does any other Balkan State. One possible way of compensating Yugoslavia for abandoning her aspirations to Salonika would be to enable her so to increase her revenue that she could afford without difficulty to construct an adequate port on the Adriatic and a more or less cheaply run railway to feed it. A real Balkan alliance, political and economic, might achieve this for Yugoslavia in a few years, but such an alliance requires sacrifices on the part of each Balkan State. Until a State is prepared to lead the way in the matter of sacrifice, it can be sure that its motives will be questioned whenever it proposes co-operation to its neighbours. M. Rendis is also reported to be contemplating something like the pooling of the Balkan railway systems. Again, an admirable scheme, which might very easily be put through with great advantage to all the participating countries, but one that can hardly be realised, until all hostility and mutual suspicion have been eliminated. Finally it may be hazarded that the real Balkan Pact will come as a result of private negotiations between the respective Governments rather than in the wake of an exchange of recriminations in the press of the Peninsula.

The Fate of the Hejaz.

As soon as the Pilgrimage month had come to an end in Arabia it was reported that hostilities had been resumed in the Hejaz. In spite of the unconvincing operations against Jeddah, Sultan Ibn Saud appears to have in hand the reduction on more or less systematic lines of the whole of the Hejaz. His main objective now is Medina, which, it is stated, is being subjected to a bombardment that has already done damage to the dome of the Great Mosque containing the Prophet's tomb. If this report be true, and any serious destruction be inflicted on the Holy City by the Wahhabis, Sultan Ibn Saud can hardly fail to lose the sympathy of the articulate Moslem world that the shortcomings of King Hussein had bespoken for him in his early successes against the Hejazis. It is difficult to follow the argument of Ex-King Hussein, who, in a letter from Cyprus to *The Times*, refers to the interruption of communication with Medina as a result of the transfer of Akaba and Maan to Transjordan and predicts its fall on this account into the hands of the Wahhabis. As what strength the Hejaz still possesses is at Jeddah under King Ali, it would appear that Medina will have to be left to its own devices, unless relief can reach it from Jeddah by way of Zambo rather than by the circuitous route, Akaba-Maan. The only hope that the Hejazis can now have must be that the Wahhabi tide will recede before it has flooded their whole country. The transfer of Akaba and Maan to Transjordan should save those towns from capture. For the rest, ex-King Hussein will doubtless find time to reflect that the measures taken by him in the heyday of his power to provide for the security of his country were singularly out of proportion to the comprehensiveness of his claims. If Sultan Ibn Saud had been able to continue to show the respect for orthodox Moslem opinion with which he was credited as a result of his moderation in the capture and occupation of Mecca, and if he had made a point of introducing real reforms into the management of the Pilgrimage, there would be little question of sympathy for ex-King Hussein in the loss of his kingdom.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Postmaster-General announces that dutiable articles may now be sent in packets prepaid at the letter rate of postage among other countries to Egypt, Greece and Morocco (French Zone).

After inspecting the aeroplanes of the Afghan Air Force recently the Ameer was taken for a flight over Kabul. His retinue, comprising civil and military officers, followed him throughout the trip in 11 other machines.

So far, 14 Bulgarians have been expelled from France in connexion with the assault on MM. Kouleff and Varsoff, in the Avenue des Champs Elysées, on August 18. Two Italians and two Spanish Communists have also been expelled.

Fifty Fokker aeroplanes, ordered by the Roumanian Government from Holland, arrived last week at Constantza. These machines, together with a number of French aeroplanes of the Potez type already in service, will form the fighting squadron of the Roumanian air fleet.

According to a Reuter message from Teheran, great uproar, ending in hand-to-hand fighting between the Socialists and the supporters of the Government, broke out in the Mejliss last Sunday, following upon Socialist protests when the new Minister of Justice was introduced by the Premier.

According to a Press message, what is stated to be the most serious fire Basrah has ever known broke out on August 18 in the most congested area of the city, owing to the fusing of an electric wire. Whole streets were burnt to the ground. So far the total damage is estimated at £75,000.

The Army manœuvres in India, which are to be carried out by General Sir Claud Jacob, of the Northern Command, have been fixed for November 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30, after the preliminary training of the formations. The central point of the exercises will be Attock. There will be a Tank demonstration, massed artillery in the attack, and Air Force co-operation with mobile forces. A great review will conclude the work.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 1925.

MOSUL AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

If the Council of the League of Nations allows it, there will be in the coming session at Geneva almost as interminable a discussion on the question of the frontier of Iraq as there was at Lausanne, when, owing to the impossibility of reaching agreement, the subject was relegated to separate negotiations between Turkey and Great Britain. On the breakdown of these latter negotiations the dispute was referred to the League for arbitration. The Commission appointed by the Council to investigate the question on the spot has reported, and at the session which opens at Geneva next week a settlement will have to be propounded. Both parties to the controversy have pledged themselves to accept the League's ruling, but, before a decision is reached, it is to be presumed that both the Turkish and British delegations will be allowed to elaborate their respective cases again. This circumstance has led to a very animated discussion in Turkey, which seems to ignore the Turkish Government's undertaking to accept the League's findings. Thus in one quarter it is declared that, unless the frontier is made safe, Turkey will be unable to accept any settlement—a curious and, one must infer, ignorant statement in the face of Turkey's pledge to the League. If the Council is wise, it will not thresh out the subject in public debate with the idea of finding a solution which will be acceptable to both parties. The Commission emphasised the desirability of peace by agreement, but could not discover the basis for one. In the end it offered several conditional solutions, which are calculated merely to annoy both parties, because its indecision invites challenge, whereas a settlement delivered with a show of conviction must go far to silence the loser. In the absence of peace by agreement a durable peace can best be assured by a "safe" frontier from the point of view of the party that is liable to attack. Whatever the Commission with its strange mentality may have had in view, the League of Nations will not be able to anticipate Iraqi designs on Turkish territory. On the other hand it has abundant evidence of Turkey's will to upset any verdict that does not give her all that she asks for. Even the Commission ruled out the Jebel Hamrin line that the Turks have claimed, and could not bring themselves to contemplate a frontier farther south than the Lesser Zab. In these circumstances it is to be hoped that the Council of the League will find overwhelming arguments for deciding in favour of the boundary line asked for by the British, which has been pronounced even by the Commission to be topographically sound and an excellent strategical frontier.

The reason for the thunderings of the Turkish Press at this time are not far to seek. Post-War conditions have produced in unlikely quarters in Great Britain advocates of the policy of scuttle, a kind of bastard Little Englander, who has not the principles of the latter to fall back upon, but bases his agitation on the most sordid of appeals, the bogey of cost. For his purpose the vapourings of a Turkish newspaper to the effect that Turkey will decline to accept an adverse ruling of the League of Nations bring much unction in their train, for they enable him to conjure up a protracted war, which perfervid eloquence easily invests with the dimensions of the World War, fought at a thousand miles from a sea base and costing the British taxpayer unlimited hundreds of millions of pounds. The bogey overreaches itself. There is a strategical frontier in the Kurdish mountains; there is none for the defence of Basrah. If the Turks are set on driving the British and Arabs out of the Mosul vilayet, they must be credited with the same determination and power to drive the British alone out of Basrah, and a withdrawal to-day to the latter would be not less humiliating than at the point of Turkish bayonets. The blow to British prestige, however, would be infinitely more serious. Indifference can be affected towards a refusal, for definite reasons, to stand up to an inferior enemy; but no sophism could exonerate the British Empire for a betrayal of the trust that it has taken upon itself in connexion with the Arabs of Iraq. A wiser policy, therefore, would seem to be to test the fulminations of the Turks. That they are sincere in their desire to prevent, if they possibly can, the partition of Kurdistan admits of no doubt; but it will not be the first time that the accomplished fact has been accepted with fatalistic resignation in Turkey, if the Angora Government declines to make the inclusion of the Mosul vilayet in Iraq a *casus belli*. Pinpricks, very probably, will be indulged in; there were raids into the administered territory before the Brussels line was fixed, but the League's ruling in that instance was accepted. It will at least be more dignified to deal with the Turks as they show themselves to be, than to accept the interpretation that it suits our Little Englanders to place on their intentions.

A danger of the Geneva deliberations may be that the Council will allow itself to be drawn into a discussion on the mandatory system, whether as a whole, with special application to Syria, Palestine and Iraq, or in relation to the Commission's attempt to bespeak a prolongation of the British mandate over Iraq. The subject has nothing to do with the Mosul frontier. When the latter point has been settled, there will be time to consider at what particular period in the history of the mandatory system its reconsideration should be undertaken. When it is undertaken, it should be at the instance of the League itself and not at the prompting of a country outside, or in an effort to settle a subject entirely unrelated to it. There is nothing either sacred or novel in the system. It represents an attempt to codify, as it were, for wider application a practice long in vogue in the dealings of the British Empire with backward people. The association with the League of Nations alone is new. As the system is originally derived from British practice, it may well be that Great Britain's experience, with Iraq for example, may determine what, if any, modifications of the system will be considered desirable in the future. Place for a treaty between the Iraqi and British Governments has already been found under the Mandate, and in 1928, when the present agreement lapses, the new treaty that will take its place may introduce still further modifications of the existing relationship between the two countries. That the settlement of the Mosul frontier should be made contingent upon the precise form of the new treaty need not be taken into serious consideration. Great Britain's trust in regard to Iraq is conditioned by her own sense of honour, and does not require to be circumscribed by rulings of the League of Nations. Let the latter only do its duty conscientiously and fearlessly, and all will be well in the Middle East.

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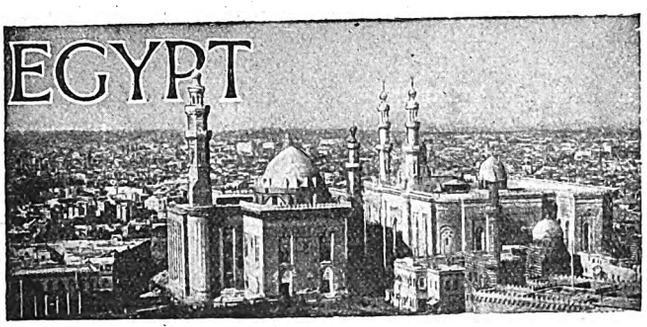
The Near and Middle East*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, August 15.

The Ulema Trial.

Twenty-five ulema, with the Rector of Al Azhar as their president, on Wednesday sentenced Sheikh Aly Abdel Razek, Radi of the Mansoura Mekhema Sharia, to dismissal from the ulema's corps for publishing heretical doctrines in his book, "Islam and the Bases of Government." If it would be hyperbole to suggest that Sheikh Abdel Razek, in suffering thus for his opinions, has lighted in Egypt such a candle as shall never be put out, it is none the less true that he runs some risk, willy-nilly, of becoming the head of a new school of Moslem thought, and it is at least certain that he has inaugurated a controversy of which the last will not be heard for a long time to come, and which may do much good in letting a little fresh air and light into the fusty corners of the dungeons of mental mediævalism in which the leaders of Egyptian Mohammedanism have buried themselves for centuries past.

From one point of view the affair has nothing to do with anyone excepting Moslems; but since the trial and judgment are as essentially an instance of the age-long struggle between the desire of the human mind for freedom of thought and the equally human fear of innovation as was the notorious Dayton process, it is impossible for anyone interested in the evolution of the human race not to wish to know the pros and cons of the dispute which has led to the condemnation of this Moslem Luther. As has been previously pointed out in this correspondence, the essence of Sheikh Abdel Razek's book is its plea for an entire separation between Church and State. The Caliphate he rejects as an institution unauthorised by the Koran or the Traditions, and, incidentally, as the principal hindrance to the progress of Moslem countries. The delusion that, in a Moslem country, temporal and spiritual power are inseparable, and that the civil laws must be based upon what theologians have considered to be the teachings of the Koran, has been, declares Sheikh Abdel Razek, the obstacle that has hitherto prevented Mohammedan countries from developing constitutional forms of government.

The Sentence on Sheikh Abdel Razek.

Sheikh Abdel Razek's training was unusual, for, after completing his fifteen years at Al Azhar, he studied in the Egyptian University for another two years, and then went up to Oxford, in 1914, to work on political economy. Then came the War, and he left the University after being there little more than a year; but it is permissible to suppose that the twelve months so spent were not without their effect. His trial has been as unusual as his training, nothing like it having been known in Egypt before. The article of the law governing Al Azhar under which he was condemned was inserted some years before the War, during the reign of the Khedive Abbas Hilmi, and provides for the expulsion from the corps of ulema of any alim whose conduct is scandalous and unbecoming to his position. The very existence of this article was unknown to Sheikh Abdel Razek and to most other people until the Superior Council based their judgment upon it. Hitherto there has been but one course open to a tribunal which has found a Moslem guilty of heresy, namely, to declare him a *kafir* (infidel), a sentence which has had results varying in accordance with the advance of civilisation. A hundred years ago such a judgment would have involved a painful death; to-day its most serious consequence would be the nullification of the heretic's marriage, if he happened to possess a wife, since a Moslem woman cannot be the wife of an unbeliever. But the present sentence, in the opinion of many people, is in defiance of one of the first principles of Islam, which is the non-existence of anything in the nature of a priesthood. Al Azhar, although its students spend much of their time in memorising the Koran and studying religious subjects, is not a religious institution, but a secular university. Its degree, conferred upon students who have completed their studies, and carrying with it the title of *alim*, is equivalent to the degree conferred upon the graduate of any other university. Ulema have no status, religious or civil, not possessed by any other Moslem. The decision of the Superior Council is unprecedented, since it implies that ulema are, in a sense, called to Holy Orders, and, for failing to conform to orthodox religious views, can be dismissed, just as a priest of a Christian Church can be judged and dismissed by his religious superiors. This implication of a Moslem priesthood is emphasised by the critics of the Azhar Council's action.

There is a further point, namely, that the obscure regulation, mentioned earlier, entails the dismissal of Sheikh Abdel Razek from his present position as Kadi, and disqualifies him from ever holding any other Government post, even as an ordinary official in a lay capacity. This, it is urged, is an infringement of the rights of the Minister of Justice, in whose Ministry the Sheikh is an official, and who, in the case of an intended prosecution of one of his officials by a civil court, must give his consent before the proceedings are begun.

These are only some of the points raised by the numerous supporters of Sheikh Abdel Razek, but they are sufficient to indicate that in his conviction there has been provided all the material needed for a very pretty controversy, over which tongues will wag and ink flow for many a day to come.

Miscellaneous News.

Four hundred and four American tourists disembarked at Alexandria on Thursday night, from the s.s. "Tuscania," now making its annual summer cruise in the Medi-

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terranean, and are giving themselves up to the sights of Cairo. These summer cruises grow in popularity, and there have been more during the past few months than in any previous year.

The sale of All Saints' Church has been concluded, and delivery of the site has to be effected by November 15. The church will probably be closed in the latter part of September, for removal of windows, memorials, and furniture, prior to total demolition. £70,000 has been obtained for the site, and this sum will not only pay for the building of a new pro-Cathedral, the location of which has not yet been settled, but will also leave a handsome amount over for endowment.

A Hundred Years Ago.

One of the Arabic newspapers has lately adopted the custom of London journals of having a "100 years ago" paragraph daily, and on one day this week unearthed the following gem from the diary of Sheikh Galal el Din, a literary light of the days of Mohammed Ali the Great:—"On Shawwal 21st, 1268 (A.H.) it was reported in Cairo that those who rolled themselves on a plot of ground, close to the tomb of el Sayida Rabiha el Adawia, would be cured of their diseases. Patients, rich and poor, hastened there, some wearing outer cloaks in order not to soil their clothes. Five days after it was found that the news was false, and public criers went round the streets announcing the fact, and warning the public that those who went near the spot would receive five hundred strokes of the lash."

Zagreb, August 19.

The Internal Situation.

The pessimistic forecasts regarding the short-lived nature of the present Coalition Government are being belied, and never so emphatically as on the occasion of the Millennium Celebration of the Kingdom of Croatia. Scarcely six months ago this jubilee was regarded as an extreme manifestation of Croatian separatism, calculated to imbue the Croats with fresh courage and energy for the strife with Belgrade. Yet the celebration has in fact been turned into the most brilliant demonstration of Serbo-Croat unity, and the credit for this marvellous and most profitable metamorphosis must go, in the first place, to M. Stefan Raditch. For a totally new situation has been created by the conclusion of M. Raditch's agreement with the Radicals. All the old ravings and ragings against Belgrade have been consigned to the limbo of oblivion. Belgrade, on its part, has buried its partisan anti-Croatian policy, and former hostility has been converted into present alliance.

And now the Zagreb celebrations have shown that this alliance has found firm support in the heart and mass of the nation itself. The acid test of the agreement was the distrust which necessarily lurked on both sides as a consequence of the bitter struggle of several years' duration. "Are the Croats really in earnest over the agreement? Have they indeed given up their republicanism? Or is their true object, to strengthen their ranks by the agreement, so that they may later on attack with redoubled vigour?" Such were the questions asked with pardonable anxiety in Belgrade; they were provided with a final and definite answer last Saturday.

The Millennium Celebrations.

Clear and unequivocal was this answer, and convincing. Only at the last moment was it announced that the King and Queen proposed to attend the Millennium Celebration officially in person; nevertheless the King was given such a royal welcome as even Alexander of Yugoslavia, who is accustomed to triumphal welcomings, has not yet experienced. And if any one were still dubious, his doubts must have been resolved a little later, when the great thunderstorm broke. The Sokols had just begun their exercises, when suddenly a violent storm, accompanied by a terrific downpour, burst over Zagreb. In a moment the grounds were under water; the public, the sokols, all were not only drenched to the skin, but those in the arena were up to the knees in the sudden flood. Yet they never troubled about the rain, but stood in the water and cheered their King. The grand stand was struck by lightning, three persons were killed, but no particular notice was taken,—all eyes and minds were set upon the King. Even the most cynical onlooker had to admit that this was not enthusiasm made to order, but spontaneous, and that the Croatian people are hailing the new situation with sincere joy.

The Belgrade press, too, unanimously admits that at the Zagreb Millennium Celebration the new Serbo-Croat agreement received the sanction of the Croatian people. And herein lies the great significance of the festival. The enemies of the new Government have insisted that Raditch had fallen out of favour with his public, on account of his compromise with the Radicals; that his position was, in fact, badly shaken. This talk was likewise definitely given the lie by the Zagreb celebration, for the leading personality of those festival days was M. Stefan Raditch. Strong and unshaken in their loyalty, the mass of the Croatian peasantry stand behind him, and his position as Croatian leader seems as safe as ever.

As the position of the Government has been so greatly strengthened by the effect of the Zagreb celebration, it is free to set about carrying out its programme unharassed. First of all comes the work of the Budget. We are told in Government quarters, that the new Budget will be thoroughly revised and that the collaboration of Radicals and Raditchists in it will be very evident. We are also told of a partial reconstruction of the Cabinet, and it is even said that M. Stefan Raditch will become a member of the Government. In that case, however, considerable formal difficulties will have to be surmounted, as his mandate has been cancelled. Nothing of great importance is to be expected in the immediate future. For one thing, it is holiday time; for another, the Raditch Ministers must get used to the new position. At the moment, the Government's chief attention is turned to personal questions, full agreement having not yet been reached between Radicals and Raditchists in regard to the new political officials.

The Convention with Italy.

But if there is nothing special to report in internal affairs, several most important steps must be recorded in

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foreign politics. With the signing of the Convention of Nettuno, all outstanding questions between Italy and Yugoslavia have been settled—and from a general point of view this is a matter for congratulation. But there is little satisfaction in Yugoslavia over the Convention. A Raditch Minister actually contemplated handing in his resignation by way of protest, but in the end this was prevented.

The Geneva Session.

Great preparations are being made for the September Session of the League of Nations. M. Stefan Raditch himself is to go to Geneva as delegate for Yugoslavia. Not so very long ago, this same M. Raditch addressed a memorandum to the League of Nations, requesting its interference on behalf of Croatia. By the very fact that he is now going to attend the Session as delegate for Yugoslavia, he is furnishing a conclusive *démenti* of his memorandum of those days, and also proof that Yugoslavia will suffer no interference—not even from the League of Nations—in her internal affairs. The whole episode shows most distinctly the importance of the agreement that has lately been concluded, and is at the same time a proof of the progress of Yugoslavia's consolidation.

BULGARIA

Sofia, August 18.

The Coming Session.

On September 1 the Sobranye will begin its autumn session, and after a two months' lull political currents are again asserting themselves. M. Zankoff, Prime Minister, has spent the last month at Rila Monastery, where he has been visited by a number of prominent politicians. It is now an open secret that a strong section of the Democratic Entente (the party in power) deems it advisable that a reconstruction of the Cabinent should take place. Representations to this effect have been made to the Prime Minister, but up to the present he has given no sign of his intentions.

It is, however, understood that M. Zankoff is very reluctant to part with any of his colleagues, because he feels that the present Cabinet, which came into power as a result of the *coup d' état* on June 9, 1923, should stand or fall together. He feels, perhaps, that any changes amongst his Ministers may quickly lead to an entire change of Government. His critics, and they are not wanting, maintain that events which have occurred, both abroad and at home, during recent months make it imperative for certain Ministers to leave the Cabinet. But none of the Ministers in question shows any signs of resigning, so it will be for the Prime Minister, advised no doubt by the Chief of State, to enforce the changes, if he thinks that the interests of the country necessitate them.

In the meantime a somewhat violent press polemic has broken out regarding the question of a Cabinet reconstruction. Practically all the papers representing political groups who support the Democratic Entente have made it clear that they consider a reconstruction necessary. The newspaper, *Free Speech*, a Governmental organ, has accused the other newspapers of wishing to return to a state of party politics which has done Bulgaria so much harm in the past. It is fairly common knowledge that M. Todoroff, Minister of Finance, and formerly a journalist, has a good deal to do with the policy of *Free Speech*, and the leading articles which have recently appeared in this paper leave little room for doubt that M. Zankoff is defending himself against his critics through the medium of its columns. It is certainly to be regretted that this press polemic has occurred, because with all her internal troubles Bulgaria can ill afford to let her rulers waste their time criticising and quarrelling with one another.

In all probability the question of a Cabinet reconstruction will come to a head during the next few weeks. The Sobranye may provide the scene, but it is more likely that it will be decided outside. But, to quote the words of a well-known Bulgarian statesman who is at present holding himself rather aloof from party politics, "What is necessary is to get on with the job; if there is to be a change in the Cabinet, let it be done quickly, so that all the routine work so essential to the progress of Bulgaria may proceed on normal lines."

To Geneva.

In ten days' time the Bulgarian Delegation to the annual assembly of the League of Nations will leave for Geneva. It will probably comprise M. Kalfoff, Foreign Minister, and M.M. Ivan Madjaroff and Danailoff. It is somewhat remarkable that, although the agenda of the Assembly includes several European Minority problems, no reference is made to Bulgaria's Minority difficulties. This is, perhaps, Bulgaria's own fault; but it is very likely that something will be heard of Bulgaria's refugees, whose position still remains very serious. The Government has hoped that an external refugee loan may be raised, but before this can be done Bulgaria must submit a plan to the League of Nations. There are several indications that, if this plan was well thought out and well presented, quite a good chance would exist of foreign help being forthcoming. A sum of approximately one and a half million sterling is needed, if any real good is to be done. There are well over a hundred thousand refugees who require assistance, and with winter now in sight their situation will tend to become worse than has hitherto been the case.

Miscellaneous News.

The Duchess of Aosta, accompanied by her two sons, recently paid a visit to King Boris.

Steps have been taken to found an Automobile Touring Club in Bulgaria, which is one of the few European countries that lacks such an institution.

IRAQ.

Baghdad, August 12.

The Mosul Frontier Question.

The decision of the Frontier Commission on the question of Mosul was eagerly awaited in Baghdad; but now that the announcement has been made no very great stir is apparent in the political world. It is clear that public

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opinion was fairly confident that Mosul would be retained, and was prepared on the other hand for an extension of the Treaty period at the end of the four years at present agreed upon; but that the one would be made conditional on the other is evidently a surprise. Probably no one had contemplated an extension for so long a period as twenty-five years, and the Nationalists will doubtless have something to say on this point; they alone of the politically-minded, and perhaps only the extreme members of their party, had seriously envisaged a complete severance of treaty relations with Great Britain at the end of the four years. To the people at large an extension of the Treaty will not be unwelcome, however bitterly they might, prompted by their Baghdad mentors, have opposed it a few years back; relations between Iraq and her Ally have never been more cordial and more friendly than they are at present. It is unfortunate for Iraq that her rulers at the time of the Frontier Commission's visit allowed themselves to be carried away by a sort of panic which impelled them, against the advice of the High Commissioner, to encourage demonstrations of school-children and other rather puerile forms of propaganda which, instead of impressing the Commissioners, caused them to doubt the judgment and sense of proportion of the Government, and consequently perhaps to undervalue the undoubted progress which Iraq has made towards stable and responsible self-government.

King Faisal.

The King's medical advisers having recommended a complete holiday in Europe, His Majesty left on August 5 by desert overland route for England, where he intends to consult London specialists before taking his holiday on the Continent. H.H. the Emir Zaid, who is expected to return from Oxford in the course of the next week or so, has been appointed Regent by a Royal *iradeh*, which stipulates that the Regent has no power to dissolve Parliament, to ratify treaties, nor to select a Prime Minister, unless with the prior approval of the King.

Parliament.

On July 24 the reply of the Iraq Assembly to the Speech from the Throne was handed to the King. The Assembly admits that the Treaty with Great Britain has "enhanced the prestige of Iraq in the world of nations," and that the improvement in her international status is "entirely attributed to our Ally Great Britain," with the contributing influence of the efficiency and administrative independence shown by the Government of Iraq. The reply closed with an expression of the Assembly's willingness to give favourable consideration to the recommendations of the British Financial Mission to Iraq.

The validity of the Parliamentary elections in certain places having been questioned, after some debate a resolution was passed by the Assembly that all the elections should be held to be valid.

On the retirement of Rashid Beg al Gilani in consequence of his election as President of the Assembly, the post of Minister of Interior was held temporarily by Abdul Muhsin Beg as Sa'dun, Prime Minister, in addition to his other duties; the portfolio of Interior has now been handed to Sulaiman Hikmat Effendi, whose place as Minister of Education is to be taken by Abdul Hassain Chalabi, Minister of Communications and Works. The Minister of Defence, Subih Beg Nashat, will take over Communications and Works as well as his own Ministry.

Miscellaneous News.

Before the War, a concession for a power station and electric tramway scheme in Baghdad was given by the Turks to a London group of financiers, and is held to be still valid. An engineer in the employment of the Company is now in Baghdad, and it is hoped that the first section of the tramway, from North to South Gate, may be in working order within the year.

A meeting held under the Presidency of the High Commissioner on June 15 at the Alwiyah Club was addressed by Mr. Duignan, an officer ex-patient of St. Dunstan's. As the result of this meeting, a cricket match was arranged for the three evenings of July 31, August 1, and 2, on which by the various devices usually employed on such occasions the respectable sum of £300 was collected for St. Dunstan's.

On Saturday, July 26, the foundation stone of the new Masonic Hall at Baghdad was laid by the High Commissioner—an impressive ceremony which was attended by a large gathering of the British community.

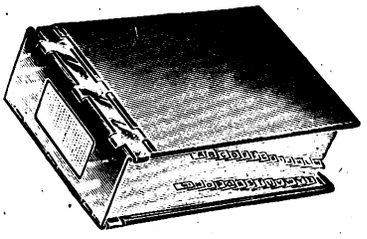
A packed meeting of Kurds was held in the Maude Gardens on the night of July 26, to protest against the ill-treatment of their nation by the Turks. A number of impassioned telegraphic appeals for help to the League of Nations and the Great Powers were drafted.

PERSIA.

Teheran, July 31.

Parliament.

The Mejliss has voted itself a summer holiday of five weeks, ending August 20, and the Modarris and many



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leading members have left for the constituencies. The last matters dealt with before the Mejliss dispersed were the Bill for the engagement of the German forestry expert, Herr von der Hagen, which was approved, and the Bill for the Cancellation of Firmans. The latter Bill is a loosely drafted measure, and expression to the general disapproval with which it is regarded in its present form was given by the venerable leader of the Right Party, who proposed its postponement for further consideration.

The Local Press.

With the absence of Parliamentary news the Press has been forced to develop fresh topics, and one or two specially interesting subjects of an educational character have been discussed. One that has aroused special interest has been a series of articles on railway development appearin one or two papers. That education of the public is needed in such matters is shown by the propositions previously put forward in responsible quarters for the building of a State Railway by sections. Public opinion is now veering towards recognition of the necessity of loans for public works, and the advantages derived from interesting foreign capital. Another profitable subject of discussion has been the sanitary needs of the country and the necessity of action to combat malaria. The energetic pioneer of the new Red Crescent Society in Teheran has also done much to interest the public generally in these subjects. The question of economic development is another subject attracting much attention, and the papers are full of puff advertisements for agricultural machinery. A Russian company in its anxiety to help the cause of agriculture is offering to lease agriculture machinery and to train volunteer operators on a salary during instruction.

The *Radios de Paris*, to the general regret, has stopped publication, but the enterprising publisher proposes to issue a newspaper in French and English, embodying the telegraphic news of Reuter's Agency and all other international News Agencies, together with extracts from the best Persian daily papers and parliamentary news.

Diplomatic Corps Movements.

The new Egyptian Minister, Abdul Azim Rashed Pasha, formally raised the Egyptian flag on July 20 in the presence of a large and distinguished gathering of officials and non-officials.

The new Polish Chargé d'Affaires, M. Hempel, has arrived and established the new Polish Legation pending the arrival of the Minister.

The new Belgian Minister has arrived at Beyrout *en route* for Teheran and will be shortly followed by the American Minister, Mr. Philipps.

Mohiyeddin Pasha, the Turkish Ambassador, is leaving for Egypt, and the Turkish Embassy is being subsequently reduced to the status of a Legation.

Mr. Smith Murray, Chargé d'Affaires of the American Legation, left Teheran recently on transfer to Prague, and he has been succeeded by Mr. A. Murray pending the new Minister's arrival.

Military Operations.

News regarding the punitive operations against the Turkomans is very meagre, but the Turkomans are said to have been well punished and several leaders, including the Khan of Bujnurd and his brothers, have been hanged; 65 rebel leaders remain to be hanged. Simultaneously with these operations disarmament of the tribes all over Persia is in progress and the country is correspondingly tranquil. All roads are now safe and motor traffic to all parts is opening up the country in a most surprising way. Provided that more money can be spent on roads and possibly on railway development, the country side should benefit very considerably in finding markets for surplus produce, which are now badly needed.

News of the recent small revolt or raid of Arabs in Khuzistan is not generally known, and no mention of it has been allowed in the newspapers, which are still under military censorship. It is recognised that the raid was due to fears regarding the results of the Financial Commission now touring in Khuzistan, and steps were at once taken to reassure the local Arab population.

Air and Motor Services.

A new Bill has been approved by a Commission and submitted to the Mejliss for approval, giving the Junkers Aeroplane Company a monopoly of civil aeroplane services between Enzeli (Pahlevi) and Teheran, Teheran and Bushire, Teheran and Khaniqin. A subsidy of three krans (1s. 2½d.) per kilometre is to be given for all mail flights on the above lines, plus all surcharges on letters, etc., up to 4,000 tomans (£666) a month after deduction of expenses. A regular service is to be maintained once weekly in each direction. Passenger rates will be fixed in consultation with Government. The attitude of the Mejliss to the measure is not yet clear, but the Bill is favoured by the Ministers concerned as a means of opening up rapid and regular communciation with adjacent countries.

The Eastern Transport Company's service is running regularly and most efficiently. The mail contract is not yet signed and approved by the Mejliss owing to objections raised against a clause granting a monopoly of passenger traffic to Khaniqin. The omission of the clause would naturally involve a raising of the amount required for the mail subsidy.

Miscellaneous News.

The hot weather is unusually severe this year; coupled with a great shortage of water, it has caused considerable damage to gardens and crops. The same conditions appear general in the provinces, and the crops are in many districts a partial failure. Temperatures of 106 degrees have not been infrequent in Teheran, as compared with a maximum of 102 degrees last year.

Teheran is preparing for the Mohurram holidays from July 30 to August 7, during which time all trade will be at a standstill. The celebrations of Mohurram are expected to be even more fervent than last year, despite the unfortunate murder by which they were then marred. All the more important families appear to be moving out of Teheran for a holiday in the hills or to more distant villages and towns.

BOOK REVIEW.

HISTORICAL ESSAYS ON SIND.

"SIND. A RE-INTERPRETATION OF THE UNHAPPY VALLEY." By J. Abbott. (London: Humphrey Milford. 7s. 6d. net.)

This is another product of the affection for the Province where he has spent much of his service which so often moves the Indian Civil Servant to make a study of its past history. It is a fine piece of work—not for the "general reader"—but it is not "a re-interpretation of the Unhappy Valley," as the sub-title claims. It is a collection of extremely interesting essays, correcting a number of serious errors incorporated in histories which deal with Sind. Its value to a future historian will be great, and it opens tantalising little vistas into the doings of long ago in this tract of country which even Mr. Abbott cannot convince us to be or ever to have been an attractive place of residence. C. S.-W.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Cricket." An Anthology for Cricketers. Edited by Samuel J. Looker. (London: Simkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent and Co., Ltd. 3s. 6d. net.)

"A Flying Visit to the Middle East." By Sir Samuel Hoare, Bt., C.M.G., M.P. (London: Cambridge University Press. 3s. 6d. net.)

"If the Gods Laugh." By Rosita Forbes. (London: Thornton Butterworth, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

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LAND REGISTRATION IN EGYPT.

The advantages of an accurate system of registration of ownership and real rights over land are so patent that it is surprising that in no country had a workable scheme of the kind been evolved before the middle of last century. The principle reason lay in the fact that the building up of such a system is hedged about by very great difficulties, which are the more numerous and the more difficult to dispose of in proportion to the length of time that the land has been in close occupation. In other words, in a country blessed with a fertile soil, carrying a large and thickly settled population, where intensive husbandry has been carried on for hundreds, perhaps thousands, of years the multiplicity of holdings, right, privileges, ownerships and all the other incidentals to occupation of land, render the need for an accurate system of registration infinitely more pressing, while at the same time making it infinitely more difficult to initiate, than in a "new" country of virgin soil, broad acres and wide spaces, where survey and registration can begin often before, sometimes simultaneously with and in any event comparatively soon after, occupation. Freed from the complications of tradition, ancient but often vague rights, and possession accepted by custom but based on scanty recognisable proofs, the inauguration of a system of registration of title is in many countries a comparatively simple proceeding.

Egypt, in all essential respects where land tenure is concerned, is at the opposite pole from the young countries where obtain the conditions just mentioned. The cradle of civilisation, the Nile valley has been densely populated for countless centuries and to-day supports more persons to the square mile than almost any other portion of the surface of the globe. The extreme fertility of the soil bordering the Nile and forming the Delta has given Egyptian land a very high economic value and has resulted to a remarkable extent in the multiplication of holdings of very small size. When it is mentioned that the average size of an Egyptian holding is one and a half acres and that out of a total of 2,500,000 holdings recorded during the progress of the revenue survey, some 842,000, or one out of every three, were under half an acre in area, while the average value of land in the Nile Valley and Delta (excluding the outlying semi-cultivated areas) is £E150 per acre, it will be realised to what an extent the land is in the hands of very small cultivators, and how valuable to each occupier is every square metre of soil.

The above-mentioned conditions impose the necessity of extreme accuracy in defining and registering land ownership. To a man owning a large territory the reduction of his property by a few metres in width or length may be a matter of indifference, though when the quality of the land is good there are few persons who would complacently accept such restriction. To a man owning a strip under half an acre in area, the restriction of his boundary or the displacement of his property by even half a metre may involve real hardship. When to close sub-division is added high intrinsic value, the need for accurate fixation of boundaries is proportionately enhanced. A man may be indifferent about the exact position of the boundaries of his property if it is extensive or if it is unproductive; if it is a small and fertile plot, the smallest encroachment is apt to be jealously regarded. In point of fact, such encroachments are recognised as being a fruitful source of quarrelling and violence both in Egypt and elsewhere.

In this connection it is worth remembering that in well cultivated parts of Egypt a strip of land half a metre wide will support a row of cotton plants yielding three pickings of cotton, besides other crops in rotation. Accordingly, in considering the application of registration of title to the extremely fertile and closely sub-divided areas of the Central Nile Delta and Valley, it was almost impossible to borrow the standards of accuracy and methods of working of relatively unproductive and sparsely populated countries where systems of real estate registration had lately been introduced; in any case such standards and methods could only be borrowed after the closest scrutiny and most careful adaptation.

Egypt presented to the reformers who wished to put her system of registration of title upon a satisfactory basis, other, and in some instances, peculiar difficulties. The existence of the Capitulations, involving a multiplicity of jurisdictions and legalising, in the case of the Mixed Courts, the use of any one of four official languages, Arabic, French, English and Italian, the first of which presents great difficulties in the way of accurate and unambiguous rendering of names into or out of any of the other three, the peculiarities of the Moslem religion, with its religious courts, the fact that 93 per cent. of the population is illiterate and, therefore, unable either to write or read documents which are customarily drawn up by public writers quite unfitted for such work—these were some of the obstacles in the way of land registration reform. Another problem was that of identifying individuals in a country where family names are practically non-existent. Only a few Moslem families of the upper classes have adopted surnames, while among Copts the family name is placed first, a system almost as confusing to Western minds as the absence of surnominal appellation The difficulty with Moslems is increased by the very limited number of names in use. Not more than a dozen are commonly employed, with the result that there are hundreds of thousands of Mohammed Alis, and nearly as many Hassans, Ahmeds and Mahmouds. The confusion thus created was exemplified recently when, during a recent round-up of suspected Communist propagandists, the authorities in Cairo sent orders to the Port Said police to arrest and dispatch to Cairo "Mohammed Ali, a clerk employed by the Suez Canal Company." Ten of the company's clerks at Port Said were found to bear the name of Mohammed Ali, so all were arrested and despatched under escort to the capital.

An eminent French authority on political economy, discussing the operation in his country of the system, similar to that until recently obtaining in Egypt, under which any person may at any time acquire a right over any property without record except between the contract-

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ing parties, brought out with considerable clearness some of the difficulties. "You want to know the position affecting a certain piece of land, and so you ask the registrar whether there are any charges on it. He replies 'I don't know the properties as such, I only know their proprietors.' Thereupon you give the actual name of the owner: Jean Bernard; the registrar then discovers half-a-dozen Jean Bernards, the properties of all of whom are subject to charges of various kinds, while if you make a slight error in the name of the owner you run the risk of being left in ignorance of any charges with which his property may be encumbered. Add to this that in deeds and records the property is customarily described by giving the names of neighbouring owners. When these owners change it is no longer possible to discover to what property the deed refers."

In Egypt, where the multiplicity of similar names is much greater, these observations have proportionately greater force.

Egyptian conditions have been indicated above, in order to give some idea of the country's peculiar and inevitable difficulties in the way of an efficient system of title registration. These complications were not lessened by the practice followed until the introduction of the recent reforms. Hitherto there have been one General Registry system attached to the Mixed Tribunals which dealt with 97 per cent. of the deeds presented for registration, and two special registry systems which jointly registered the remaining 3 per cent. Registration in the Mixed Courts is essential in order to make the deed concerned opposable to claims by a foreigner, while the importance of the two latter registry systems did not lie in the volume, but in the character of the work they specially performed, viz., in the case of the Mekhema Sharia (Moslem Religious Tribunals) the registration of transactions effected under the Sharia (Religious) Law, and in the case of the Native Tribunal the registration of orders or judgments of the court affecting land *inter alia*. The three registries did not co-operate, and a transaction might be registered in one of them regarding land the previous history of which, so far as it existed, was in one of the other registries.

The existence of these registries and the fact that a large number of transactions were recorded in them does not mean that all land transactions, or even, perhaps, the majority, were registered. Between the years 1876 and 1917 approximately three and a half millions of such transactions were registered, but the number of "occult" deeds was probably very much larger. Transactions would take place between two ignorant and illiterate peasants and would be recorded in documents drawn up by public writers, scarcely less ignorant, though more literate. Often almost illegible, still more frequently incomprehensible, omitting essential details, and giving no accurate description of the property involved, these documents often lay forgotten for years, until some dispute arose calling for their production which, owing to the defects enumerated, was of little or no assistance in deciding the points at issue. Registration itself, although making a deed opposable to third-party claims in the event of a dispute arising, had little real value. The Mixed Courts registered, upon payment of the fee, any document presented to them. It might record the sale, by one man to another, of the property of a third person who knew nothing of the supposed transaction; it might be an unintelligible farrago, or it might be a forgery, as quite a considerable number of deeds registered in Egypt are believed to be, "for registration has usually been resorted to by the forger, as it gives a spurious appearance of genuineness to a fabricated document." The system of registration followed was an incentive to forgery, since the original deeds (*sous seing privé*) were returned to the person requesting registration. The only record kept in the Courts was a hand copy kept in the court registries. In this way, of course, no proper record could be kept of signatures or seals, which latter are very commonly employed in Egypt, where so comparatively few people can write their names. Thus, having produced a false document, and secured its registration, a forger could go to the registry and ask for a copy, on the plea that he had lost the original. On payment of the fee, a copy would be given him, and he would then have what purported to be proof that other parties had attached their signatures to a document which, in fact, he had forged and then destroyed.

Nor was the system of recording in the registries a satisfactory one. Only one copy of deeds was made, this being done by hand, on a piecework basis. It is related that, on one occasion, a clerk astonished the superintendent by the tremendous speed at which he worked, compared with his colleagues. Eventually the superintendent declined to give the hurrying scribe more than a certain amount of work each day, whereupon the latter complained to the head of the department, who ordered the clerk's recent work to be closely inspected. It was then found that he was in the habit of missing out substantial portions of the deed given him for copying, so as to increase his daily output of folios.

Sufficient has been written of the system of land registration obtaining in Egypt hitherto, to show the necessity for reform. This need was recognised by the authorities more than twenty years ago, and in 1904 a sub-commission was set up to study the question by the International Commission on the Mixed Tribunals. After four years of discussions of a somewhat academic character which dealt exhaustively with the legal bearings of reform, but lacked an equal consideration of the practical application of reform to actual properties as they existed on the ground, the Commission issued a report. This had no sequel. In 1917 another sub-commission was formed as an offshoot of the Capitulations Commission. When changed political conditions rendered the work of the Capitulations Commissions supererogatory, the Sub-Commission was re-established, by decision of the Council of Ministers, as an independent Commission, charged to report direct to the Council. This Commission devoted a vast amount of time and energy to the subject, certain members paying two visits to Switzerland to study the system in force there, and produced a report on which were based the reforms in land registration now being put into operation.

The following article will describe those reforms and the methods employed in introducing them.

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NEWS IN BRIEF.

At the forthcoming Church Congress at Eastbourne, India will be represented by Mr. Shoran Singha.

The will of Mr. Andrew Wallace, Indian Civil Service (retired), aged 73, of Alexandra Court, S.W. has been proved at £17,370 (personal estate in Great Britain).

The Synod of Indian Bishops having suggested that any bishop who felt the need might re-establish the permanent diaconate, the Bishop of Madras announces his intention to take such action.

The Little Entente Press Conference at Sinaia ended on August 17, and the delegates returned to Bucharest, where a series of receptions were given prior to their departure.

Sir Muhammed Habibullah, Education Member of the Government of India, has been granted three months leave. Sir Fazl-i-Hussain, Minister for Education for the Punjab, has been appointed to act for Sir Muhammed Habibullah during his absence.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY

August 27, 1925 (New Style).
August 14, 1925 (Old Style).
Saphar 7, 1344 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Ellul 7, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

King Ferdinand of Roumania, who was born on August 24, 1865, celebrated his sixtieth birthday this week.

Ex-King George and Queen Elizabeth, of Greece, who have been staying in London, left on August 19 for Paris.

The Maharajah and Maharanee of Patiala have left the Savoy Hotel, London, for Geneva.

Sir George Lloyd, High Commissioner-designate of Egypt, left London last Friday for Inverness-shire.

Princess Marie of Greece and her husband, Admiral Ioannides, returned to London last Sunday night from Paris.

Tewfik Rushdy, Foreign Minister, will be the chief Turkish delegate at the next meeting of the League of Nations.

The Duchess of Atholl, M.P., and Viscount and Viscountess Willingdon will leave in September to attend the League of Nations Assembly at Geneva.

Mahomed Ali Maghrabi Pasha, Egyptian Minister to Brazil, was among the passengers who left Southampton last Friday in the Andes for Rio de Janeiro.

The Rev. C. J. Grimes, vicar of St. Matthew's, Westminster, has resigned the benefice, and will be returning to Calcutta in the autumn to resume his work there.

Colonel Birchell and Lieut.-Colonel Minchin, of Imperial Airways, Ltd., left Croydon last Friday to survey the first stage of the Empire air chain between Kantara and Karachi.

The King has appointed Mr. E. V. Gabriel, C.S.I., C.M.G., C.V.O., C.B.E., to be Gentleman Usher in Ordinary, in sucession to Mr. Horace West, M.V.O. (resigned).

The engagement is announced of E. N. Dawson, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. N. Dawson, of the Avenue, Northampton, and Serena, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. van Sickle, of Ploesti, Roumania.

The will of Mr. George Henderson, of Palace Court, W., and of Messrs. Octavius Steel and Co., East India merchants, Fenchurch Avenue, E.C., Chairman of the Rungajaun Tea Co., and a director of the Badulipat Tea Co. and other tea companies (net personalty £87,570), has been proved at £89,595.

Four of the eight chiefs of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan who are in London as the guests of the British Government—Hamad El Malek, Osman Saleh, Al-Tayib Badr, and Mohamed Bazara—last Friday visited the first London Mosque of the Ahmadiyyia Community of Islam at Melrose Road, Southfields, Wandsworth.

Dr. Charles Macpherson, organist at St. Paul's Cathedral, is leaving London to-morrow for a tour in India as examiner for the Associated Board of the Royal College of Music. Musical examinations are being begun in India by the Board on the same lines as they are now carried on in this country and other parts of the Empire.

King Faisal, owing to the state of his health, was much fatigued by his journey from Baghdad. Acting on the advice of his doctors, he remained in bed for the first few days of his visit to London. As soon as he has benefited sufficiently from the rest His Majesty, it is hoped, will be able to undergo the course of treatment that his malady requires.

The will of Mr. Charles Thomas Williams, 58, of Beechwood, Baring Road, Grove Park, Lee, S.E., late Indian Telegraphs has been proved at £2,369 (net personality £2,148).

The King and Queen of the Belgians, who are paying an unofficial visit to India, will join their steamer at Marseilles on August 29. Their Majesties will be accompanied by Lieutenant Goffinet, the King's orderly officer.

Captain W. H. Dye, R.A.M.C., has been awarded the North Persian Forces Memorial Medal for the year 1924 for the best paper on tropical medicine or hygiene published during the year by a medical officer of the services eligible for competition.

The King has given to Mr. James Serle Butler Peacock authority to wear the insignia of Officer of the Order of Ismail (Fourth Class), conferred on him by the King of Egypt, in recognition of valuable services rendered by him under the Egyptian Ministry of Public Instruction.

The Maharajah of Patiala placed on the Cenotaph last Thursday a wreath of arum lilies, inscribed "To the memory of gallant comrades and fellow-soldiers in the service of King and Commonwealth." He afterwards laid a wreath of roses on the grave of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey.

Mr. Alexander Falconer Wallace, O.B.E., of Candacraig, Strathdon, Aberdeenshire, and of Hyde Park Gardens, London, W., East India merchant, senior director of Messrs. Wallace Brothers and Co., Ltd., E.C., and late of Messrs. Wallace and Co., of Bombay, who died on January 24, aged 88, domiciled in England, left unsettled property of the gross value of £315,289, with net personality £299,909.

The Right Hon. Francis Wallace, 1st Baron Grenfell of Kilvey, Glamorgan, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., of Foresters, Windlesham, Surrey, a former Sirdar of the Egyptian Army, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Malta, and Commander-in-Chief in Ireland, who saw service in various parts of Africa, and who died on January 27, aged 83, left unsettled property of the gross value of £46,778, with net personality £44,662.

General the Right Honourable Henry Seymour, Baron Rawlinson, G.C.B., G.C.V.O., K.C.M.G., of Trent, Dorset, lately Commander-in-Chief in India, who saw service in Burma, in Egypt, in South Africa, and in the Great War, and for a time a member of the Supreme War Council at Versailles, who died at Delhi on March 28, aged 61, left unsettled property of the gross value of £4,143, with net personality £3,902.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

Malthus Redivivus.

No dictum, one supposes, is more widely accepted in our pessimistic time than that which concerns the over-population of the British Isles. Prophets of woe abound, insisting now on the social, now on the economic, and occasionally on the religious aspects of the matter. It is the fashion to look admiringly back at Malthus, and, indeed, we have in the Dean of St. Paul's a new Malthus come to judgment.

Dean Inge has just invented the slogan (to beautify the tranquillity of our holiday time) that there is an optimum density of population for any country at any time, beyond which any increase means a lowering of the standard of living. This comforting doctrine has, of course, been avidly seized upon by our Imperialists who wish for a large, state-systematised scheme of emigration, and by our spineless sociologists whose cure for every ill is "Birth Control," a monstrosity alien alike to our traditions and to our temperament.

What there is in all this presaging of starvation, of the decline of the English race, and of its succumbing to foreign rivals, I do not know. One seems to remember that Malthus himself supplied the contradictions to his own arguments, that men like Kropotkin demonstrated the falsity of the over-population argument, and that Sir William Beveridge, in our own time, has stated that unemployment has little connection with over-population. Also, it is amusing to notice that those who believe in the method of restriction known as "Birth-Control" are generally those who assume, in their estimates of the future of nations, that France, which above all, I believe, practises this method, is a declining factor in human affairs. The truth is, of course, that no man knows what is coming, and that one can, therefore, act only in accordance with one's conscience, and not in accordance with what one thinks may be expedient. But the gloom of the Dean is impenetrable. Yet even he might sometimes remember that his chosen, adored Victorian era came very shortly after the enunciation of disaster by William Malthus.

Road Accidents.

If the present rate of slaughter upon the King's highway is allowed to continue unchecked, the Rev. William Inge need have little fear that the destiny of our race is to peter out in the confusion of self-multiplication. For the Ministry of Transport has just issued figures which show the death-dealing capacities of the modern motorist. The evidence of bad driving in this country is, literally, appalling. Last year over three thousand people were killed on the road, and nearly sixty-five thousand were injured.

There is, of course, much more traffic than there was a few years ago; the number of mechanically propelled vehicles, excluding tramcars, has, in fact, increased since 1921 by 52½ per cent. But there is no excuse for the facts that during that same period fatal accidents have increased by 44½ per cent., and non-fatal accidents by 75½ per cent. All sorts of experiments are, it is true, being tried, in the matter of warning lights and signs and noises, but it seems obvious that something more drastic than any of these will have to be adopted to check the reckless motorist—something, possibly, on the principle of the French *caniveau*.

Villages in History.

An excellent plan has just been formulated in Northamptonshire for the using of women's institutes for the compilation of the history of particular villages. Some such work as this is more essential to the historian of the future than might at first be believed. For in times past the historian could rely on the records of the village Church to supply him with at least an adequate reflex of village activity. Now, however, the villages of England, which for all our urbanisation have individual vitality and appeal, indulge in far more than ecclesiastical activity, and, just because they take their own activities so much as a matter of course, their history may be unrecorded. To use the local club, therefore, as a storehouse which county and national libraries may later plunder, or at least borrow from, is to work worthily for posterity, as well as to make fascinating demonstration of one's own local patriotism.

Lawless Hooligans.

Everyone knows that there are certain parts in our big cities in which it is not wise to stroll after dark, but one doubts whether recent history, at any rate, can show anything quite as bad as that which happened in Aldgate East last week, when about fifty men, belonging to rival race gangs, fought each other in the open streets with razors and knives—what time traffic was completely arrested! Nor is it very comforting to know that the police, when they were strong enough to disperse the combatants, were able to arrest only one man, and he a badly injured non-combatant! The fact is that round the race meetings there lurk gangs of men whose existence is inimical to any kind of claim by the Home Secretary that the "Bolshevists" of this country are the only law-nonabiding citizens. Most of these undesirable characters belong to a certain community—they are aliens; and there can be no one who will not whole-heartedly support the Home Office in its resolve to embark upon a resolute plan for their extinction.

The Purchase of Wembley.

Readers of these columns will be well aware that, from the financial point of view, the Wembley of 1925 has been even more disastrous than it was in 1924; and I have already noted some of the proposals that have been made for the future administration of its permanent buildings. Now, however, comes a proposal, from Colonel Harry Day, the variety agent, to turn half the British Empire Exhibition into model dwellings, and the other half into an amusement park. But so far the authorities at Wembley have made no sign that they are willing to sell. They feel—and it is difficult not to sympathise with them—that it would be a great "come-down" if buildings erected to an Imperial purpose were suffered to decline into dwellings at £60 a year and mere cheap amusement parks. But so much was lost in 1924, and so poor have been the attendances this year, that it is extremely doubtful whether Parliament could be induced to consent to the grant of yet another million or two. Yet what a fall: to have Wembley a new suburb of cheap villas!

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Indian Affairs.

LORD READING'S ADDRESS.

The Viceroy's speech in opening the Session of the Legislative Assembly at Simla was, in its political aspect, largely a recapitulation of Lord Birkenhead's statement in the House of Lords. Lord Reading expressed his disappointment at the critical spirit in which Lord Birkenhead's speech had been received in India, where its importance and value had, in his opinion, been insufficiently appreciated. For himself, he looked upon it as a message of sympathetic encouragement to India, at least to those desirous of advancing to responsible self-government within the British Empire. He reiterated the Secretary of State's dictum that no special sanctity attaches to the year 1929, and said that, while the present moment would be a most inappropriate one to hold a statutory inquiry, the re-examination of the Indian Constitution might take place at any time not later than 1929, "when the British Government are persuaded that there has been genuine co-operation by responsible Indian political leaders in working the existing Constitution, and when sufficient experience of these new and largely untried conditions has been gathered to form the basis of a considered judgment and to enable proposals for the future to be made with some confidence." Speaking of the report of the Muddiman Committee of Inquiry into the working of the Reforms, Lord Reading said that, though he understood the impatience of the signatories of the Minority Report in their desire that the Constitution should be put on a permanent basis with provisions for automatic progress in the future, the issue between them and the Government really amounted to one of the moment when the Statutory Committee should be appointed; whereas the view of the signatories of the Majority Report, that the existing Constitution should be maintained and amended, where necessary, in order to remove defects in its working, was the only view that could, for the present, commend itself to the Government of India, who had therefore accepted that report in principle and were preparing to examine it in detail and to submit their conclusions for discussion by the Indian Legislature. In the matter of the organisation of the transferred services, the Viceroy reminded his audience that recruitment by the Secretary of State had already ceased for the Indian Educational, Agricultural, and Veterinary Services, for the buildings and roads branch of the Public Works Service, and for the Forest Service in Bombay and Burma; while the principle of establishing Provincial Medical Services had been accepted, subject to certain conditions that were still under consideration; so that Indian Ministers would now be able to start building up their own Provincial Services by new recruitment that would be in their own hands. As regards Lord Birkenhead's invitation to Indians to produce a Constitution of their own, Lord Reading said that the time which must necessarily elapse before the re-examination of the Constitution could not be better employed by public men in India than by devoting serious practical thought to this problem.

Lord Reading also referred at considerable length to economic questions, and, in speaking of the depression in Indian industries, in particular that of the Bombay cotton industry, announced that he had agreed to receive a deputation from the mill-owners in the immediate future. In addition, he made two important announcements—the appointment of a Royal Commission on Indian Currency and Finance, and the intention of his Government to set up an All-India agricultural organisation, which would help towards co-ordinating the activities of the various Provincial Departments of Agriculture, promote research, agricultural education, the work of co-operative societies, and other established aids to agriculture, and serve as the medium for agricultural propaganda throughout the country. The terms of reference of the Finance Commission are of the widest possible character, and their findings should exercise a great effect on the whole future course of Indian commerce. Of the many subjects that will present themselves for consideration, two of the most important will be the fixing of the rupee rate and the question of the assumption by the Imperial Bank of India of all the functions associated with a Central Bank, including the powers, at present exercised by the India Office, in currency management and the remission of sterling from India. In these connections, two appointments to the Royal Commissioin are of special significance: that of Sir Purshottamdas Thakurdas, whose strenuous advocacy of a low rate of exchange will ensure that this view of the question is not overlooked, and that of Sir Henry Strakosch, who was a colleague of Sir Basil Blackett, the present Finance Member of the Viceroy's Council, on the Currency Commission appointed by the International Economic Conference assembled at Genoa in 1922, whose report, which laid down definite principles that should guide the special duties of Central Banks, has received general acceptance. As regards the proposed All-India agricultural organisation, Lord Reading said that the proposal would be discussed at a meeting of the Board of Agriculture to be held at Pusa in December, which it was hoped that the Ministers of Agriculture of the various Provinces would be able to attend, and that the formulation of a definite scheme would be deferred pending the result of that discussion. He paid a tribute to the work of the Agricultural Institute at Pusa, whose researches, particularly in the matter of sugar and wheat, had within the last few years added crores of rupees to the wealth of the Indian peasant, and whose achievements pointed the way to still more wonderful possibilities. Incidentally, the Viceroy remarked that agriculture in India must, in the main, depend on cattle for its motive power, so that the problem of improvement in the quality—though not in the quantity—of Indian cattle was one of vital importance.

Lord Reading's address broke no new ground. Economically, its chief interest centred in its pronouncements about the Finance Commission and the proposed Central Agricultural organisation, both of which are likely to lead to most important results. It may, indeed, be hoped that the developments resulting from the latter will disprove Lord Reading's belief in the dependence of Indian agriculture on cattle for its motive power, and will, in time, teach the Indian peasant more up-to-date methods of transport and traction: a recourse to which should go far towards the recovery of the key industries that are at present suffering from depression, not only in India but in England as well. Politically, the speech amounts to a recapitulation of Lord Birkenhead's statement in the House of Lords and of his warning to Indian politicians that their only path to increased responsibility lies in co-operation in the working of the existing Constitution, the grant of which had its origin in British good will, not in any feeling of fear or opportunism, and whose extension is not to be brought about, as so many Indian publicists seem to imagine, by threats or by force. The Viceroy's invitation to public men in India to bend their energies to

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thinking out their ideas of a permanent constitution implied the definite rejection of the "Indian Commonwealth" scheme; as he said, constitutional problems are not solved by a phrase, and account must be taken of unparalleled complexities and diversities of race, religion, intellectual development, and social organisation, which, with a rigidity unknown in any other great country, separate classes in India. It is noticeable that the address contained no reference to the position of Anglo-Indians under the Reforms—an omission which will doubtless be a disappointment to the deputation who so recently laid the case of their Community before the Secretary of State; nor to the question of the progress of Indianisation of the All-India Services, though it contained a passing mention of the "Indian Sandhurst" Committee, as well as what was obviously an oblique reference to the same subject, when Lord Reading remarked that it must always be remembered that the primary duty of Government was to preserve internal peace and external security.

LORD MILNER AND INDIA.

By JANUS.

The recent publication of Lord Milner's *Credo* has inevitably evoked protests in this country from the Indian point of view, and it is fairly safe to assume that, given the usual amount of distortion on the eastward journey, it will have caused pain and alarm to many of the best people in India. May I then try to put the matter in what I believe to be its true perspective? When Milner, who has always been one of my heroes, declared himself a race patriot, something more than a nationalist, that is, but decidedly less than a cosmopolitan, he made no new revelation, though his words may have been read in that sense by a generation which has forgotten the difference between a novelty and a "scoop." As anyone who has followed his career knows, the *Credo* reiterates a principle accepted consistently throughout a long life by a man who, starting far ahead of general opinion, tended to pass from Left to Right, and who, in the last phase, was behind rather than in advance of the movement of English opinion. To say that is not to assert either that Milner was wrong or that he was right; it is merely to summarise the actual position in the fewest possible words.

For some centuries the world has been spending itself in the long struggle to substitute nationalism for the older dynasticism and, as it slowly won success, it was, like Frankenstein, confronted with a monster of its own imagining. In the Victorian age people were realising that nationalities, if uncontrolled, might be nearly as bad as dynasties, and the idea of integration was gradually making way. While some people were already dreaming of the Commonwealth of Man, others, like Milner, fixed their eyes on the limited but more easily attainable objective of British Imperialism, something far ahead of the narrow, popular nationalism of those days, which took Jingo for its god, and the great Vance for its prophet. Before the War, that objective almost held the field in England, and the question of the non-British races within the Empire had scarcely been raised. The War which it is permissible to hope, marked the end of dynasticism, marked also the beginning of the end of uncontrolled nationalism; and, if the world had been fresh instead of stale, the peace discussions would have centred on the merits of the rival methods of integration—whether to federate the British, the Latin, the Slav, the German, and the rest, giving a few big units instead of a large number of little ones, or to attempt to unite all the little ones in a single commonwealth. Nobody emerged, however, to press the case for the more limited objective, and Woodrow Wilson, moved by the stark and terrible idealism of his Ulster forefathers, was able to impose the League of Nations on the world, though he failed to impose it on his own peculiar people. And so things stand to-day.

For Indians, the point of this brief disquisition is that the nations composing the British Empire have already gone beyond Milner's race patriotism, and are committed by solemn engagements to give a fair trial to the larger and vaguer integration as embodied in the League. The point does not admit of argument. It is an obvious fact: and, if people are too busy to read treaties and covenants, they have only to glance at the proceedings at Geneva, where India already ranks alongside of the nations of British race. That, as it seems to me, is the plain and sufficient answer to the forebodings voiced by the Aga Khan and other critics. So long as the League stands, there can be no question of an Empire organised on a purely racial basis, with the non-British elements tacked on as dependencies: the tendency must continue to operate in the direction of partnership between communities of different races, which is, I take it, the objective preferred by the critics whom I have in view.

It is true, of course, that the League may fly to pieces through internal stresses, in which case the world will be in such a mess that possibly a vigorous, though temporary, outburst of race patriotism may be needed to clean it up. It is, perhaps, rather more likely that the League may gradually develop into a gathering of racial groups, Latins showing a solid front against British, and Germans against both. In either case, the lesson will simply be that Woodrow Wilson tempted the world to try too big a jump: and, if the world has to fall back for a time on racial organisation, the position of India can scarcely fail to be affected. The danger is, however, hypothetical. The League is on its trial, and there is at present no reason to anticipate an unfavourable verdict. If it has achieved less than the optimists expected, it has already disappointed the pessimists by continuing to function. At the moment it is the strongest obstacle to the danger apprehended by the Indian critics of Milner's *Credo*: and, if I may offer them a suggestion, they will be well advised to throw their full weight on its side.

CURRENT TOPICS.

Indian Currency and Finance.

The appointment of a Royal Commission on Indian Currency and finance is announced, with the following terms of reference: "To examine and report on the Indian exchange and currency system and practice, to consider whether any modifications are desirable in the interests of India, and to make recommendations. The composition of the Commission is as follows:—Chairman, Lieut.-Commander Hilton Young, M.P. Members, Professor J. C. Coyajee, Professor of Political Economy and Philosophy at the Calcutta Presidency College; Sir M. B. Dadabhoy, Member of the Indian Council of State, cotton manufacturer; Sir R. A. Mant, Member of the Council of India and formerly Secretary, Indian Finance Department (the above three members all served on the Indian Fiscal Commission); Sir R. Mukerjee, head of the Calcutta engineering firm of Martin and Co.; Sir A. R. Murray, of Messrs. Jardine, Skinner, and Co., Calcutta; Mr. W. E. Preston, Chief Manager of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China; Sir P. Thakurdas, Member of the Indian Legislative Assembly, and an unsparing critic of the Indian Finance Department; Sir N. H. Y. Warren, a Governor of the Imperial Bank of India.

A Swarajist Victory.

The Swaraj Party have not been long in avenging their defeat on the election of the President of the Bengal Legislative Council, for they have carried their candidate for the presidency of a more important body—the Legislative Assembly. The election of Mr. Patel, the Swarajist candidate, as the first elected President of the Assembly in succession to Sir Frederick Whyte, was achieved by a majority of only two votes over Mr. Rangachariar, the Independent candidate; and it appears to have been brought about by the secession of a number of Independents the suggestion being that this was due to disappointment felt at Lord Reading's speech at the opening of the Assembly. Mr. Patel is a prominent member of the Assembly, whose speeches have always been strongly anti-Government: at one time, though a Hindu, he used to wear a red fez in order to signalise his adherence to the idea of Hindu-Mohammedan unity. He has announced

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his intention of observing scrupulous impartiality in the Chair; and it will be interesting to watch the process of so vigorous a fighter accommodating himself to the position of umpire when his own side is in the field.

Bribery in India.

A telegram from Rangoon reports an alleged attempt to bribe a European Judge of the High Court of Burma by the defendant in a case of criminal breach of trust in respect of jewellery valued at £28,000. The Judge's chauffeur had been approached by an Indian, giving the name of the defendant, who offered to buy the Judge's car for a larger sum than it was worth: and, after the defendant had won his case, the Judge was rung up on the telephone by a man, giving the same name, who said, "I am greatly obliged to you for dismissing my case and I will take your car."

It does not really follow that this was a genuine attempt at bribery: among the wiles of Indian suitors, a suggestion of bribery, carefully arranged so as to appear to emanate from the other side, is by no means unknown as a means of prejudicing the opponent's case before a European judge; for, although bribery, or attempted bribery, of Indian officials is unfortunately common, it is seldom that a European official is approached. The stock example of the Indian "just judge" is found in the well-known story of the man who accepted the bribe of both sides, decided the case on its merits, and then returned the bribe of the unsuccessful suitor; but it must be regretfully admitted that the European official's immunity from attempts at bribery is due not so much to belief in his incorruptibility as to the feelings that his price is likely to be too high for the enquirer's purse. The idea of what the European calls "illegitimate," and the Indian calls "customary," additions to the income of every official, is too firmly rooted in the Indian mind to be driven out even by repeated rebuffs. In this connection, a story is told of a "backwoods" native chieftan who, many years ago, attended a great official Durbar in the North of India. His followers began by eating the Pears soap which had been provided for them in their tents, with grateful acknowledgements of the thoughtful kindness of the Government that had supplied them with so appetising a sweetmeat: and, on the second day of the Durbar, the chief cast eyes of approval on the fair daughter of one of the European officials taking part in the Durbar. He sent for the Assistant Political officer in whose charge he was, and expressed his intention of buying the lady, the price offered being fifty camels—the chief staple of riches in his State. The scandalised political officer read him a lecture on the gross impropriety of the suggestion: to which the chief listened patiently and replied: "I will give sixty camels." The political returned to the charge with a further and much more forcible explanation of the heinousness of the Chief's proposal: whereupon the Chief sighed sadly, and said, "Alas, I am not a rich man: but I will give seventy camels."

Air Line to India.

It is announced that a provisional agreement has been arrived at between the Air Ministry and Imperial Airways Ltd., under which the company will operate an air service between Kantara, on the Suez Canal, and Karachi in India. An aerial survey is to be taken in hand forthwith, on the conclusion of which a detailed and formal agreement will be signed. There will be a weekly service both ways between Kantara and Karachi, the distance between which—2,450 miles—will be flown in two and a half days, thus shortening the journey between London and India by six days, even without night flying. The agreement with the Company is for five years, with an annual subsidy of £87,000. The service is expected to begin in the early summer of 1926: enquiries show that there is a big field for parcels and passengers to and from India, and there is solid reason for hoping that at the end of the five years, to which the subsidy is strictly limited, the enterprise will be self-supporting.

The inauguration of an air line to India will give a much needed fillip to aviation in India itself; which, as a country of vast distances, offers a great field for its employment. Some years ago, an attempt was made to start a regular aerial postal service between Karachi and Bombay, but this ended in failure. The air distance between the two places is only 500 miles, but at present the only method of communication is a two days' voyage by sea or a railway journey by a circuitous route involving three or four changes. The air distance from Bombay to Calcutta is just over 1,000 miles, and this is already covered by train in less than 48 hours; but another very obvious use of an air line is from Calcutta to Rangoon, with an air distance of about 600 miles, the only communication at present being a sea voyage of three days. The creation of such a task has been often discussed and often urged, but has never got any further. In view of the small European population of India, it is true that internal aviation would be most unlikely to pay at first; but, as its utility—and, it may be added, safety—became apparent, its employment by Indians would be likely to grow until it became a paying proposition. It must, however, be remembered that the Indian is, with very few exceptions, never in a hurry—when railways were first introduced into India, the scale of third-class charges had to be based on the ordinary length and expense of a day's trek, and was fixed at four annas for ten miles—if the Indian peasant could travel that distance in half an hour for the same expenditure as he would necessarily incur, in food and extras, in taking a day to walk it, he would use the rail; otherwise, he would prefer the old time method.

Indian Markets and British Producers.

The third of the articles by Mr. George Pilcher, on the above subject apeared in the *Financial News* of August 17. The writer says that next after the railways, which formed the subject of his second article, the most favourable fields for the employment of cheap British credit and British capital, to the mutual advantage of Great Britain and India, are irrigation and the adaptation of mechanical methods to the resources of the Indian cultivator.

The total capital hitherto invested in Government irrigation projects in India is about sixty millions, the net yield on which is nearly eight per cent., apart from the enormous accession of prosperity that has resulted from them. Three great schemes are now in process of construction—the Sukkur scheme in Sind, the Sutlej scheme in the Punjab, and the Sarda scheme in the United Provinces, costing between them some 28 millions; but every province has plans for irrigation improvement, the sanction of which would be completely justified, if the required capital were forthcoming. As an example, Mr. Pilcher quotes the Grand Trunk Canal scheme in Bengal, designed to link the rich jute-growing areas with Calcutta: the plans for which have been worked out to the minutest detail, and only await the necessary capital to be translated into construction, to the lasting benefit of the vast area that it would serve. Every such scheme involves the purchase of large supplies of material: and completion is calculated to give a continuous impetus to the demand for agricultural machinery and tools.

Apart from public works, the most hopeful sphere of State action in India exists in connection with the cultivator's slow awakening to the value of mechanical assistance as an adjunct to, and ultimately as a substitute for, his archaic methods of agriculture. Some thirty million ploughs, mostly of wood, are used in the cultivation of India's 200 million acres: cattle furnish the only lifting power for the great majority of India's 2½ million wells. Given standardisation and popularisation, it has been calculated that India could absorb two or three million iron ploughs annually: and, with the added assistance of public credit, not less than half a million small engines for water lifting and possibly 150,000 larger ones for other purposes. The channels for the distribution of agricultural machinery and tools do not need to be created, for they exist already in the shape of the 60,000 agricultural co-operative societies now existing all over India.

Mr. Pilcher suggests the formation, by the Government of India, of a Central Agricultural Council, and possibly a central fund, "for the popularisation of agricultural advance by intensive education and demonstration, on better lines than those whereon, perhaps a little unconvincingly, those processes have hitherto been pursued."

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CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, August 6.

"Surrender Not!"

Death's blows are sudden in India and although the late Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea had reached the age of 77 he was almost as active as ever until yesterday; to-day at 1.30 he died from influenza and the shock to the Indian public is almost as great as when a few weeks ago the death of Mr. C. R. Das was announced. The contempt with which the Swarajists hounded the late Sir Surendra Nath from political life because he had dared to accept office under the new Reforms does not alter the fact that from every point of view, as a leader, a constructive thinker, and a patriot, his record will stand out in history as the greatest Bengalee of the early part of the twentieth century. He was always a fighter; from the time when in Queen's Bench he forced the Civil Service Commissioners to restore his name to the list of selected candidates for the Indian Civil Service, he was intolerant of blind authority, and it was not surprising that he left the service long before he had been able to make a mark in it. His record since has been one of aggressive work on behalf of what he considered to be the best interests of his nation and his country, and probably the crowning moment of his career, which has included a term in prison for comments on a case under trial, was his appointment as Minister for Local Self-Government under the Reforms Scheme. He was twice elected to the chair of the Indian National Congress and his other public activities are too numerous to mention; he did not take his defeat at the last elections lying down but quite recently entered his old profession again as the editor of the new Liberal group of papers. The recent publication in one of them of the inner history of the negotiations of Mr. C. R. Das with the "Satanic" Government was a vindication of the better judgment of a wiser and older leader. The record of his life is one of a career of constructive work, carried out often in the teeth of strongly entrenched privilege, and it is one of which any political leader might well be proud. He dies as he had lived, justifying the name given to him a generation ago by the European community which loves a sportsman and a fighter, "Surrender Not!"

Denials and Admissions.

Pandit Motilal Nehru has been forced into giving an unwilling admission that negotiations were in progress between Lord Lytton and Mr. Das, although his supporters claim that the statement which he has issued, as a result of the clamour raised by the Indian Press, is a denial. The Pandit has given a sketchy explanation of what took place, but this would have been more convincing had he published the full text of Mr. Das' letters; public opinion takes the line that since negotiations are admitted, the letters should be published. The position is not without its amusing side; *Forward*, in an article headed, "An Absolute Clincher," has worked itself into a frenzy of indignation at the impudence of casting reflexions on the integrity of Mr. Das; the *Bengalee*, which comes in for most of its abuse, retorts with several direct questions to which it demands straight answers; the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, an extremist organ, pertinently asks why the Swarajists should be angry at the mere mention of the name of Mr. Das in connection with the negotiations. "Negotiations," it says, "are not to be condemned *per se* if carried on on a basis of mutual concessions." The Swarajist policy is clear; by a series of denials as carefully worded as the half-truths they accompany, it is hoped to create sufficient confusion to prevent anyone from having a clear idea of what the facts really are. It is doubtful whether the late leader could have avoided the split which seems inevitable between the wild men and the saner nationalists, who are tired of anarchy. The new leader appears to think that his safest line is to stir up the dead fires of racial hatred; it is the policy of a reckless weakling equally bankrupt of ideas and capacity to lead.

Civil Disobedience.

It is obviously with this end in view that the counter attraction of a revival of civil disobedience is being put forward. Mr. Sen Gupta, the new leader and Mayor of Calcutta, at a meeting largely attended by students, stated that the only reply to Lord Birkenhead's speech must be mass civil disobedience. He went on to refer to Mr. Das' speech at Faridpur and, although at the time this seemed to portend a change of mentality, if not Gandhi's favourite "change of heart," the present leaders are seeking to interpret it into instructions to prosecute a policy which C. R. Das had himself found futile. Gandhi has again changed his colours and instead of dying to co-operate now lives to advocate civil disobedience. In a letter to the *Statesman* he sets out to prove that the resuscitation of civil disobedience is really the quickest way to co-operation. He admits that his experiment in this direction came to a sudden and tragic end at Chauri Chaura but this was in the days when the movement was not worked properly. Once again the extremists have selected the villagers as their dupes, and have commenced a campaign for village reorganisation which includes a measure of education; how much may be judged from the fact that some sixteen workers have arrived in Calcutta during the week for instruction in their duties, and the Secretary hopes that they will be able to proceed to their respective centres in a few days. If this folly persists there will be trouble, and it will fall on the heads of those who least deserve it, the ignorant classes. The Swarajists again demonstrate their inability to govern; even were they successful in getting the masses to withhold their taxes, and even were the Government forced to retire from India as a result, would the masses, on the assumption of governing authority by the Swarajists, be willing to revert to the old system of paying taxes. There can be no compulsion in Utopia.

Protecting the Paper Industry.

The proposals of the Tariff Board in connection with the paper industry do not appear to be of a very far-reaching nature. The Indian Paper Pulp Company is the only concern that will receive a State subsidy if and when the recommendations of the Board are given effect to, and this will take the form of a ten lakh subsidy which should be raised either by mortgage on the fixed assets of the Company, or, alternatively, by the guarantee by Government of both principal and interest, on a public issue of debentures. The Tariff Board lean towards the latter course, as this would allow the immediate participation of Indian capital. In the event of the capital being raised entirely by Government, interest would be waived for the first two years, or, if the amount were raised publicly, the Government would undertake to pay interest irrespective of the ability of the Company to meet the charges. The case of the Carnatic Paper Mills has been considered, but it has been decided that nothing can be done for it until such time as it has been able to show reasonable prospects of the success of the manufacture of paper from bamboo by the soda process, when it too might be subsidised by Government in the same way as is proposed for the Indian Paper Pulp Company. Protection for all writing and printing papers, other than newsprint, containing 65 per cent. or more of mechanical pulp is recommended and this will be effected by a specific duty of one anna per pound as against 15 per cent. as at present. Concerns which manufacture paper from grass are not to be helped and, although this has given rise to criticism by the Indian press, the decision appears to be a wise one. With the exception of one district in the North of India, grass is none too plentiful and, even if it were, the manufacture of paper by this means is so expensive that it is certain that this branch of the industry would never be in a position to meet world competition unaided, and therefore does not come within the scope of the requirements of the Fiscal Commission.

Markets.

Little of interest in any of the markets has taken place since the last report owing to the intervention of the Mohurrum festival and, in addition, the closing of certai-

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markets yesterday on account of the lunar eclipse. The jute market has ruled steady with sellers prepared to operate only on a small scale at the prevailing rates; they are no doubt influenced by the rates obtaining up-country which show rises in values; at the close there was a slight downward tendency, with sellers more in evidence. Gunnies have been better and a large business above last week's levels is reported, but the market is now quieter. There has been little movement in the tea market, the better qualities showing a slight rise in value and the cheaper qualities a similar decrease.

The share market opened stronger in jutes but eased later in sympathy with the commodity, the more speculative issues being most affected in this direction; a slight fillip has been given to coal shares by the rumour that certain concerns have secured forward contracts at satisfactory rates; this has caused a better feeling in the market with a consequent larger turnover in some items. The tea share market is neglected and has in no way reflected the somewhat improved position of the market for Indian tea. There is no inquiry for cotton shares, and Government stocks and rubbers are quiet at steady prices.

Money remains cheap, but there are indications that a tightening of rates may be expected when the requirements for financing the jute crop begin to make themselves fully felt. Exchange is very steady.

THE PRECIOUS METALS IN INDIA.

(By Our Bombay Correspondent.)

Bombay, August 7.

Some of the minor mills in Bombay have already issued notices that they will be forced to close down for a period from September 1, presumably as a formal notice on which they may or many not be obliged to act. The prospects of a general stoppage of work seem more remote than they did a few weeks ago, but the glut of stocks is serious, and those mills which have not ample finance must be finding it difficult to carry them.

Apart from the purely temporary help to Japanese competition afforded by the appreciation of the rupee in terms of yen, the serious charge against the Government's financial policy is that it has prevented the circulation of the precious metals which have been so freely imported into India in the past four years. Sovereigns, for which there used to be a free market at fifteen rupees, can be imported at the present exchange at about thirteen and a quarter rupees. Under the laws of 1919-20, which are naturally a dead letter, Government is prepared to buy sovereigns at ten rupees; and the result is that gold, at any rate (and, in the general uncertainty, silver follows in its wake) is nothing but a speculative commodity which can be bought and put away for a rise, but which has no effect whatever on the circulation of money in the country.

Indians have been charged with making a fetish of the one-and-fourpenny rupee. The only real argument in favour of that particular level is that it happens to have worked very successfully for twenty years. There is no reason why another level should not work just as well after the inevitable dislocation of business during the period of transition; and if eighteen pence is to be the eventual figure, the attendant discomforts of the transition are pretty well over by this time. Only, whatever rate be taken, the sooner it is linked up to the precious metals the better.

The balance of trade has never been so much in favour of India as it has been in the past four years, and it has been adjusted by enormous imports of bullion. Every peasant in the country, and more especially in the cotton districts, must have made money out of the price of cotton on a scale that was unheard of before the War, and his standard of living has not changed in the very slightest degree. He and his family live in the same hovel, wear the same rags, and eat the same food; only, somewhere in his possession, either in the shape of heavy silver ornaments, or in a buried treasure, are his savings.

If a quarter of the bullion imported yearly into India were put into circulation, the aggregate buying power of the Indian peasant would be enough to set the industries of the country on their feet. Here is a steady stream of abundance of wealth flowing year by year into the country in the form of hard cash. In any other country in the world, the standard of living would have risen; the farmers would be buying freely from the industrialists, the operatives would be buying freely from the shopkeepers, and the prosperity of the country would be assured on the solid foundation of a favourable balance of trade.

One cannot, by Act of Parliament, force people to improve their standard of living, or prevent them from keeping their savings in any form they choose; and it is quite certain that a very large proportion of the surplus of India's trade will always continue to be locked up in bullion, as it always has been. But, rightly or wrongly, many people consider that this permanent tendency is at the present moment magnified enormously by the absence of any ratio between gold and the currency of the country, and that the very first thing to be done is to establish again a basis on which the people of India may confidently regard their holdings of the precious metals as a form of currency, and not as an investment in a rather speculative commodity.

SIMLA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Simla, August 6.

A Liberal View of Lord Birkenhead's Speech.

Perhaps the most valuable expression of opinion by an Indian politician on Lord Birkenhead's recent pronouncement is to be found in the speech recently made by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru as Chairman of the United Provinces Liberal Association. Sir Tej Bahadur, having been a member of the Viceroy's Executive Council for some years, and having in addition served as a member of the Reforms Inquiry Committee, may be said to have had opportunities unequalled among his countrymen of watching the working of the Reforms and of realising the difficulties with which the Government is faced in bringing India to a stage where she will be capable of assuming complete responsibility for her own government. His opinions are therefore entitled to a maximum of respect. His verdict is that the Secretary of State's speech was a disappointing one, in which the advocate had got the better of the statesman. Lord Birkenhead had stated that the preamble of the Government of India Act was even now not incapable of realisation, but first of all the demon of suspicion must be expelled. But was his own attitude towards the partnership of British and Indians to which he made reference likely to expel the demon from the Indian mind when it was taken in conjunction with the official policy towards the question of the Indianisation of the Services? Lord Birkenhead had declared that he wanted to see among responsible leaders of Indian thought a genuine desire to co-operate with the British in working the existing constitution. But were not a number of Indian politicians already making a sincere endeavour to this end, despite the fact that in so doing they incurred the odium of a very considerable section of their own countrymen? Lord Birkenhead had praised the efforts of the Liberal Party in India, but his speech was not calculated to strengthen their hands, because he had given them no real lead. At the same time, there were signs that their opponents were gradually deciding that the path of co-operation with the Government was preferable to the

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course of obstruction which they had followed in the past. This change of spirit was gratifying, but it was unsafe to place too much trust in it until its genuineness had been definitely proved. The Liberal Party must continue in their avowed policy of co-operation; for to adopt any other course would merely be to add another weapon to the armoury of their powerful opponents. At the conclusion of their deliberations the Association passed a resolution to the effect that it was in the best interests of India that all political parties should work the present system, in order to show the ability of Indians to work a more fully democratic form of government. No one can cavil at the terms of this resolution, but it is the manner in which the Liberal Party have in the past sought to carry their policy into effect that has been open to criticism. Their efforts to educate the electorate have been negligible, while the manner in which their representatives have been wont to champion their cause against the more violent oratory of the Swarajists has been weak-kneed in the extreme. There has been little or no sign of any constructive policy among their leaders, who rarely show the courage of their convictions in face of opposition, and there is much truth in the words of one of the English newspapers in this country which describes their programme as "in many respects merely swarajism smitten with pernicious anæmia."

The "Indian Sandhurst" Committee.

The statement made by Pandit Moti Lal Nehru, the leader of the Swarajist Party in the Legislative Assembly, on the subject of the reasons actuating his decision to serve as a member of the Indian Sandhurst Committee, is interesting in the light of Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru's remarks on the present change of attitude of extremist politicians. The Pandit declares that his only concern is to see whether he can, under the terms of reference, put the case on behalf of the people without hindrance after giving due weight to representations made on behalf of Government. The Skeen Committee is on a different plane from the Reforms Inquiry Committee, on which he had refused to serve as a member. In his opinion the addition of one Indian to the number of those capable of taking part in the defence of their country is worth more to the nation than the appointment of ten Indians as Governors of Provinces, and it is therefore the obvious duty of every Indian, to whatever school of thought he may belong, to help in increasing the number of such men as far as he possibly can.

The Sikh Settlement.

That the extremist elements among the Sikhs have no intention of letting the anti-Government agitation which has played havoc with the loyalty of the Sikh community in the last few years die down as a result of the settlement of the Gurdwara question, without a struggle on their part, has been shown by the vigorous campaign of misrepresentation which they have lately been fostering in Amritsar and the surrounding districts with a view to discrediting those Sikh leaders who have supported the passing of the Gurdwara Bill. The latter, however, have shown no lack of energy in countering this campaign, and there seems little doubt that the bulk of the Sikh community is on their side. That the irreconcilables have little or no support from other communities can be gathered from the following extract from the *Hindu*, a Lahore newspaper:—"The world at large knows that the Government has shown real magnanimity and leniency with the Sikhs. . . . We advise them that this is not the time to cast aspersions. They should now take full advantage of what they have obtained either through their own efforts or through the magnanimity of the Government. There is a new era opening in the Punjab, and everyone should try to help the province to progress. The fact is that the Akalis, by separating themselves from the National movement and spending all their energies in a sectarian movement, have been the cause of cooling down the enthusiasm of Hindus and the Mohammedans as well."

INDIAN EXCHANGE.

London, August 24.

The London market has remained very steady, round about 1/6⅛ for telegraphic remittances. During the week buyers have predominated at this figure, but sellers have been disinclined to meet them except at a sixty-fourth higher.

In Bombay and Calcutta rates have been nominally quoted at 1/6-3-32 with 7-64ths, available for near delivery without attracting any demand, buyers' ideas being 1/6⅛ for August, with a shade better for next month. September fixtures have been done in London at 9-64ths for the first ten days, and 5-32nds for the second half of the month. Forward rates have remained very steady, and some business has been reported in Calcutta and Bombay at 7-32nds for the cold weather months. Rates here on Monday showed no change, and the market is quiet but steady. In India, we learn, there is very little inquiry for Exchange, owing to dulness in the Import Markets, and the Government is reported to have bought from Banks a fair amount of cash T.T. at 1/6⅛.

Last week's statement of the Imperial Bank of India showed that there was rather more inquiry for money, as the trade demand indicated an increase of 30 lakhs. It is rather early in the season for the usual up-country requirements, but it is a sign that the movement is beginning.

The feature of the week has been the announcement made by the Viceroy of the Royal Commission on Indian Currency and Finance, and the names of the members appointed will, without doubt, be received with approval by the commercial community here and in India.

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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

170, Strand, London, W.C.2.
Tuesday Morning.

The Position in Syria.

At a time when the French are faced with an awkward problem in Syria in the rebellion of the Druses, it seems strange to be commenting on the progress that has been made in that region under French auspices during the past two years. But the report on Syria, which has just been issued, and extracts from which will be found in another column in this issue, only takes us down to the end of April, and the difficulties with which the French have had to contend since then, while it would be foolish to minimise their gravity, are unlikely to have any prolonged effect on the economic position of the region, and, therefore, cannot be regarded as invalidating the conclusions set forth in the report. The writer of the report, Mr. H. E. Satow, H.M. Consul-General at Beyrout, indicates that the French have had a very considerable measure of success in promoting the country's economic development. The French have introduced certain changes during the period, but they have wisely left well alone as far as possible, and these changes have been neither far-reaching nor drastic. Signs are not wanting, it is pointed out, of a gradual return to normal conditions, and justify the hope that the country may ultimately enjoy a certain, if modest, prosperity. But if that expectation is to be fulfilled, it is obviously essential that settled conditions must exist; for no region can hope to attain prosperity if progress is every now and then to be interrupted by disturbances.

Syria's Commerce.

The statistics of Syria's trade in the last few years certainly lend colour to the view that the country is going slowly ahead. Last year the imports amounted in value to 796,634,770 francs, as compared with 560,477,393 francs for the previous year, while the value of the exports was 339,933,667 francs, as against 246,841,254 francs. Great Britain still has the principal share of the import trade, the figures being 139,375,411 francs, as compared with 120,603,499 francs for 1923, but the position cannot be regarded as satisfactory from our point of view, as other countries are increasing their trade with Syria much more rapidly than we are. Imports from France, for instance, rose from 81,135,544 francs for 1923 to 113,679,528 francs for 1924, while those from Italy rose from 57,228,498 francs to 77,866,966 francs. Great Britain has so far maintained her position as the chief supplier of cotton and woollen manufactures, but Syria is now taking most of her cotton yarn from India, Japan, and Italy. In cotton manufactures, too, we are experiencing competition, particularly from Italy, and it is significant to note the statement that, generally speaking, British goods are not holding their own against French, Italian, and Belgian competition. The exchange has, of course, been a very serious factor in this connection, and it is obviously a very difficult obstacle for our traders to overcome, but it is incumbent that everything possible should be done to maintain our position in this market, which has been for so long a very important outlet for British goods in the Near East.

Ignorance of Near East.

I have often had occasion to comment in these columns on the lack of knowledge of Near East markets displayed by the British business community. In the report on Cyprus which has just been issued (a review of which will appear in these columns next week) reference is made to this apparently national trait in the section dealing with the Cyprus Pavilion at Wembley. "Inquiries made by members of the general public" it is stated, "showed that in England ignorance of the past and present history of Cyprus is lamentably profound and widespread. Seemingly educated persons were to be found who could not place the Island within a thousand miles, on a map of the world, and some even suggested that the inhabitants might be black and savage. Every endeavour was made to correct elementary misapprehensions of this nature." I think that last sentence is delightful. Of course those to whom this paragraph applies are happily not numbered among the section of the community engaged in foreign trade, otherwise our trade returns would be worse than they are.

Suez Canal Traffic.

The figures for the Suez Canal traffic for the first-half of 1925 are most impressive and if there were only these statistics to go by it would be difficult to convince anyone that there is such a thing as a depression in shipping. The traffic for the six months amounted to 14,127,000 tons, an advance of 1,980,000 tons on the figures for the corresponding period of 1924, and if it is maintained at its present rate the figures for the year will be far above those of 1924 which were 25,109,882 tons. Shipping circles are now anticipating that in the early future there will be a further reduction in the Canal charges, which would be of great assistance to commerce.

The Future of Wembley.

The fate of the Exhibition buildings after October hangs in the balance. Before the Exhibition was opened it was quite taken for granted that the use of Wembley in the future would be as a permanent home for the British Industries Fair which besides being divided at first like Gaul into three parts and subsequently two, has had various homes in London before settling down in something like a permanent habitation at the White City. Later the suggestion has been made to transfer one or more of the Museums to Wembley or even some of the Government Departments. Now an offer has been forthcoming for the buildings from a syndicate which professes to keep the Amusements Park in existence and to build houses on the rest of the land. If that be the ultimate fate of Wembley many will regret it, but there is obviously no point in keeping the area as it stands without the possibility of it serving some useful purpose. And it will be decades before another Exhibition on the same scale is held in this country.

COMMENTATOR.

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COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

AFRICAN AND EASTERN.

The report of the African and Eastern Trade Corporation for the year ended December 31 last, states that the profit and loss account shows a credit trading result, after providing for the usual depreciation on stocks, of £471,049, which, added to £271,985 brought in gives an available balance of £743,034. After payment of the preference dividends for the year, amounting to £134,921, and making provision of £67,500 as follows—depreciation fund, £25,000; income-tax reserve, £30,000; superannuation fund, £10,000; and office furniture and fixtures, £2,500—the credit balance remaining is £540,613. In June last an interim dividend of 4 per cent. was paid on the ordinary shares, and the directors now recommend a final dividend of 4 per cent., less tax, payable October 1, which will absorb £110,371, leaving to be carried forward £319,870. The directors state that trade during the year has shown the gradual improvement forecasted in last year's report, and they have confidence in the prospect of a continued improvement during the current year. Meeting, Liverpool, August 28, at 12 noon.

LAKE COPAIS COMPANY.

The directors of the Lake Copais Company, have issued a circular to the shareholders giving particulars of the award in the arbitration between the Greek Government and the company. All the claims of the State have been rejected. On the other hand, as an indemnity, in respect of certain lands taken by third parties, in addition to the right mentioned in the next paragraph, the company has been awarded £60,000, payable on or before August 14, 1925, in cash. This will provide for the costs of the arbitration and leave a substantial sum towards the cost of drainage and development. The company has been granted additional rights for 99 years over the the waters of Lakes Copais, Likeri and Paralimni for the exclusive purpose of hydro-electric power. The company is entitled to a minimum rate of interest on the capital necessary for the hydro-electric concession. The participation of the State in the net profit arising from the concession is fixed at 40 per cent. of the net revenue, after providing for reserves and for 10 per cent. cumulative dividend and 2 per cent. per annum for amortisation on the paid-up share capital. The company has to offer for sale some 40,143 acres. The Government is granted an option, expiring on July 16, 1926, to purchase this land at £980,000, payable as to 10 per cent. in cash and the remainder in ten annuities carrying interest at 6½ per cent. If the State does not exercise this option, associations of local cultivators may be formed prior to January 12, 1928, with an option to purchase blocks of land prior to July 12, 1928, at prices which are to be fixed. The State has a further option, expiring on January 13, 1929, to purchase any block of land unsold at July 12, 1928. On the expiry of this last option, all lands unsold revert to the company in freehold.

ANCHOR LINE

LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.

KARACHI via Bombay, calling at Gibraltar and Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS UPPER DECK CABINS.
MODERATE FARES.
RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT,
Indian Government Vouchers accepted.

Passenger sailing dates :—

*MASSILIA, Sept. 1.	*CASTALIA, Oct. 27.
*ELYSIA, Sept. 11.	*OLYMPIA, Nov. 13.
*CIRCASSIA, Sept. 29.	*SCINDIA, Nov. 27.
CALIFORNIA, Oct. 14.	*MASSILIA, Dec. 11.

*First class passengers only. Specially low fares.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA, 17,000 TONS, carrying 1st, 2nd and 3rd class passengers, sails from LIVERPOOL Oct. 14. MARSEILLES Oct. 20. All 1st and 2nd class state rooms are fitted with Punkah Louvres and with Fans. This vessel has exceptionally fine 3rd class accommodation.

ANCHOR LINE,
48, FENCHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

MOTOR BUSES IN GREECE.

It is estimated that there are between 700 and 800 motor buses in actual operation throughout Greece at the present time (says an American Consular Report). The rapid growth and expansion of this form of transportation has been the most outstanding feature in the development of the Greek motor market during the last two years. The attitude of the authorities is very favourable, since other forms of transportation are wholly inadequate in many places. Practically all bus lines are owned and operated by private individuals or companies. Stand truck chassis are most in use; special bus chassis are not in general demand. During the last two or three months an increasing number of complete buses, including some large machines, have been imported. Athens, Piræus, Salonika, Patras, and three or four other cities offer the best opportunities for the development of bus transportation. Most of these are served by tramway lines, but the latter have been found inadequate. The chief handicap to the development of the market is the poor condition of the streets in this city, as well as the highways throughout Greece. On the other hand the lack of railway communications makes necessary the use of bus transportation in spite of poor road conditions.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses :—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Elysia for Bombay (Liverpool, September 8). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Blocklebank Line.—S.s. Holywell for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 5).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Warwickshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, September 9).

British India Line.—S.s. Manora for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 29); s.s. Nirvana for Bombay and Karachi (London, September 12).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Pavia for Gibraltar, Oran, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, September 5).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s City of Florence for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 31).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 5); s.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 12); s.s. Dromore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 17).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. China for Bombay (London, September 4); s.s. Nagoya for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 5).

Prince Line.—S.s. Burmese Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, and Haifa (London, September 12).

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria	Piastre to £	97⅛	97⅜—9'16
Athens	Drachmæ to £	25 22½	316-319
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	270—273
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.40—20.41
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.06-25.07
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18½ - 18 5 32
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	106.95—107
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	960—965
Budapest	Kronen to £	24 02	345-347,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18½—18 5/32d
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	830—845
New York	Dollars to £	4 86 2-3	4 85⅞—4.85 13/16
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	103.20—'25
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	164
Rome	Lire to £	25 22½	103 1/16
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	670
Teheran	Krans to £	50	42.90
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	34.48-34 55
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	28⅜

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The Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes

AREA

96,133 sq. miles

POPULATION

(1921)

12,020,000

IMPORTS, 1924

Dinars

8,221,743,552

EXPORTS, 1924

Dinars

9,538,774,432

Rate of Exchange £1 = 270 dinars approx.

Monthly Supplement of "The Near East" : No. 7.

NAPHTHA IN YUGOSLAVIA.

Recent Discoveries.

As is well known, many districts in Yugoslavia, especially in the north, are rich in naphtha. The presence of these deposits was detected by Austro-Hungarian experts when the regions in question formed part of that Monarchy, and prospecting was begun before the War to determine the commercial importance of the discovery. Investigations were continued when the territories were incorporated in Yugoslavia and experimental work in deep boring is now being undertaken on a considerable scale. Moreover, a geological examination of the subsoil in the neighbourhood of the deposits is in progress, and it is stated that naphtha is also found in the older tertiary strata of these districts, which are very rich in oil. Deep borings carried out at Bujavitza in Slavonia, in the neighbourhood of Osijek, have given positive results, the presence of naphtha having been ascertained by borings to a depth of 396 metres (1,300 feet), at which depth inflammable gasses and naphtha escaped. These signs of naphtha were discovered in white layers of tertiary formation.

The discovery of naphtha springs at once attracted a number of people to the spot and considerable areas were occupied in the immediate neighbourhood and at a distance away where the geological conditions are the same as at Bujavitza. Special reference in this connection can be made to traces found in the immediate neighbourhood in Croatia, at Medjumuruju and in Slovenia. All the indication in these parts are strongly suggestive of naphtha, and its presence is established under identical geological conditions.

In Northern Bosnia there are also plenty of indications along the right bank of the Sava, where the presence of naphtha is to be expected in view of its appearance at Bujavitza, which belongs to the same basin, with similar geological conditions.

Borings in the Banat plain, the side of which slopes towards the Carpathians and which has between the Danube the towns of Bazjash, Vrshatz and Veliki Bechkerek, have established the existence of strata of the older tertiary period, although under more recent geological formations, corresponding to those in which naphtha has been found in neighbouring districts belonging to the same Panonian basin. Deep borings have also discovered indications of the presence of naphtha in the south-eastern part of the one time Panonian lake, which in all probability flowed out through the Danube Valley.

To turn now to other parts of Yugoslavia in which naphtha is also found. Many foreign and native experts in studying geological conditions and mountain formations have found indications suggesting naphtha in all parts of Yugoslavia, in Bosnia, Montenegro, Dalmatia and Serbia. The fact, well known for some decades, that naphtha has been discovered at Selenica in the neighbourhood of Elbasan in Albania, led mining experts to suppose that there must be other petroleum fields in the Balkans. The recent discovery of naphtha in Montenegro, coming on the top of the verification of the fields in northern Yugoslavia at Bujavitza tends to confirm this opinion. Experts have begun the study of these petroleum fields by seeking similarities in geological age and other geological conditions. The first results were obtained in Montenegro on the coast round Bar (Antivari), where the presence of naphtha was recognised in a narrow zone stretching north-west to south-east for a distance of about 30 kilometres. This field may be linked with the appearance of naphtha in southern Dalmatia round Budva, south of Kotor. Only here it seems that the naphtha is present in older geological beds of pre-tertiary period.

In Serbia districts where the presence of naphtha might be expected are chiefly found in the north, in the angle between the rivers Sava and Drina in the neighbourhood of the towns of Valyevo and Loznitza. Attention was first attracted to this region by the enormous beds of shale

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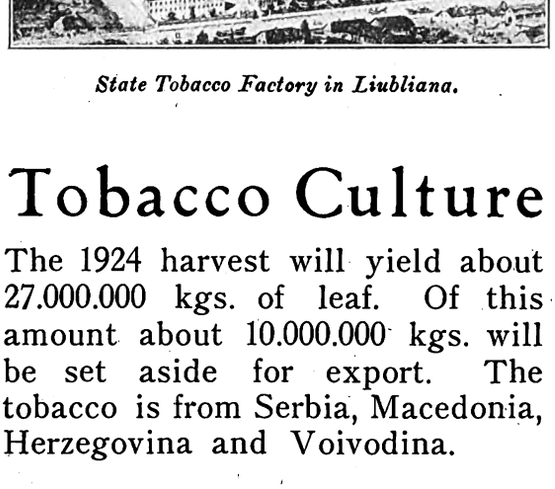
State Monopoly Administration of the Kingdom of Serbs Croats & Slovenes



State Tobacco Factory in Liubliana.

Tobacco Culture

The 1924 harvest will yield about 27.000.000 kgs. of leaf. Of this amount about 10.000.000 kgs. will be set aside for export. The tobacco is from Serbia, Macedonia, Herzegovina and Voivodina.

Fermentation and preparation of the crop will be completed in October, when negotiations for sale will begin.

All information can be obtained from:—

The State Monopoly Administration, — BELGRADE —

and cementitious lias through which run a few strata of fissile paraffin schists, very rich in paraffin. In these tertiary beds, which belong to the oolitic period, especially those round Valyevo and Loznitza, mineral salts, brought by water from between the strata of paraffin deposits, are found on the part under Vidan. Here, moreover, there are characteristic remains of fossil plants and animals —*Fucoida Ostre*—and frequent traces of fresh-water fish —*Lensiscus* and *Gobius*—a few petrified colonies of micro-organic origin have also been observed. We may further point out that schist strata often alternate with sandstone. It is particularly interesting to observe the frequent appearance of gaseous bubbles in running and stagnant water in these districts; e.g., at Valyevo itself, at Paune and Toplitza, which are strongly suggestive of hydrocarbon compounds.

There is no doubt that it is of practical importance to know that the above-mentioned macro- and micro-organisms play an important part in the bitumisation of paraffin schists.

In view of these few facts alone which we have quoted, the presence of naphtha can be assumed in this part of Serbia. We have similar geological conditions in the neighbourhood of Vranya, to the south, at a place called Bushtrenya, where mineral tars are found on the surface. There is also a possibility of similar phenomena in the tertiary strata in the western Morava.

Unfortunately it has to be admitted that very little has been done in Serbia in this highly interesting territory, and that not a single deep boring has yet been made. The explanation must be sought in the lack of the necessary capital, but it may confidently be expected that before long the presence of these deposits both here and elsewhere will attract attention and that their exploitation will follow as a matter of course.

Some readers will doubtless be interested to know in broad outline the legislation relating to the working of subterranean oils and bitumens.

Mining Legislation.

The question of investigating and working these kinds of bitumens is definitely regulated by the Act of 1922. Before that date the need for a special law had not arisen. The main provisions of this Law relating to the investigation and working of mineral oils, gasses and bitumens are as follows:—

Art. 2. The Minister of Mines and Forests grants concessions for exploring and working the aforesaid products to persons and companies of Yugoslav origin.

Art. 3. These concessions for prospecting and working are granted for an area of eight square kilometres (3 square miles), where at most 100 such areas may be included in one concession so long as they form a whole.

Art. 4. Concessions for investigating are for a maximum period of five years, on condition that the investigator in the course of from one year to a year and a half completes the preliminary examination and begins the work of investigation. During the succeeding years the investigator is bound to continue the work without interruption.

By Art. 5. Four hundred dinars shall be paid in advance to the State Treasury for every area of eight square kilometres under investigation.

Art 6. Concessions for investigations and working are given by the Minister of Mines and Forests by special agreement in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

Art 10. Fifty hectares (123½ acres) will be granted for working purposes on the completion of an examination, and for sinking a bore hole, at which time according to Art. 13 twenty dinars shall be paid in advance for every hectare.

Art. 14. Besides the above-mentioned payments, the exploiter shall return 25 per cent. of his net profits to the State. If the exploiter is a limited company the State claims 25 per cent. of all fully paid shares, which percentage shall be guaranteed to the State in the event of the company's capital being increased.

Concessions for exploitations last fifty years.

Dragutin P. Stepanovitch.

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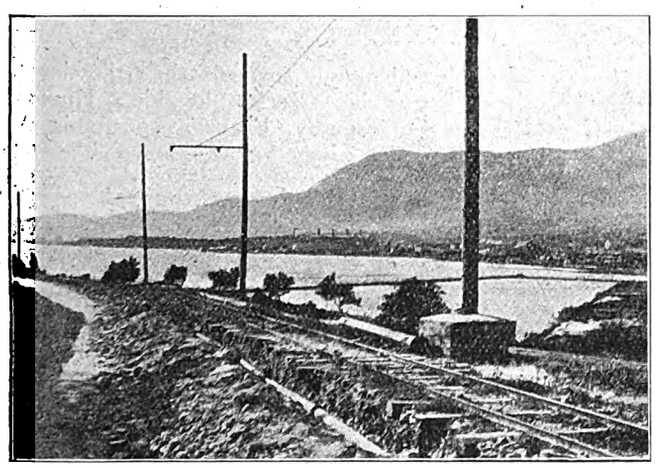
YUGOSLAV MARITIME POLICY.

Continued from p.150 (July 30).

On a coast which is, in a straight line, 700 kilometres (935 miles) in length, Yugoslavia possesses more than a hundred larger or smaller ports, and thus is in this respect one of the richest countries of the world. Only four of these ports, however, have to be considered as concerned with international traffic; these are Split (Spalato), Gruz-Dubrovnik (Ragusa), Shibenik (Sebenico) and Bakar. Yugoslav statistics still show the old harbour at Split as separate from the new industrial port of Vranyitz and the small harbour of Dubrovnik as separate from from that of Gruz. As soon as the Kotor (Cattaro) estuary is linked up with Serbia, it also will begin, as the fifth port, to take an active part in international trade. At present, however, it is of purely local importance.

Of the total number of incoming and outgoing ships in round figures, 30,000 out of 40,000 in 1921 and 43,000 out of 50,000 in 1922, came from and were destined for home ports, the remaining 10,000 in 1921 and 7,000 in 1922 came from and went to foreign ports. It should, however, be noted, as the number of ships does not matter much when compared with their tonnage, that by far the greater bulk of Yugoslavia's maritime traffic is from abroad.

There are practically no regular passenger services between Yugoslavia and foreign countries, with the single exception of Italy. The steamers employed for this Italian service belong to Italian and Yugoslav companies, and ply only in the Adriatic.



Cement Factories at Split (Spalato).

Connection with other foreign countries is supplied by occasional sailings, arranged for according to need. As the more expensive goods can also be sent by land, the sea routes serve only for bulky articles which, because of their low value per unit of bulk, need cheap transport.

The chief article imported is coal for cement factories, steamship companies, nitrogen factories and for the interior of the country; all other imports come in much smaller quantities. The articles exported include wood (timber), bauxite, cement, carbide, calcium cyanide, (artificial manure), horses and other live-stock.

On account of its cement industry Split is connected by a regular fortnightly service with the Far East and with South America, and by a far more frequent service with countries on the Mediterranean littoral. The ships on these services range from 4,000-8,000 tons.

The 40,000 ships using Yugoslav ports in 1921 included 6,800 sailing vessels and 33,500 steamers of a total tonnage of 5,500,000 tons (sailing ships 280,000 tons) with 7,000,000 tons capacity. Of these 35,000 or 88 per cent. flew the Yugoslav flag, representing 4,000,000 tons or 72 per cent. of the total tonnage. In 1922, 44,000 vessels, 88 per cent., representing almost 5,000,000 tons (71 per cent.) carried the Yugoslav flag. The Italian flag claimed 2,230 sailing vessels (one third of the total number) and 3,400 steamers with a total tonnage of 1,300,000 registered tons, or 24 per cent., in 1921, and 6,800 ships with 1,920,000 tons (27 per cent. in 1922). Great Britain, the third on the list, had in 1921 only 27 ships with a tonnage of 60,000, and in 1922 44 ships of 81,000 tons. After the British come other countries with unimportant amounts of tonnage, Germany, Greece, U.S.A., Brazil, Holland, Turkey, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Roumania, Russia, Sweden and Egypt.

The effect of the War was still felt both in 1921 and 1922. In the last two years the complete statistics, when issued will show a considerable improvement; but it will not be until the opening of the new Lika Line connecting Split with Belgrade, Zagreb and Central Europe (to which reference was made in the last issue of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA) has had time to exert its influence on Yugoslav trade that Yugoslavia will be begin to take her proper place among maritime nations.

YUGOSLAV EXPORTS.

The different parts of the Kingdom having been depleted of domestic products during the World War, Yugoslavia was forced, at the very beginning of its existence (December 1, 1918) to import even foodstuffs. To help on the reconstruction of the country and to supply the needs of her people during the first two years after the War, Yugoslavia favoured imports and put obstacles in the way of exports. In proportion as the reconstruction of the country progressed and the railway system was improved, the quantity of exports grew. However, the years 1921 and 1922 were not very favourable, and it was impossible to bring exports up to their normal level. It was not until the year 1923 that Yugoslav exports showed a notable improvement, thanks to a better harvest, to the reduction of the export duties, and to the improvement of railway communications. At last, in 1924, the country succeeded in obtaining a favourable balance of trade.

I.—RELATION TO IMPORTS.

The foreign trade of Yugoslavia has followed the course indicated below.

In millions of gold dinars (Swiss francs)

	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924
Imports ...	712.2	746.9	538.1	452.3	493.4	578.5
Exports ...	164.0	284.6	321.2	259.2	477.9	671.2

The percentage relationship between exports and imports was as follows:

1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924
23.03	38.10	59.69	57.29	96.86	116.02

II.—ARTICLES OF EXPORT.

The principal articles exported during the last three years were as follows:

Name	Unit	1922	1923	1924
			Quantities	
Wood: (a) for building purposes	Tons	588,284	844,597	1,046,292
(b) for fuel	,,	112,750	351,903	508,797
Cereals: (a) Wheat	,,	24,576	96,458	172,401
(b) Other cereals ...	,,	5,122	3,644	36,499
Oxen, alive	Head	105,385	106,513	168,100
Eggs	Tons	13,382	17,241	20,129
Maize	,,	11,464	102,158	245,146
Meats: (a) Fresh	,,	16,901	19,406	17,183
(b) Meat products ...	,,	3,972	2,675	2,013
Copper	,,	5,279	5,748	7,605
Wheat flour	,,	22,717	38,241	59,075
Live pigs	Head	117,401	140,441	86,183
Live horses	,,	26,730	52,479	55,193
Cement	Tons	183,583	235,648	341,628
Prunes	,,	40,443	66,392	19,940
Hemp	,,	7,743	5,615	6,975
Beans	,,	7,452	12,813	32,259
Skins of wild animals	,,	129	172	201
Iron ore	,,	18,247	199,428	264,789
Lead in sheets	,,	5,386	7,675	9,370
Kashkaval cheese	,,	1,757	3,129	2,898
Small live stock	Head	173,818	387,452	387,020
Hops	Tons	876	2,303	1,278
Calcium carbide	,,	12,519	15,124	18,105
Charcoal	,,	34,069	34,887	57,691
Brown coal	,,	86,009	24,760	143,320
Lamb and goat skin	,,	1,083	1,824	1,676
Wood products	,,	34,177	19,352	9,018
Tanning extracts	,,	9,438	11,087	11,616
Fresh fruits	,,	2,129	23,334	11,659
Ammoniate of soda	,,		14,902	19,386
Herbs crushed and uncrushed	,,	2,640	2,523	2,412
Live poultry	,,	1,890	1,906	1,631
Various	,,	898,722	747,307	743,897
		2,213,881	3,025,914	3,915,700

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The value of these articles in millions of Paper dinars was as follows:

Name	1922. Value.	1922. Percentage of Total	1923. Value.	1923. Percentage of Total	1924. Value.	1924. Percentage of Total
Wood: (a) For building	520.1	14.1	1,286.2	15.9	1,620.2	16.9
(b) Fuel	35.9	1.0	151.3	1.9	166.6	1.8
Cereals (a) Wheat	116.5	3.2	381.5	4.7	683.6	7.2
(b) Other cereals	16.2	0.4	9.8	0.1	121.1	1.3
Live oxen	338.8	9.1	845.9	10.5	745.3	7.8
Eggs	321.2	8.7	530.9	6.6	618.6	6.5
Maize	42.8	1.2	333.7	4.2	585.2	6.1
Meat: (a) Fresh	242.3	6.6	450.3	5.6	452.9	4.8
(b) Meat products	80.3	3.2	87.9	1.1	85.5	0.9
Copper	122.9	3.3	172.4	2.1	346.5	3.6
Wheat flour	136.3	3.7	233.2	2.9	343.1	3.6
Live pigs	220.5	6.0	448.1	5.6	271.4	2.8
Live horses	111.4	3.0	207.9	2.6	231.7	2.4
Cement	72.2	2.0	143.2	1.8	189.4	1.9
Prunes	222.9	6.0	344.6	4.3	179.1	1.9
Hemp	107.2	2.9	93.5	1.2	158.2	1.7
Beans	26.3	0.7	77.6	0.9	155.7	1.6
Skins of wild animals	18.8	0.5	59.5	0.7	154.5	1.6
Iron ore	4.6	0.1	59.9	0.8	142.5	1.5
Lead in sheets	29.5	0.8	95.4	1.2	122.8	1.3
Kashkaval cheese	48.9	1.3	117.5	1.6	108.1	1.1
Small livestock	35.3	1.0	100.2	1.3	100.1	1.1
Hops	19.5	0.5	118.1	1.5	91.4	0.9
Calcium carbide	31.6	0.9	40.4	0.5	81.4	0.9
Charcoal	25.1	0.7	52.4	0.7	77.7	0.8
Brown coal	16.9	0.5	19.6	0.1	75.8	0.8
Lamb and goat skins	24.5	0.7	79.9	0.9	72.9	0.8
Wood products	43.9	1.2	46.5	0.6	65.1	0.7
Tanning extracts	20.8	0.5	52.1	0.7	63.5	0.7
Fresh fruit	9.8	0.2	82.4	1.0	61.1	0.6
Ammoniate of soda	—	—	26.2	0.3	51.2	0.5
Herbs, powdered and unpowdered	36.2	0.9	33.9	0.4	46.9	0.5
Poultry	23.6	0.6	39.3	0.5	42.2	0.5
Sundry	573.3	15.5	1,236.5	15.2	1,224.4	12.9
	3,691.1	100.0	8,048.8	100.0	9,538.0	100.0

It will be noticed that Yugoslav exports consist primarily in agricultural products, then in mining and industrial products. Industry in the country is still in its infancy, and the Kingdom, accordingly, has to import mainly industrial products.

III.—DESTINATION OF PRODUCTS.

Exports are directed mainly towards the following ten countries: Italy, Austria, Czecho-Slovakia, Hungary, Greece, Switzerland, Germany, France, Roumania, and Great Britain. The list given below shows the total

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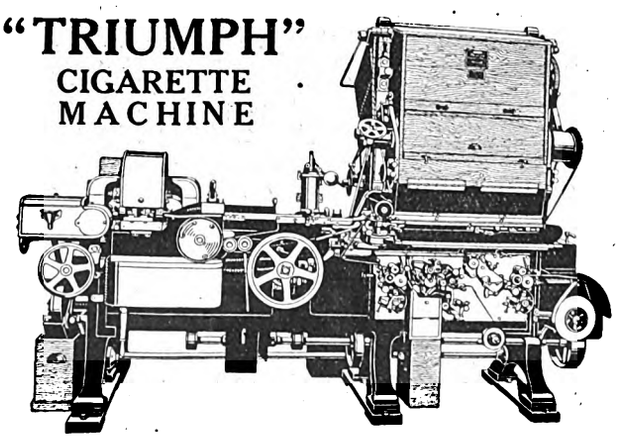

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Manufacturers, Designers and Patentees of Tobacco and Cigarette Making Machinery,

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shares of these countries in Yugoslav exports and the principal articles exported during 1924.

ITALY.—Total, 2,757.3 millions of dinars (28.91 per cent. of the total exports).

	Millions of dinars
Building wood	1,171.1
Wood for fuel	78.2
Live cattle	339.9
Live horses	109.6
Fresh meat	66.8
Meat products	40.9
Beans	89.8
Eggs	65.8

AUSTRIA.—Total, 2,332.9 millions of dinars (24.46 per cent of the total exports).

	Millions of dinars
Fresh meat	328.8
Meat products	16.3
Maize	285.9
Live cattle	223.2
Eggs	188.4
Live pigs	172.1
Wheat flour	167.9

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.—Total, 943.7 millions of dinars (8.89 per cent. of the total exports).

	Millions of dinars
Cereals: (a) Wheat	177.5
(b) Other cereals	7.0
Maize	146.2
Wheat flour	119.6
Live pigs	87.6
Hops	45.8
Ammoniate of soda	36.5

HUNGARY.—Total, 756.1 millions of dinars (7.93 per cent. of the total exports).

	Millions of dinars
Building wood	91.1
Wood for fuel	70.9
Wheat	140.6
Other cereals	5.2
Iron ore	82.5
Brown coal	35.4
Hemp	33.6
Wheat flour	22.4

GREECE.—Total, 676.2 millions of dinars (7.09 per cent. of the total exports).

Wheat	42.4
Other cereals	59.1
Live cattle	94.8
Lesser livestock	83.2
Building woods	52.7
Wood for fuel	3.6
Live horses	49.3
Kashkaval	35.9

SWITZERLAND.—Total, 389.5 millions of dinars (.08 per cent. of the total exports).

	Millions of dinars
Eggs	271.9
Prunes	6.8
Calcium carbide	3.8
Cyanide	4.2
Maize	3.0
Offals	2.4

GERMANY.—Total, 338.9 millions of dinars 4.08 per cent. of the total exports).

	Millions of dinars
Copper	89.1
Eggs	51.9
Prunes	36.1
Hemp	34.3
Wild animal skins	29.6
Hops	24.4

FRANCE.—Total, 362.9 millions of dinars (3.8 per cent. of the total exports).

	Millions of dinars
Copper	233.9
Building wood	82.1
Lamb and kid skins	5.6
Wood products	4.9
Methylated spirits	3.8
Hemp	3.4

ROUMANIA.—Total, 252.6 millions of dinars (3.65 per cent. of the total exports).

	Millions of dinars
Wheat	94.5
Other cereals	11.8
Maize	48.9
Copper	22.6
Beans	13.5
Iron ore	11.1
Cigarette paper	4.6

GREAT BRITAIN.—Total, 131.5 millions of dinars (1.38 per cent. of the total exports).

	Millions of dinars
Building wood	43.8
Cement	19.5
Calcium carbide	17.1
Tannin	9.6
Eggs	6.7
Maize	5.9

The most natural distribution of exports among the different countries of destination, as well as that of imports among producing countries, will not be developed until after the construction of the Adriatic Railway, and when, by an arrangement with Greece, the exporting of goods through Salonika to the South is secured.

At the present moment central Yugoslavia and southern Serbia have no favourable and secure routes for the transport of their exports and imports. For this reason exports are at the present directed mainly towards the north-west and north by the railway lines leading in that direction and by the Danube.

J. P.

EXPORT TARIFFS.

The following changes were made in the tariff on goods for export under an Order, No. 34,410, dated July 14, 1925:

Tariff No. Goods	Duty: Dinars
1. Cereals:	
(a) Wheat	1.—
(b) Rye	0.50
(c) Maize	0.50
(d) Oats	0.20
(e) Barley	0.50

(Continued on page 266.)

THE NATIONAL BANK OF THE S.H.S KINGDOM.

August 8th, 1925

ASSETS		
Cash—		
Gold	73,704,836 —	
Silver	17,481,890 —	
Foreign Bank Notes	4,743,216 —	
At Call in Foreign Countries	399,658,403 —	
		495,088,345 —
Portfolio Bills	945,182,783 —	
Advances on Securities	187,347,382 —	
		1,132,530,166 —
Account for the Conversion of Crown Bank Notes		1,186,867,907 —
Account of the Prov. Exchange		366,784,927 —
Advances to the State—		
Treasury Bonds discounted for Budgetary purposes	966,355,034 —	
Extraordinary advances guaranteed by Treasury Bonds	2,000,000,000 —	
		2,966,355,034 —
State Domains—		
For cover of Bank Notes issued for conversion of Crown Notes		2,138,377,163 —
Sundries		978,909,160 —
		9,264,412,702 —
LIABILITIES.		
Capital — Dinars 50,000,000 in gold of which paid up		27,982,900 —
Legal Reserve		6,262,708 —
Bank Notes in Circulation		5,781,734,830 —
Account of the Prov. Exchange		366,784,927 —
Government's Accounts—		
Sundry Accounts		16,790,798 —
Sundry Obligations—		
Current Accounts	719,710,310	
Special Accounts	132,426,636	
		852,136,946 —
Account of the State Domains		2,138,377,163 —
Agio for the purchase of gold for capital and funds		74,342,430 —
Sundry Accounts		
		9,264,412,702 —

Under the heading "Cash" a gold dinar is reckoned as a dinar, an English pound as 25 dinars, a dollar as 5 dinars, an Italian lira as one dinar, a Swiss or French franc as a dinar, a coined silver dinar as one dinar, etc.

Discount rate: 6 per cent. Loans on securities: 8 per cent.

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2.	Dried beans	1.—
3.	Hay of all kinds	Free
4.	Sugar beet, fresh or dried	2.—
5.	Dried plums, not stoved	0.20
6.	Opium	65.—
7.	Horses and mares:	
	(a) Over three years (per head)	8.—
	(b) Three years old or less (per head) ...	4.—
	(c) Horses for slaughter, slaughtered horses not skinned (per head)	2.—

Note 1.—The export of pure-bred horses of English or Arab blood is only allowed with the previous permission of the Ministry of Agriculture and Waters.

Note 2.—Horses are considered as coming under heading (c) when they are of no use for any other purposes. The slaughter of these horses must be carried out under the supervision of the State veterinary surgeon.

8.	Sheep and goats alive, or, if dead, must be unskinned:	
	(a) Sheep, ewes and lambs	1.50
	(b) Goats and kids	1.—
9.	Horned cattle, buffaloes and oxen, alive or dead, but not skinned, as the exporter chooses:	
	either (a), per 100 kgs.	1.50
	or (b), per head	6.—
10.	Pigs: (a) Live—	
	(1) Up to 70 kgs., each	30.—
	(2) Over 70 kgs., either per 100 kgs. ...	9.—
	or per head	8.—
	as the exporter chooses.	
	(b) Dead, whole or in halves, per 100 kgs.	4.—
	(c) Fresh or salted meat	2.—
11.	Poultry:	
	(a) Alive	8.—
	(b) Dead	4.—
12.	Skins of domestic and wild animals, raw, salted, limed or dried, with or without hair:	
	(a) of horned animals, buffaloes, and oxen	
	(1) Raw salted or limed	60.—
	(2) Dried	65.—
	(b) Sheep and goat skins	16.50
	(c) Lamb and kid skins	16.50
	(d) Horse and pig skins	16.50
	(e) Skins of wild animals:	
	(1) Field-mouse and mole skins ...	50.—
	(2) Other wild animals, rabbits, etc.	150.—
14.	Animal hairs:	
	(a) Sheep's wool	80.—
	(b) Horse hair, mane and tail, tails of cattle, hare fur, and big bristles ...	120.—
15.	Feathers	8.—
16.	Bones and horns:	
	(a) Cattle horns	16.—
	(b) Bones with or without marrow ...	8.—
17.	Hemp ... ... —	Free

Note.—Hemp can only be exported through the Customs Houses of Subotitza, Bezdan, Maribor, Rakek, Jesenitze, Koprivnitza, Osijek, and the chief Adriatic ports.

18.	Flax stalks	4.—
19.	Oil-bearing fruit and seeds	8.—
20.	Scrap iron	8.—
21.	Old copper, zinc, tin, and their alloys ...	40.—
22.	Rubber waste	16.—
23.	(a) Rags, textile waste, waste paper:	
	(1) Unsorted	50.—
	(2) Sorted—(aa) woollen	1.60
	(bb) cotton, flax, hemp, and others	16.—
	(b) Waste paper	8.—
24.	Building wood: (a) Unworked; just cut or sawn:	
	(1) Chestnut, except for poles less than 4 cms. in average diameter	2.50
	(2) Oak, from 20-30 cms. in average diameter	0.75
	(3) Oak walnut, sycamore, hornbeam, ash, elm, of over 30 cms. average diameter	0.40
	(4) Coniferous trees of all kinds of over 20 cms. average diameter	1.25
	(b) Shaped or sawn, all sizes:	
	(1) Chestnut	4.—
	(2) Oak sleepers	0.60
	(3) Posts and beams of oak	0.60
25.	Factory equipment and spare parts, machines, apparatus, boilers, transmissions, safety bands, reservoirs, etc., of foreign make	8.—

Note.—The articles enumerated in Category 25 of the new tariff are exempted from Customs duty; they can be exported with the special permission of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of Finance.

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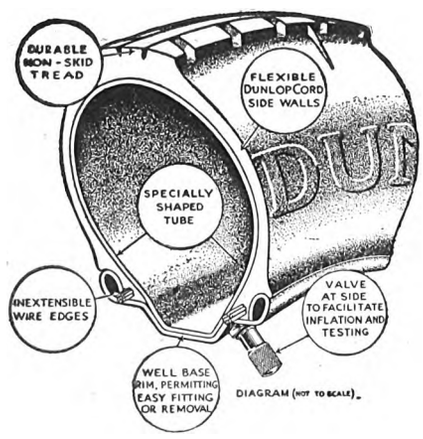
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British Consular Reports

III.—SYRIA.

In a most interesting report which has just been issued on the "Trade, Industry, and Finance of Syria," Mr. H. E. Satow, O.B.E., H.M. Consul-General at Beyrout, deals with the position in the area under the French mandate for the two years down to April last. He points out that, while changes are to be recorded, they are, naturally, not far-reaching, and there are indications that the country is settling down to more normal conditions, and that it may later on enjoy a certain, even if modest, prosperity. We give the following extracts:—

Vigorous efforts, rendered more fruitful by the restoration of public order and the improvement of communications, are being made to win prosperity for the country by the development of a tourist-traffic and the encouragement of summer visitors In this direction the Lebanon especially has distinct possibilities.

As regards Beyrout, which is still the main commercial centre of the country, matters have now reached the point where merchants, freed from the burden of post-armistice stocks, can trade and order on the basis of actual requirements. The adverse trade balance continues, but it is an apparently normal phenomenon in the life of the country, and is reduced by invisible exports, the amount of which cannot easily be computed.

Even when the fall in the franc is taken into consideration, import and export statistics show grounds for optimism in foreign trade conditions. Imports into Beyrout in 1922, 1923, and 1924 respectively amounted to Frs. 381 millions, Frs. 352 millions, and Frs. 456 millions. Reduced to sterling at average rates, these figures become £6.9, £4.7, and £5.4 millions. The year 1924 is thus still below 1922, which was again considerably below 1921, but the sterling values are not exactly true for comparison purposes, as many of the imports concerned come from countries of depreciated exchange. The total imports rose from Frs. 560 millions in 1923 to Frs. 796 millions in 1924. Exports have also increased to Frs. 247 millions in 1923 and Frs. 340 millions in 1924.

The statistics seem to show that Syria, as far as the foreign trader is concerned, is recovering from the depression of 1922 which followed the speculation of 1921. Hopefulness seems to be common in business circles, where it is felt that conditions have become more normal during the last two years. The country has settled down to its new size, and commerce, though restricted, is conducted on sounder lines than in the early days of the occupation.

Imports.

Great Britain continues to be the principal supplier of cotton manufactures, madapolams, cabots, oxfords, and prints, but British goods are hard pressed by French and Italian competitors, especially the latter. Greys and white shirtings from Japan also sell well. The exchange has, no doubt, worked against the United Kingdom, but Italian expansion has also been favoured by good credit terms and by attractiveness and variety in colour and design, so that Italian prints and cotton flannels are in high favour for peasant costumes.

Great Britain before the war supplied Syria with large quantities of cotton yarn, but now the greater part of the yarn imported comes from India, Japan, and Italy. Cheapness and the good terms of payment offered seem to be the reasons for this change.

Considerable quantities of cheap cotton or mixture underwear from Italy have come on to the market, although Great Britain remains the provider of the higher grade woollen article. In hosiery, France is the chief supplier, Italy, Spain, and Japan contributing the cheaper varieties. Chemnitz hosiery has lost ground since the discriminatory tax was instituted against Germany.

In woollen manufactures Great Britain supplies the high-grade cloth, especially for men's suitings. In the medium grades France has the market, her articles being good and durable. Czecho-Slovakia returned to the market in 1924. She enjoyed considerable favour in Syria prior to the war, and the quality and cheapness of her goods will help her to regain it.

Practically all the silk imported comes from France, small quantities being contributed from Italy and Japan German imports of paper of all kinds have been hindered by the new tariff, and Czecho-Slovakia tends to take her place. Drugs come chiefly from Germany and France, although the imports of made-up medicines from Great Britain are considerable. About 250 tons of Marseilles soap reached Beyrout in 1924. It is said almosts to have ousted other brands. American toilet soap is common. In perfumery, toilet goods, and articles of fashion, France, as is perhaps natural, predominates.

The building trade has been active recently in Syria, and building materials are an important item of import. Wood comes in large quantities from the Black Sea and the Adriatic. Girders, sheet iron, iron bars and pipes are obtained principally from Belgium. France contributes most of the lead required, while much of the zinc comes from Germany, whose agents have been able to allow 15 per cent. off their prices in order to counterbalance the preferential tariff against them. Galvanised sheets are brought from Great Britain.

Damascus has made increasing use lately for the manufacture of native clothing of artificial silk furnished by Belgium, the United Kingdom, and Italy. In machinery a moderate quantity of tractors, hand ploughs and pumps have been supplied by the United Kingdom, which has also sent 60 motors varying from 10 to 60 h.p. During 1924 the motor-car market was busy. Six hundred Fords are said to have been imported in that period, 150 cars of other American makes, and 50 French and Italian cars. French cars are making a determined effort to enter this trade, which is a promising one, and one in which, unfortunately, British cars have so far made no appearance. Wood for fuel is dear, and the imports of coal have increased. It is said that the railways in 1924 consumed 32,000 tons of coal, while 19,000 tons were imported for other purposes.

The 30 per cent. tariff on German goods has had a marked effect, German imports falling from Frs. 29 millions in 1922 to Frs. 15 millions in 1924. As has been indicated above, however, some German manufacturers are making their prices competitive by offering clients a special reduction of 15 per cent. to counteract the increased duty. In this way a recent German estimate for a water-power installation was the cheapest made.

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Exports.

The chief countries to which Syria exports goods (1924 figures) are, in order of importance:—Turkey, Palestine, France, Egypt, United States of America and Transjordania. The position of Turkey and Palestine at the head of the list in the place of France is striking. Aleppo exports wool, cotton, live-stock, hides, cereals, pistachio nuts, and other natural products. Damascus sends out wool, mainly to America in 1923, but with greater export to Europe in 1924; apricot seeds, dried apricots and apricot paste, mainly to Egypt, skins (90 per cent. to Czecho-Slovakia); guts, which are in increased demand in Central Europe, and liquorice. A small quantity of Damascus hemp was recently exported to Germany. Beyrout exports are fruit and vegetables, wool, skins, nuts, and miscellaneous provisions.

British Trade.

The imports from Great Britain amounted in value to Frs. 139,375,411 in 1924, the exports to Great Britain were valued at Frs. 12,934,609. The United Kingdom thus remains Syria's chief supplier, with between one-fifth and one-sixth of the total imports, but her goods are not holding their own against French, Italian, and Belgian competition. The key to the whole position lies largely in the exchange. British commercial prestige remains great. British goods have been imported regularly for a hundred years, and are known to be solid and reliable. British business methods, too, are respected. The drawback is that for a country like Syria they are often too rigorous. German firms have of late given little or no credit, but although a few British firms still give the same to old connections in Beyrout, they generally require cash or a percentage with order. A serious effort will have to be made if, in the face of very keen competition, the United Kingdom is to keep to the front. Frequent visits of manufacturers' representatives to study the requirements and tastes of the country, activity in appointing local agents and of following up opportunities, above all the adjustment of prices and qualities in order to compete with French, Belgian, and Italian goods, these are necessities in the advancement of British trade with Syria.

Transit Trade.

It has been the consistent endeavour of the French authorities to bring back to the middlemen of Beyrout, Aleppo, and Damascus this lucrative trade, so suited to their genius, which is not a transit trade in the true sense of the word, inasmuch as the *modus operandi* is to buy at a profit and to sell at a greater. With this purpose in view, conventions have been signed with Palestine and Transjordania for the mutual refund of duties paid on goods re-exported, and with Iraq in respect of goods passing in transit through either Syria or Iraq or through both countries in the case of articles of Persian origin or destination. In this connection should be mentioned the rivalry of the ports of Beyrout and Haifa, and the fact that imports to Syria via Haifa dropped from £2.347,600 in 1922 to £E.136,138 in 1924. The transit convention with Iraq is the sequel to the opening of the desert route to Baghdad, by which it is hoped that a considerable quantity of light and valuable articles, particularly French silks, toilet necessities, etc., will be directed towards Iraq and Persia.

Some measure of success has attended this attempt at development. Re-exports amounted in value to Frs. 78 millions in 1923 and to 98 millions in 1924. Aleppo, which before the war was the entrepôt for a large area of Eastern Anatolia which, by the Angora Agreement and the Treaty of Lausanne, has reverted to Turkey, has regained some of its trade, despite difficulties due largely to political considerations. In spite of the fact that the agreement concluded with Turkey is not fully working, progress has been made, as the export figures show, and trade is slowly finding its inevitable channels. At the moment of writing (April, 1925), the Kurdish revolt has again caused a setback.

It is also noticeable that Damascus has in the last two years obtained a hold on the trade of Transjordania and Northern Palestine, and the statistics substantiate this. The Syrian merchant benefits by superior organisation, and apparently imports in greater quantities and sells cheaper than his Palestinian counterpart. Damascus is, further, a centre upon which southern buyers draw for many peculiarly native articles which the southern regions have always consumed and still require, and this intercourse is tending to develop Damascus as a centre not only for local produce but for foreign imported goods as well.

Generally speaking, therefore, there is promise in the future of the transit and re-export trade, although the signs of growth are not yet definite. The next few years will show whether it is even in new conditions possible for Syria to become a middleman for Palestine and Asia Minor, and whether geographical conditions will allow such an expansion of commerce with Baghdad as is hoped for.

Business Methods.

Under the Mandate, as is to be expected, business connections with France are increasing. English, on the other hand, is widely known, and many firms, especially in Beyrout, either correspond or hold agencies for British firms. Few firms, however, except the larger ones dealing in textiles, are organised for direct relations with the United Kingdom. In cotton goods business is practically in the hands of "two-way" firms with a buying end in Manchester and a selling end here. Petroleum, motor spirit, etc., are also handled by "two-way" firms, but in this case the Syrian end consists of a special representative of the European or American corporation employing as his distributors a wide network of local native agents. During 1924 the Asiatic Petroleum Company has in this way established an independent branch in Beyrout.

(To be Concluded.)

IMPORTS & EXPORTS

The financing of the world's commerce has become one of the most intricate of machines ever constructed, and under the banker's hands lie all the cogs and controls necessary for its efficient running. It is of the utmost importance that the merchant should clearly understand the working of its mechanism in order that he may make the fullest use of the bank's facilities, not only for his personal benefit, but also for the increased commercial prosperity of the country. To assist its customers, the Westminster Bank has now prepared a booklet explaining the many ways in which the commercial man may use the bank for the furtherance of his business, and how he should proceed so as to take the utmost advantage of interest, rebate, discount, rates of exchange, etc., and combine with progress and enterprise the necessary security and caution.

Copies will be issued on application to the Secretary, Head Office, Westminster Bank Limited

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THE EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company in their report for the week ended August 13, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has been fairly active but prices have been weaker; the net changes on the week are the following: Sakellaridis 1.12 dollars down for November, 0.90 dollars down for January, 0.62 dollars down for March; Ashmouni 0.35 dollars down for August, 0.36 dollars down for October, 0.35 dollars down for December. This week's drop may be attributed to the weakness of New York and to the continued poorness of the demand from abroad for either prompt or new crop shipments. Last Saturday the following figures on the American crop were published: Condition 65.6, Estimated yield B/s 13,566,000 against 70.4 and 13,588,000 a fortnight ago. These figures were generally interpreted as bearish and provoked some speculative sales. Commercial houses have operated very little in the market, spinners interest in purchases being still almost nil. At the August 2 tender Crs. 1,750 dockets were issued. New Crop Upper Egyptian cotton has appeared on the market but contrary to past years' experience a heavy sacrifice on premiums had to be made in order to dispose of this cotton. This, naturally, has had a rather depressing effect on the Ashmouni Futures market. The week's receipts amount to Crs. 898 against exports Crs. 36,960; the stock stands at Crs. 329,381.

Spot: We have had another week of dull markets at Minet el Bassel. Demand from abroad continues poor and sales amount to about B/s 3,000 of which we estimate B/s 1,300 Sakel, B/s 1,700 Uppers and a few bales of Brown and Pilion. The first lots of new crop Uppers have made their appearance on the market but have not met with a ready demand and only part of them have been sold. They are very nice class cotton of fair staple but are no index to the quality of the Uppers crop.

Sakellarides: continues in very moderate demand. Such business as there is continues to be for F.G.F. and below, practically no interest being shown in the better grades. Spot parities are steady and without much change for the medium and lower grades but have eased appreciably for the better styles.

Ashmouni and Zagora: have been in fair request. A moderate business has been done, principally in the low and medium qualities. Spot parities have eased a lot for good and better, no doubt due to the imminent and actual new crop arrivals; for the medium qualities they are without change, but for the lower styles they have hardened somewhat.

Brown and Pilion: have met with only a retail demand. Spot quotations are easier for Good and better and without much change for the other grades.

White: is neglected and no business is reported. Spot parities are quoted much cheaper than last week.

Crop 1925: The rather favourable climatic conditions of the last few weeks coupled with a regular water supply have had good effects on the progress of the crop. There is nothing special to report on the attack of the pink boll worm which continues to be about normal. Picking has commenced on a restricted scale in Upper Egypt.

H.M. Consul-General at Beyrout reports that, under a recent Decree, the importation into Syria and Lebanon of dutiable goods by letter post is permitted by the local postal administration, provided that the packages bear a special green label, D3 or D5, as provided for by the Universal Postal Union, and are accompanied by a Customs declaration. The importation by letter post of goods having a commercial value which do not bear such a label is forbidden, as is also the importation by post as "samples without value" of goods which have a commercial value. The only samples admitted are those which have a none-commercial destination or are of small value and are small in quantity. A fixed clearing charge of 5 piastres (1 franc) will be levied on all packets.

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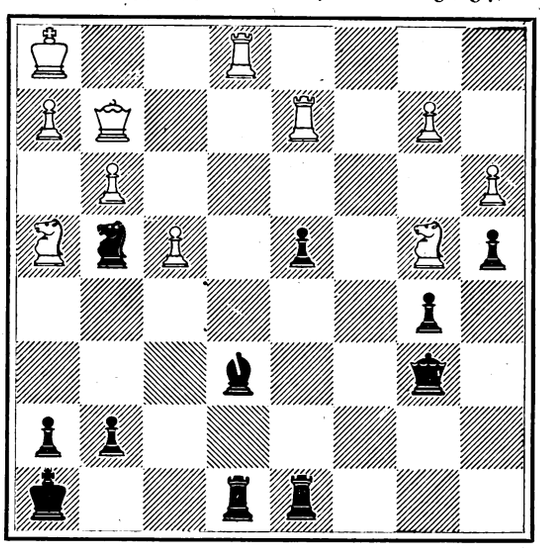
CHESS.

By "KARO-KANN."

At the time of writing it appears probable that Mr. H. E. Atkins, the holder of the British Championship, will be successful in retaining his title at Stratford-on-Avon. I indicated last week that I thought the result would largely depend on the game between Mr. Atkins and Mr. Yates. They met in the third round, and the game, which I give below, was fully worthy of the occasion. Defending a Ruy Lopez, Mr. Atkins gradually evolved an attacking position, and finished the game with a series of brilliant moves.

White, Mr. F. D. Yates; Black, Mr. H. E. Atkins. 1,P—K4, P—K4; 2, K Kt—B3, Q Kt—B3; 3, B—Kt5, P—Q R3; 4, B—R4, Kt—B3; 5, o—o, B—K2; 6, R—K, P—Q Kt4; 7, B—Kt3, P—Q3; 8, P—B3, Kt—Q R4; 9, B—B2, P—B4; 10, P—Q3, o—o; 11, Q Kt—Q2, Kt—B3; 12, Kt—B, Q—B2; 13, B—Kt5, Kt—K; 14 BxB, KtxB; 15, Kt—K3, Kt—B3; 16, Kt—R4, B—K3 (1); 17, P—Q4, K—R; 18, P—K Kt3 (2); Q R—Q; 19, P—K B4, B PxP; 20, PxQ P, PxQ P: 21, QxP, Kt—B3; 22, Q—Q2, P—Q4; 23, P—K5, Kt—K5; 24, O—Kt2, P—B4; 25, PxP (e.p.), KtxP: 26, Q R—B (3), K R—K: 27, B—Kt3, Q—Kt3 : 28, K—R, Q Kt—Kt5; 29, Q R—Q, P—O R4: 30, P—Q R3, P—R5: 31, B—B2, KtxB (4): 32, KtxKt, P—Q5; 33, Kt—Kt4, Kt—Kt5; 34, R—Q2,



Position after White's 34th move, R—Q2.

Kt—K6 (5); 35, Q—B2, B—B; 36, Kt—B3, B—Kt2; 37, K—Kt, Kt—Kt5; 38, RxR (ch.), RxR; 39, QxP (6), BxKt; 40, Kt—B2, Q—K3; 41, K—B, B—Q8; 42, Kt—Kt4, Q—K8; 43, K—Kt2, R—K7; 44, RxR, QxR (ch): 45, K—Kt, QxP (ch); 46, resigns.

(1) White's intention in playing Kt—R4 is presumably to establish a Kt at B5, but Black's reply, threatening P—Q4, frustrates it.

(2) Here P—Q5 might have been played. It would have cramped Black's position in the centre for a time.

(3) As it turned out, this move was wasted. Better would have been Q R—Q.

(4) Now, with an exposed King and without the Q B, White's position is precarious.

(5) At this point B—Q4 would have won brilliantly. If 25, RxR (ch), RxR: 36, OxB, R—K8 (ch); 37, K—Kt2, Kt—K6 (ch) and wins. There is no adequate defence to the move.

(6) This loses at once, but there was no move to save the game. R—K2 would lose the Queen, while Q—B would be followed by P—Q6 (dis ch), and then by R—K6.

Solution to end game No. 11:—1, P—B4, PxP: 2, K—Q4, P—B6: 3, KxP, P—B4: 4, PxP, PxP: 5, P—Kt5, P—B5: 6, P—R1 and wins, for Black cannot stop both Pawns, while White can stop the isolated Black Pawn.

H.M. Consul-General at Beyrout reports that a recent Decree increases the specific import duty on foreign "tombac" imported into Syria from 40 to 50 Syrian piastres per kilog.

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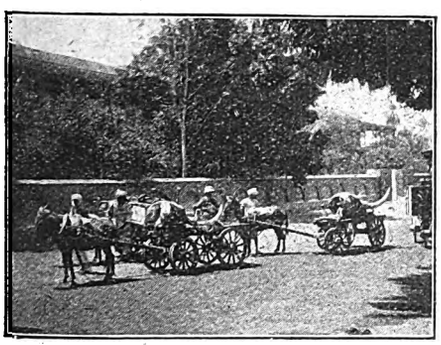

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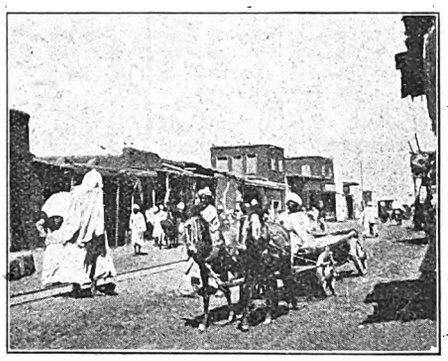

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THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

No. 747.—VOL. XXVIII. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1925.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	Page
NOTES OF THE WEEK	271
SPECIAL LETTERS—	
Egypt	274
Turkey	275
Persia	275
Albania	276
Cyprus	276
SPECIAL ARTICLES—	
Land Registration in Egypt—II.	279
The Jebel Druse	278
The Refugee Problem in Bulgaria	280
LEADING ARTICLE—	
Political Stability in Greece ...	273
THE WEEK AT HOME	284
BOOK REVIEWS	282
INDIAN AFFAIRS—	
Party Journalism in India ...	285
Current Topics	286
Special Letters : Calcutta ...	289
Bombay ...	289
Simla	290
Indian Exchange	288
COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
Notes and News	291
Cyprus in 1924	293
Near East Markets	297
Company Meeting— African and Eastern Trade Corporation	298
Shipping Intelligence	298
British Consular Reports— III. Syria	295
The Egyptian Cotton Market ...	294
Chess	299

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

The Jebel Druse Revolt.

Events in Syria continue to be marked by a perplexing uncertainty. Official French information is almost entirely restricted to denying the accuracy of reports received from other sources. French public opinion is frankly at a loss to understand the Government's attitude or, at least, General Sarrail's silence. In a war between two more or less equally matched belligerents there is much to be said for economy of information regarding the progress of military events; but in the case of the Druse rising, to withhold all information is to vest the movement with the importance that it is sought to deny to it. The past week has proved that, if there was any truth in the report of negotiations between the two parties, the first attempt to reach peace by agreement has broken down. On August 24 a detachment of Druses made an attempt to reach Damascus—thus much is tardily admitted by General Sarrail—but they were easily defeated, and with heavy loss. The French garrison in Sueida is still more or less closely invested. Reports of other engagements are current, but, whether the incidents recorded took place or not, they are unimportant in themselves, and merely indicate that the rising is not yet scotched. To hazard a guess, one must suppose that General Sarrail, finding that the African troops under his command are not equal to the task of suppressing the revolt without a further stiffening of French troops, prefers to remain on the defensive until he can deal effectually with the insurgents in a short and swift campaign. The Turks, it will be recalled, adopted the same strategy in the case of the Kurdish revolt. The outlook for the Druses is as hopeless as it was for the Kurds, and they have the same lack of cohesion and dislike for a sustained effort to cope with in any attempt to gain recruits. Their leader, Sultan Pasha el Atrash, is making a great effort to extend the rising throughout Syria. It would be a grave reflection on the French Government or General Staff, if he were to succeed before General Sarrail were in a position to take the field successfully against the Druses.

Mosul and Geneva.

This week the stage is set in Geneva for a settlement of the Mosul question. The Council of the League of Nations meets on Wednesday; Mr. Austen Chamberlain is Great Britain's chief delegate, the Turkish representative is Tewfik Rushdi Bey, who, according to report, comes armed with explicit instructions to do everything save honour Turkey's undertaking to accept the League's ruling. Propaganda of this description is inseparable from Oriental diplomacy. Not unconnected with it may be the official *communiqué* of the Turkish Government reporting a violation of the Turko-Iraqi frontier by five hundred "brigands" coming from the direction of Rowanduz. The first official announcement spoke of the brigands as being accompanied by Regular military forces, but this picturesque addition was omitted in subsequent issues, and presumably does not appear in the formal protests sent to the League of Nations and to the British Government. Recent history will show that, whenever Turkey is about to enter upon important negotiations, she has invariably to complain of an unprovoked act of aggression, calculated, if the world were inhabited solely by children, to win sympathy for herself and to create suspicion against the other party to the negotiations. In any case such "acts of aggression" justify or, at least, call for movements of troops to the debatable area. The brigands from Rowanduz, who ought really to be attacking Iraqis from sheer love of Turkey, have a still more familiar ring about them when it is known that British representations have been made quietly at Angora throughout the summer against the violation of the Mosul border by small Turkish detachments. The Council of the League of Nations, it is to be hoped, will prove less unsophisticated than were the members of the Commission of Inquiry sent to Mosul on their first appearance in the Middle East.

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Bulgaria's Refugee Problem.

Attention may be directed to an article appearing on another page on the Refugee Problem in Bulgaria. Appeals on behalf of the Bulgarians are apt to meet with the remark that in the helping of late enemies the line must be drawn somewhere. Yet, apart from ordinary humanitarian reasons, it can be shown that assistance given to Bulgaria in the raising of a loan enabling her to make adequate provision for her refugees is a natural corollary to the Greek Refugee Loan, and its omission detracts from the full utility of the latter. The wisdom of setting South-Eastern Europe on its feet again knows, or should know, nothing about national boundaries. Behind the desire to relieve actual suffering among Greek or any other refugees should lie a constructive policy for enabling the peoples in that area to settle down to the practical details of reconstruction. The Balkan Peninsula will be unable to occupy in the European scheme of things the position to which its resources and the industry of its peoples entitle it so long as any of the old sores are left unhealed. The intention is that the Greek refugees should forget Turkey and help to build up the greater prosperity of Greece; it will be of no small advantage to the Greeks if the refugees from Greek territory now in Bulgaria are enabled to forget their past and to play their part in the rehabilitation of Bulgaria. Neither Europe nor Great Britain is asked to make a present of money to Bulgaria, but a refugee loan of two millions sterling on the lines of the Greek Loan would not only be a sound investment for subscribers; it would also constitute a material contribution to the peace and prosperity of the Balkan Peninsula.

"Repression" in Bulgaria.

Miss Susan Lawrence appears to have been employing the leisure afforded her by respite from Parliamentary labours in visiting Bulgaria, where, in her own words, she has "spent a little time in Sofia, collecting evidence, with regard to the repressions." Whether the Labour Party considered that the report of the Wedgwood mission required checking, or whether Miss Lawrence's errand is self-imposed, she does not state. She has embodied the results of her inquiries in a letter to the *Manchester Guardian*, and announces, on the strength of the evidence that she has collected, that she has "come to the conclusion that the Government are deliberately availing themselves of the horror caused by the Cathedral outrage to exterminate their political opponents." Now, a wise man who knows his Balkans will not blindly accept a brief for any person, party, or Government to the extent of guaranteeing that every day and in every way they will conform to British standards. Some warm-hearted Britons decided that they were quite safe in doing this in the case of M. Venizelos, but they have either learnt their mistake or have discovered that the Balkan Peninsula does not always want British standards. We do not challenge the evidence that Miss Lawrence has collected in Sofia, but merely the use that she makes of it. Without leaving London, she might have collected, a year or two ago, from the mouth of M. Raditch, far more damning evidence, on precisely the same familiar lines, against the Government of M. Pashitch; but, just as some good kind people in Great Britain were making up their minds that the Serbian treatment of the Croats could no longer be tolerated, M. Raditch—most aggravatingly—forms a Coalition Government with M. Pashitch.

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British and Balkan Standards.

Miss Lawrence has overlooked the fact that in any genuinely democratic State government must be by the people for the people. In Bulgaria she finds that when a dastardly outrage was committed against the people and Government, both Government and people proceeded to defend themselves according to their own methods. There has never been any question about the irregularity —from the British point of view—of the people's methods. The Bulgarian Government admits the unfortunate fact, but claims that, as soon as was reasonably possible, it took charge of the situation and introduced more regular methods of dealing with the party responsible for the Cathedral outrage and with the Communist menace generally. Now comes Miss Lawrence, four months after the event, with the announcement: "I have statements which directly implicate the Government in six of these cases." The statements are to the effect that "these six persons 'disappeared' from a Government building and from the charge of the police," and these instances, with many others of beatings, woundings, and murders, compel Miss Lawrence to the conclusion that "the Government" are deliberately exterminating their political opponents, and the *Manchester Guardian* interprets Miss Lawrence's meaning by stating that "the Zankoff Government remains with a black record." Quite apart from the fact that, if the Zankoff Government were so acting, it would not be setting an entirely new precedent in the Peninsula, this sweeping condemnation would seem to require more evidence than Miss Lawrence has marshalled. For anyone knowing conditions in the Balkans would as readily hold the Baldwin Cabinet personally responsible for the irregularities in Major Sheppard's case as he would make the Zankoff Government responsible for police and other irregularities in Bulgaria. What Miss Lawrence apparently wishes to be inferred is that things would have been so different, if the Communists, who could perpetrate the Cathedral outrage, or the Agrarians had been in power instead of a Bourgeois Government. This, however, would not be so. It requires far more years of settled conditions and ordered self-government than any Balkan State has known for a people to remain unmoved under the provocation of the Communist outrage in the Sveta Nedelia Cathedral. The Bulgarian people, in common parlance "saw red"—town folk, village folk, minor officials, soldiers, police—and they acted according to their lights. A large section, of course, kept their heads, the Government among them; but the latter proceeded to deal with Communists as the great bulk of the nation, inspired by a firm belief in the greatest good of the greatest number, and by such democratic watchwords as the will of the people and government by and for the people, wished it to deal with them. By all means let Miss Lawrence point the Bulgarians to a better way, but she must not make it a party matter, or pretend that poor Communists are wholly blameless victims of injustice.

Palestine and the Zionists.

Critics of British policy and the Administration in Palestine will have followed closely, it is to be hoped, the proceedings of the Zionist Congress in Vienna. The view that the British Government in the exercise of its responsibilities in Palestine as Mandatory Power is wholly subservient to the Zionist Organisation is not shared by the members of that body. Dr. Weizmann was vigorously attacked for having failed to give effect to what it was held Zionist policy ought to be, and at the end of the debate he felt obliged to resign his position as the head of the Organisation's Executive. The main burden of Dr. Weizmann's defence was to the effect that he had done his best in the circumstances with which he was confronted, and that conditions in Palestine were an insuperable obstacle to the carrying out of the policy of the Zionist extremists. His contention, we believe, represents the facts of the case. Arab fears and non-Arab complaints against British policy have reference to a state of affairs at the beginning of the British civil régime which seemed to encourage the hopes of the Zionist extremists. The phase passed; the extremists are disappointed and angry; Dr. Weizmann and his more level-

(Continued on page 277.)

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1925.

POLITICAL STABILITY IN GREECE.

Only ten weeks have passed since General Pangalos carried through his bloodless *coup d'état* and assumed the reins of power in Greece. To-day so much is political reconciliation in the air that there is a tendency to credit the new Prime Minister with phenomenal gifts of vision and statesmanship, from which too much may be expected. The truth is that, while politicians have wrangled, the good sense of the Greek nation has steadily asserted itself, and the people have begun of their own accord to bury the hatchet, which in the hands of the politicians had assumed such formidable proportions. For this state of affairs credit is due to the late Prime Minister, M. Michalokopoulos, who, in his eight months of office, although of pronounced Republican views himself, had contrived to prove to his political opponents that he could set the interests of the State above those of any one political party. M. Michalokopoulos came to grief politically over questions of foreign policy for which his Government was not primarily responsible; but it was no small testimony to the sense of the value of political restfulness which his régime had engendered that the Greek people took little notice of the military interference with politics and went on with their work. General Pangalos, it is true, has known how to administer a stimulus to the national desire for domestic peace. Starting with the advantage of his military position, with its implied or assumed aloofness from political parties, he has had less difficulty than his predecessor had in holding the balance equal between the rival camps. At the same time he has given expression to the popular weariness of politics by placing a limit on the protracted parliamentary discussions on the new Constitution, and has fixed a date for the dissolution of the Chamber, which showed signs of a desire to prolong its existence indefinitely. A third measure, the reinstatement in the services of officers removed for their political sympathies, has proved a still more practical contribution to the cause of reconciliation. To set a seal on this good work, a proposal has been made on behalf of the Moderate Royalists that all parties should agree loyally to accept the Republic and to work together for the common good for a fixed period of years, during which time the subject of the form of government in Greece shall be discussed neither by word nor in print, on the understanding that at the end of the period (five years is suggested) there shall be an equally frank and loyal reconsideration of the question in the light of experience in the interval. Whether these overtures will be reciprocated by the Republicans or will tend to confirm them in their fears that the Republic is in danger under General Pangalos remains to be seen. Unfortunately, if not unnaturally, moderate Republican opinion as represented by M. Michalokopoulos and M. Kaphandaris has withheld its approval from the Pangalos régime on the ground of its irregular seizure of power, and for this reason General Pangalos may be compelled to identify himself more and more with the Right. If he should do so, he may have occasion to realise that the ease with which he made his own "revolution" has put a premium on the practice in the eyes of other military commanders.

That the fears entertained on Greece's behalf at first of the Pangalos *coup de main* have not been realised offers no justification for a repetition of the irregularity. It is, in the first place, by no means certain that General Pangalos would adopt the same pacific attitude towards any challenge of his authority as M. Michalokopoulos did on June 25 last. The evils of the unconstitutional change were largely discounted by the absence of any challenge and by the indifference of the people as a whole. Yet it would be idle to suppose that Greece can indulge in the luxury of political instability entirely without detriment to herself. Although she may not be able to gauge the extent of the injury to her political credit abroad, she had in the present instance an illustration of the effect on her financial credit in the postponement of the second Refugee Loan. For reasons already indicated, the usually sensitive political barometer—the exchange rate—scarcely had time to react before the "depression" passed; but in the political sphere it is at least open to argument that the activities of the Minister for Foreign Affairs have been occasioned in part by the necessity of counteracting unfavourable impressions created by Greece's recent tendency to political instability. An agreement that would guarantee the republican system in Greece freedom from the risk of disturbance for five years would be invaluable to Greece; but, in view of the fact that under the republican régime she has had six Governments in a year and seven in eighteen months, what is also required is a fuller measure of stability for each successive Administration. From this point of view the reception accorded to the Pangalos Government is satisfactory; but the test will come when the Chamber is dissolved and new elections revive the political fervour of the country.

In these circumstances it must remain doubtful whether Greece has been well advised to direct popular expectation into international channels. The proposal for a Balkan Arbitration Pact is eminently sound, and it is natural that Greece should welcome such an easy method of escape from her present international difficulties; but in the event of the scheme's meeting with no support from Greece's neighbours, the nation may accuse General Pangalos, as he accused his predecessor, with the known results, of playing fast and loose with Greek prestige abroad, and the ground will be prepared for yet another political change. Greece, we believe, could afford to regard philosophically any international friction to which she may be exposed, in the knowledge that there are to-day in Europe too many forces at work against an actual breach of the peace to justify uneasiness on her part. In the meantime her major efforts could be directed towards consolidating the internal situation. General Pangalos's advent to power certainly postponed for the moment any further negotiations for a second Refugee Loan, which will become a pressing need early in the new year. By keeping popular attention fixed on home affairs—political reconciliation, economic development, and the inauguration of public works—the danger of disturbing the momentary lethargy of political parties would have been reduced to a minimum. As things are, the new Government has done much to make a new Loan possible; and it would be most unfortunate if, when the negotiations in London have to be concluded, any doubts should arise as to the stability of the Greek Government owing to the disappointment of national hopes in regard to the lead taken in the scheme for a Balkan Arbitration Pact. Perhaps the best thing that could happen would be that an understanding should be reached between General Pangalos and M. Michalokopoulos, which would allow the latter to give his support to the final drafting of the new Constitution, and so to discourage any elements in the country who would place party interests above those of the State as a whole.

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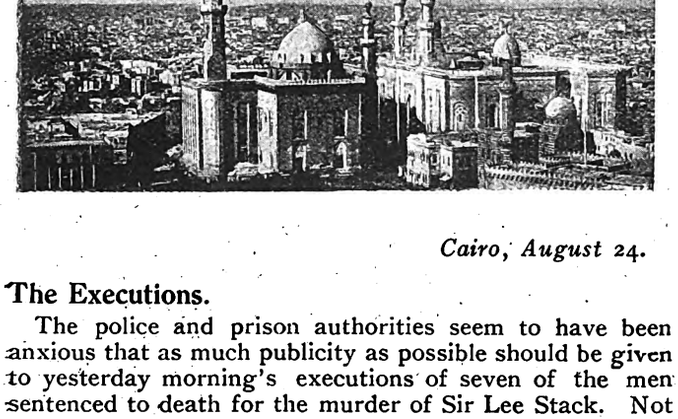
The Near and Middle East*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, August 24.

The Executions.

The police and prison authorities seem to have been anxious that as much publicity as possible should be given to yesterday morning's executions of seven of the men sentenced to death for the murder of Sir Lee Stack. Not only was the local Press invited *en masse*, but also, in the case of journalists who arrived after the first few hangings had taken place, a police officer supplied details of the manner in which the men concerned had met their deaths. The result has been that local journals have given their readers columns of description of the last moments of the wretched murderers. These, with the exception of Shafik Mansour, behaved with extraordinary fortitude, which it was impossible not to admire, however much one might regret that such courage and stoicism should have been employed to ends so evil. Some of the men made last moment speeches in which they appeared to glory in their crime and the fate that it had brought them, and two, at least, incited others to go and do likewise, while in every case the doomed criminals made reference to their religion in manner suggesting that they were the most pious of Moslems and, without actually saying so, suggested that, to Moslems, such deeds as theirs were easily pardonable, if not laudable. All this has been published *in extenso* in the Arabic Press and there is little doubt that it will have the effect of making the seven executed men appear, to youthful minds unbalanced like their own, in the light of heroes. Apart from this there seem to be serious objections, on the grounds of common decency, to such circumstantial descriptions of the last mortal moments of men awaiting the hangman's rope. To the admission of reporters no objection can be taken, inasmuch as it is in some measure a guarantee to the public of the proper carrying out of the executions; but it is to be hoped that, in future executions which attract much public interest, the authorities will issue merely a brief, undetailed statement and will insist upon the newspapers confining themselves to that statement.

The Ittehad Party.

More than the traditional grain of salt should be taken with the claims of Egyptian political parties to wonderful success in winning over their fellow-countrymen to the party point of view. The recently founded Ittehad Party has lately been making a great parade of its activities and declares that a large part of the public opinion which formerly was almost unanimously in support of Zaghloul Pasha has now been weaned from its old errors and enrolled in the Ittehadist ranks. Hitherto little importance has been attached to this campaign, because the Ittehad Party has had at its back all the resources of the Government, and with such machinery, it has always been easy, in Egypt, to create the appearance of popular enthusiasm. But, even discounting very heavily much of what has been apparently accomplished, on the grounds that there is always in an Oriental country a large body of floating opinion which changes its affiliations with every change of Government, seeking ever to be on the side that is for the moment in power, it is now clear that the Ittehadists have achieved something more than the appearance of success. At a political rally held last week in the north of Gharbia Province there was, so far as an impartial observer could tell, genuine manifestation of support for the party programme. Certainly the huge crowds which gathered to cheer the Ittehad speakers, and the notables of the district with whom private conversations were held, were not under the influence of any outstanding personality such as that which has been the driving force of the Wafd, for the Ittehad Party does not include a single notable leader of men. If it is to succeed, it must do so on its principles. Until recently, the traditional Egyptian method of employing the resources of the Administration to enforce adhesion to the Party and to collect money has been much utilised by the Ittehadists; but it seems that the [illegible] now realised the short-sightedness of this type of conscription. With the change, the fellaheen, who have kicked against being compelled to enrol under the Ittehad banner, may voluntarily subscribe to the new political faith.

Bad Language.

Egyptians from time immemorial have been shockingly prone to cursing and swearing. Lane, in his "Manners and Customs of the Modern Egyptians," remarked that Egyptian ladies of the best classes might be heard using language which would sound foul in the mouth of a Billingsgate fishwife. Nor have matters improved since Lane's day. On the least provocation one Egyptian will describe another as the child of unmentionable parents and beseech God to send down fire to shrivel up the other's house and all that it holds. But at last, it seems, a limit is to be put to the use of obscene abuse. The Azhar authorities have been horrified to discover that the—to them—worst oath of all, "God curse your religion" *(Allah yinaal deenak)*, is now in every mouth. Omnibus drivers hurl the imprecation at unwary pedestrians, while peasants working in the fields shout it to neighbours a hundred yards away. It is, in fact, as ubiquitous in Egypt as the convenient "Damn" in England, or, in a lower stratum of society, the conventional abbreviation of "By our Lady." The scandalised ulemas have made representations to the authorities, and from henceforth use of the forbidden objurgation within earshot of a policeman will risk for the offender a visit to the nearest caracol and the drawing-up of a procès-verbal. Anyone who has heard an Egyptian

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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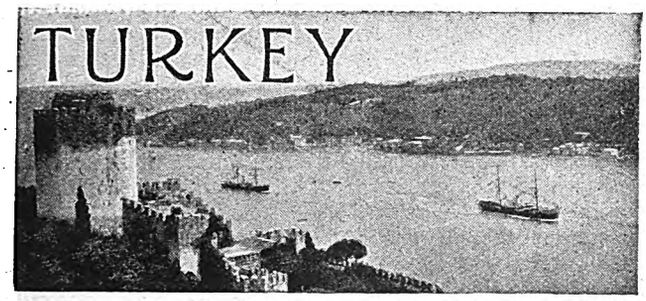
policeman describing the ancestry of a cabman who has failed to obey a traffic signal will agree that the local "cops" should at least be good judges of what constitutes bad language.



Constantinople, August 26.

The Mosul Question.

The Mosul question is, and will continue to be for some time yet, the subject of chief importance here. During the last fortnight Government circles at Angora have been seriously occupied with preparations for the dispatch of their delegation to Geneva to defend the Turkish cause. Tewfik Rushdi Bey, the principal Turkish delegate, and Djevad Pasha left Constantinople on Monday morning, protesting a perfectly pacific but determined attitude. Press and general opinion, while unanimous in approving the Government's decision and instructions to the delegation to refuse to consider the question of the Mandate and to go "all out" for the unconditional return of Mosul to Turkey, appear to have some strong conviction that, although their "right" will ultimately triumph, no definite settlement will be reached at the coming session of the League of Nations. Consequently it appears useless to hope for any improvement in Anglo-Turkish commercial relations, as the present uncompromising attitude of Turkey *vis-à-vis* commerce with Great Britain is undoubtedly adopted on account of this pending difference.

Improvements in Constantinople.

The changes and improvements likely to take place in Constantinople at the instigation of its Prefect, Dr. Emine Bey, appear to be limitless. The latest scheme contemplates the construction (again by a French concern) of a submarine tunnel connecting Europe and Asia at the points of Seraglio Point and Scutari. The value of such an undertaking, if it can be successfully accomplished, can hardly be over-estimated, for the tunnel would allow for the through transport of goods and passengers between Anatolia and Constantinople by train, and would do away with the unloading, ferrying across the Bosphorus, and reloading at Haidar Pasha. The necessity of such a tunnel has long been felt in the ex-capital, but up to the present no one in office has had sufficient enterprise to devote practical study to the question, and it is to be hoped that the project will not now be dropped.

Statues of the First President.

The ceremony of laying the foundation stone for the statue of the Ghazi, the first Turkish public statue, took place yesterday at Seraglio Point. The proceedings were of an original character, inasmuch as an eulogically inscribed parchment referring to Mustapha Kemal Pasha and describing his historical glories was locked and sealed in a metal coffer and placed under the foundation stone. The statue, when completed, will constitute an imposing sight at the entrance of the inner harbour, as its setting comprises a white-stoned edifice of a considerable size.

Smyrna has also decided to erect a statue in honour of the national hero.

Contraband.

Serious war is now being waged against contrabandists here, who exist in large numbers and operate on a very big scale. During the last week something like £T100,000 is reported to have been collected in fines and confiscations. The Customs and Police officials are devoting themselves to thorough and methodical searches of all ships and trains, and they were successful two days ago in detecting what appears to have been a regular contraband service carried on by employees of the Orient Express. Official reports state that the cupboards in the restaurant cars reserved for carrying, under seal, beverages which are served between specified frontiers have been found to contain large stocks of silks, tobacco, and cigarette papers, etc. Khedivial Mail Line and Lloyd Triestino ships, amongst many others, have also been found recently to be carrying contraband. The Customs officials of the present time can in no way be compared with the easy-going, unobservant (both wilfully and otherwise) individuals of the old régime.

Street Cries.

As is widely known, a great portion of the Constantinople residents' domestic purchases is made from street hawkers who begin their business activities at about 7 a.m. Nearly everything, from vegetables to dress suits, can be bought from these enterprising tradesmen, whose penetrating cries are considered by tourists (and only by tourists) as being extremely original and interesting. As a result of a recent order—now being strictly enforced—these hawkers are to use only Turkish when shouting their wares. Such a measure will doubtless either be the cause of many a housewife's despair at failing to purchase the necessities for dinner or will result in a raid on the Berlitz School of Languages.

PERSIA.

Teheran, August 3.

Mohurram Holidays.

All Government Offices have been closed from July 30 to August 7, for the annual Mohurram holidays, and everyone who can afford to has gone into camp on the slopes of the hills above Teheran. Despite this emigration of the better classes, the tenth day of Mohurram was celebrated with exceptional display and enthusiasm by the mass of the people. There was, however, no sign of fanaticism, and, thanks to the excellent police arrangements, everything passed off without incident. The Army participated in great strength in the procession, and the Prime Minister himself attended to watch the mourning ceremonies.

Celebrations of this nature are most useful in directing the minds of the people from other topics, and the usual rumours and grumblings cease altogether for the time being. It is, however, noticeable that the educated classes are avoiding more and more the celebrations, which, as a result, are now confined to the clergy and the masses. There are, indeed, many who openly deprecate the forms still celebrated in Persia, forms which are undoubtedly Semitic, and possibly pagan, in origin. The cutting of heads and beating by chains are known to have been customary at similar ceremonies in pre-Islamic times.

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Miscellaneous News.

The shortage of water is becoming acute, and there is considerable anxiety regarding the wheat supplies of the capital. This shortage will not so much affect the capital now as next year, for which the supply has now to be stored. It has even become necessary to bring up supplies from Hamadan, although the cost of pack transport for grain from such a distance is prohibitive. Varamin and the normal sources of supply are this year a failure. The need of railway communication is more than ever obvious, as, should there be a similar shortage of water next year, whole areas might become depopulated.

The rapid increase in wheeled traffic in this country is now phenomenal, and it is marked by an increasing number of accidents. It is indeed only the skilled driver who can avoid them, as traffic control is still lacking. The average Ford is made to hold from six to eight people, and the number accommodated on bicycles is surprising to Western eyes. The German bicycle had a meteoric career to begin with, but is rapidly giving way to dearer but safer machines.

The French Minister and Madame Bonzon returned last week from a short trip to Enzeli. Their car was run into by a Ford car and seriously damaged, but to the great relief of their friends, they escaped unhurt.

The new Belgian Minister and Mme. Cuveler have just arrived and established the Legation up-country for the time being.

ALBANIA.

Tirana, August 27.

New Italian Minister.

Commendatore G. Cora has been appointed Italian Minister to Albania in the place of the Marchese di Durazzo. The latter's departure will be much regretted both by Albanians of all parties and by his colleagues, for he had won the sympathy of all who had come in contact with him. He deserves much credit, too, for re-establishing in Albania Italy's prestige and popularity, which had fallen very low at the time of his appointment three years ago. The new Minister, however, should prove a worthy successor. He has been especially chosen by Signor Mussolini with the object of consolidating the good relations now existing between the two countries: for he has been known as a broad-minded and true friend of Albania ever since the time when, attached to the Italian Embassy in London, he was occupied with the negotiations which led up to the recognition of Albania as a sovereign independent State and to the appointment of the frontier Commission by the Council of Ambassadors.

The news of his appointment, too, will be received with satisfaction in London, where he has many friends. After the ratification by the Albanian Parliament last spring of the concession granted to the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Commendatore Cora's services were utilised in the negotiations between the company and the Italian Government—negotiations which have since been concluded in a manner calculated to insure a harmonious co-operation between the parties interested in the development of the oil resources of Albania. His appointment as Minister may, therefore, also be regarded as a witness of the desire of Signor Mussolini to maintain and intensify the good relations existing between Italian and British commercial interests in Albania.

Commendatore Cora is still a young man; but he has had a varied career. During the past year he has filled the post of Italian Consul-General at Munich. Before holding this appointment, he was Minister in Abyssinia. He has also held appointments in Teheran and in Washington, besides the one, already alluded to, in London.

The Holiday Dispersion.

The holiday season has been in full swing, and Ministers are dispersed to their homes, to the seaside, and on visits abroad. The President is at Durazzo enjoying the sea-bathing. He appears completely restored after his recent indisposition. The British Minister, Mr. Eyres, has gone to Corfu for his vacation; while Lt.-Colonel Stirling has been undertaking a prolonged tour of inspection of the Gendarmerie which comes under his charge.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, July 28.

Neglected Industries.

The situation in Cyprus—so essentially agricultural—is such as to call for any addition that can be made to her small list of exports. Among the products of which far too little use is made are many plants, both wild and cultivated, from which essential oils can be profitably extracted. M. Gennadius, when Director of Agriculture, pointed out how much might have been done, and strongly recommended that practical steps should be taken to develop what would be a new and lucrative branch of agricultural industry. Little, however, has been done. In some parts, especially in the hills, the peasants distil water from roses, as well as from orange blossom and other flowers. This is much used at weddings, and on other occasions, for sprinkling guests, and so on. But the extraction of essential oils is hardly in its infancy. Suitable alembics and necessaries have been wanting. The Agricultural Department has recently done much to encourage enterprise in this direction, which calls for small outlay, and it is prepared to afford advice. Among the plants which grow wild, and of which good use could be made, are thyme, mint, and a species of lavender, while orange, lemon, rosemary, aniseed, origarrsom, and various aromatic plants could be largely utilised. The Agricultural Department has recently sent to England, besides citric acid, various samples of essential oils prepared according to its directions, and the matter has been taken up by some Cypriots. Efforts on a larger scale should certainly be supported.

Greek Teachers.

Our Greek community appears to be faced with a difficulty, which has perhaps not been unknown in Athens and Greece generally, viz., an excess of qualified teachers, considerably above requirements. The prospect of a large number of students from the highest schools for whom employment could not be found is rather serious; and it seems clear that the Boards of Education will have to consider carefully the question of limiting the number of those who are to enter the gymnasia and higher schools. Another matter that may, perhaps, cause some little trouble is that the number of those who go to Western Europe to study for the Bar and the medical profession is increasing so rapidly that it is not unlikely there may soon be

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too many for island needs. In some cases, too, it may be that, in order to send boys or girls to universities, or for higher studies in Western Europe, sacrifices may be necessary in a family which would bear heavily on other members. A strong movement will probably be made to induce the Government and the next Legislative Council to sanction larger grants for education.

Fashions in Dress.

Greek ladies have not been behind others in adopting up-to-date costumes, and voices have been raised from time to time in the Greek community, especially against present fashions in short dresses and *décolletés* modes. The Press has joined in the protests. The Greek Central Board of Education has now stepped in, and has launched a circular calling upon school-mistresses and teachers both to dress modestly themselves, and to use all their influence with a view to checking the growing tendency to adopt what is regarded as unbecoming.

THE NEW ORIENT.

The *New Orient*, an illustrated American quarterly, contains in its last issue articles or messages from such men as Rabindranath Tagore, Abdul Kerim, Lothrop Stoddard, Count Alef de Ghizé, and its editor, Synd Hassain. In these and other articles is set out the aim of the paper—which is, not merely an exposition of awakening Islam, but a representation of Oriental life, from China to Morocco, to the American people.

NOTES OF THE WEEK

(Continued from page 272.)

headed followers recognise that things cannot be otherwise; the Arabs are either too obstinate to admit the altered conditions or too inexperienced to appreciate the change. In the meantime Palestine maintains the even tenour of its way, making steady, but not spectacular, progress. Lord Plumer has arrived in Jerusalem and taken over the duties of High Commissioner. An opportunity is thus given to the Arabs to reconsider their position, and it is satisfactory to know that there is a chance of effect being given to the wishes of the majority to co-operate with the Government on the basis of a temporary acceptance, under protest, of the terms of the Mandate.

Attack on a Desert Convoy.

The creditable record of two years' safe and regular service for passengers and mails between Beyrout and Baghdad held by the Nairn Transport Company, the pioneers of the Desert route, has been interrupted by a successful attack by Arabs on a convoy which left Baghdad on August 25. The attack took place thirty-four miles from Damascus; a lady passenger and two officials of the Company were wounded, and the raiders made off with a consignment of gold which was being carried by the convoy. Other attacks have been made on convoys using the northern route via Palmyra and Hit, but it was hoped that the southern route followed by the Nairn service, by avoiding the grazing grounds of Arab nomads, would be immune. The proximity of the attack to Damascus brings it within the sphere of France's trouble with the Jebel Druse, and it may have to be regarded as the outcome of the present unrest in Syria rather than as indicating any inherent insecurity in the trans-Desert route. One report states that the raiders were Druses. The interruption in the motor service to and from Baghdad was little more than a matter of hours. The service is far too valuable to Iraq to be dispensed with. The Royal Air Force enabled the Baghdad mails which could not cross the desert that day to catch the boat at Port Said, and steps were taken by the French authorities to ensure the safety of subsequent convoys on the Syrian side.

SEPTEMBER REVIEWS.

Although the September issue of *The Round Table* contains no article with an Eastern label it deals with a number of problems of world-wide importance at this time. Special reference may be made to the articles on "The Gold Standard" and "British Industry and the Future." The crisis in Morocco reaches beyond France and Africa, and its significance is well brought out in another article. This issue also deals knowledgeably with China and with the Security Pact.

In the *Contemporary Review*, Dr. William Miller has an article on "Greece since the June 'Revolution,'" in which he urges, very rightly, that more advantage ought to be taken of the favourable field for British capital offered by Greece. Mr. H. Charles Woods writes on Transjordan, which he has recently visited, and ends up on a rather pessimistic note. In "The Balance of Power in the Balkans" Mr. J. Walter Collins writes to the theme that "balance of power" is essential to peace in South-Eastern Europe. It is not quite clear, however, how the balance is to be obtained. He makes the interesting statement that "if Yugoslavia is willing to make concessions to the Macedonians, and this is not so impossible as many people believe, both pure Bulgarians and Macedonians will eagerly welcome an understanding, an agreement, or an alliance with Yugoslavia."

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Prince Georges Stirbey died recently in Paris, at the age of 97. He was born at Bucharest, was attached to the French Army in 1855, and was Minister for War in Wallachia in 1856. Subsequently he became President of the Roumanian Chamber of Deputies and in 1865 was Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Last month General Sarrail, the High Commissioner in Syria, and his staff were present at the marriage of the President of the Syrian State, which took place in the Government Palace, Beyrout. The guard of honour was formed by a battalion of Algerian Light Infantry and two squadrons of Spahis.

The French Academy of Colonial Science announces a competition for a prize of 12,000f. (£120), the object of which is to further the development of the Sahara. Competitors are asked to send in before October 1 next year a composition laying down a general policy, designed to cover a number of years, for the development of the Sahara region.

The strike of the majority of the crews of the Bosphorus steamers, which it had been announced would be carried out at noon on August 19, completely collapsed even before it was due to start, as the Government supplied naval ratings to man the steamers. Sailors turned out the intending strikers some hours before the strike was due to begin.

The Egyptian Royal Court Council, presided over by Abdel Aziz Fahmy Pasha, Minister of Justice and President of the Liberals, recently, with the approval of the Rector of the El Azhar University and the Grand Mufti, dismissed Mohammed Said Pasha from his post as curator of the estates of Prince Ahmed Seif Eddine, following an investigation of the accounts wherein there was a deficit of £E41,000 since 1920.

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THE JEBEL DRUSE.

(From Our Jerusalem Correspondent.)

It is distressing to realise that French aeroplanes, while effectively suppressing the Druse revolt, are finally destroying masses of the best preserved monuments of the Roman occupation of Syria.

The Jebel Druse is the biblical Bashan. The region played little part in history until after the first Christian century, when Trajan, in 106 A.D., included it in his newly founded province of Arabia. From that time, until the Arab Conquest in the 7th century (or some terrible unrecorded earthquake, or, it may be, the Persian invasion of 611), it became the centre of a numerous and thriving Syro-Greek population. Remains of towns—travellers give the number as a hundred or more—built of the prevailing basalt, litter the western slopes of the mountains, the fertile plain, El-Nukra, the famous granary of Syria, and even the Lejah—that almost impenetrable region which is merely a cracked and rugged tract of cooled lava, some 20 by 25 miles in extent. Temples, churches, amphitheatres, mausoleums, and dwelling-houses—all most substantial and ornate—meet the eye in every direction. They are (or were) in such a fair state of preservation that travellers write of the sites as "deserted" rather than ruined cities; here two-thousand-years-old houses are to be found, complete with roofs, doors, staircases and shutters—all, even the very shutters, cut out of blocks of basalt. Inscriptions, mostly Greek, abound. The remains in Sueida and Kanawat are (or were) the mosts numerous and complete.

We hear of the region in Crusading times as a stronghold for Moslem refugees from Palestine; but during most of the Arab period until the coming of the Druses none lived there except a thin sprinkling of half-settled Beduin.

The Druse occupation of the Jebel Hauran (including the deserted cities and villages) began in 1711; their numbers have gradually been added to by further migration from the Lebanon, their former headquarters, until now they are supposed to number more than 70,000, more than half the Druse population; and they have secured such a hold on the mountainous area of the Hauran that the place is fittingly called by their name, and the Arab population exists there as "hewers of wood and drawers of water" only by grace of the Druses. With only a few occasional lapses into the ignominious position of tax-payers, the Druses have lived here an independent existence, and the richness of the soil has afforded them comparative prosperity.

In Turkish times there was a nominal Kaimakam, or Civil Governor, installed by the Porte at Sueida, with a handful of foot-police and a few mounted irregulars. But there were no Nizam or regular troops. There was the minimum of interference by the authorities, with the result that the Druses found peace and modest wealth.

There have been lurid interludes both in the Lebanon and the Jebel Druse; but it must be admitted that these have, on the whole, been by Government connivance rather than the fault of the Druses. It is interesting to remember that, after the Maronite massacres in 1860, when certain more fanatical elements of the Druses were involved, it was British intervention which saved the Druses from serious punishment by French troops. From that day the Druses have been staunch admirers of Great Britain. More recent history has increased their feelings of indebtedness to us. After the 1908 Revolution, the Turks decided to "constitutionalise" the Druses. The Druses preferred independence. Sami Pasha, the nephew of the Turkish Minister, Showkat Pasha, led a large force against the Jebel Druse; but, not having aeroplanes, he was helpless against the accomplished guerilla tactics of the mountaineers (whose single idea in the "town-planning" of their mountain home was never to allow the existence of any road by which more than one could pass at a time, and that only with difficulty). By treacherous means Sami Pasha inveigled the Druse chiefs out of their safe retreat on a pretence of negotiating terms. They were all put in prison; the eldest of the ruling clan el-Atrash, was executed at Damascus, and the next eldest, Yehia Atrash, only saved his life by a heavy bribe to the Turkish general. Yehia was exiled to Rhodes. The Turkish-Italian war broke out. The Italians captured Rhodes and released the Druse chief, who embarked on a British steamer. The Turks tried in vain to claim their prisoner when the steamer touched at Beyrout and Jaffa on its way to Egypt; but the British captain refused to give him up. So, too, in Egypt Lord Kitchener defended Yehia Atrash against all Turkish efforts to seize him, and at last compelled the Turks to allow the Druse chief to return to his people in the Hauran.

The history and teaching of the "secret sect" of the Druses have often been described. There is, perhaps, little now that is "secret" about them beyond their Thursday night religious meetings; and it is suspected that these are more, or as much, concerned with politics as with religious observance. Their religion (as seen from their religious books, quantities of which have found their way to European libraries) is, like that of the other Syrian sects, the Ismailis and the Nosairis, a result of the grafting of Islam on to a pre-Islamic, semi-Christian incarnation belief.

They are distinctly superior to their Syrian neighbours in physique and intelligence. Every English traveller who has encountered them extols their hospitality and staunchness; yet they have a reputation for treachery and cruelty to their enemies. Their Syrian neighbours accuse them of being hypocrites and time-servers, ever seeking privileges for themselves and cultivating the powers-that-be. It is true that not until the present revolt have they fallen foul of the French Administration. During the War it is alleged that they alone of the Syrian peoples voluntarily did service in the Turkish Army, and manned the Ezrak outpost. But in 1916 they forcibly repelled a Turkish force which came to commandeer the crops of the Jebel, and during the later years of the War they served as a sieve for the passing of men and information between Damascus and the Hejaz army.

There is still considerable obscurity surrounding the origins of the anti-French outbreak. The story locally current in many respects bears a disagreeably close resemblance to the betrayal of the Druse chiefs by the Turkish general in 1909. It is insisted here that nothing less than this could have goaded the Druses to their present desperate and hopeless course.

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LAND REGISTRATION IN EGYPT.*

II.

It is apparent from the facts summarised in the preceding article that under the old chaotic system, or lack of it, of land registration in Egypt it was impossible to achieve the second principal merit of a properly conceived plan of title registration, namely, guarantee of rights. So long as any person may at any time acquire a right over any property without record excepting between the contracting parties, guarantee of rights is impossible. Even when registers are kept by date and name of contracting party, no property can be declared free of opposing claims, until lengthy researches have been carried out with regard to the previous disposal of rights between all persons who may have been interested.

The guarantee of rights was ever before the various commissions and sub-commissions set up to investigate land registration in Egypt, as one of the principal aims towards which their efforts should be directed. That the contemplated reform should include State guarantee of the title to land was the first principle laid down by the Commission of 1917-1921. Among their other recommendations were :—

1. That the new system should be introduced gradually, in one selected province to begin with, and subsequently extended over the whole country. The insufficiency of the existing staff and the time necessarily taken in training further personnel provided the principal reasons underlying this proposal, combined with the obviously wise suggestion that defects in the system which might reveal themselves could be eradicated before the scheme was extended to the whole country.

2. That revision of maps of a province should precede the introduction of the system in that province, the reason being that the old fiscal maps in Egypt were not sufficiently accurate for title registration purposes. In this connexion it may be pointed out that in 1921 the revenue survey of Egypt was rapidly becoming obsolete. For 55 per cent. of the country the then existing maps were out of date by periods ranging between 14 and 20 years. Moreover, there never had been in Egypt, despite the existence of a department termed the Cadastral Survey, a real cadastral survey in the strict meaning of the term, viz., a systematic mapping of the distribution and extent of landed property, accompanied by authoritative determination of limits and proprietors, and properly maintained to date. Since neither can property limits be mapped nor proprietory rights be recorded until the legal rights creating such property have been authoritatively defined, cadastral survey, in the strict sense, presumes, *ex-hypothesi* the concurrent determination of such rights, which must initially be performed *in situ*, and is so closely bound up with the technical survey operations of locating and fixing boundaries and interpreting earlier definitions of position that the combination of these field operations by suitable representation of legal authority on the spot at the time of survey is essential.

3. The Commission further recommended that the new maps should be on the scale of 1 :1,000 and should be based on a net work of permanent traverse.

4. That the method of registration of title, comprising a land book and complementary registers should be introduced at the earliest possible moment, and that the books should be of the loose-leaf pattern. (This had been strongly recommended by the Swiss Federal Land Registration Department, where the inconvenience of bound volumes of registers had been proved in actual practice).

5. The Commission further recommended that better systems of identification, both of real estate and its owners, should be instituted; that deeds should be executed on special embossed paper, to be on sale at the registration offices and that, for simple deeds, a stereotyped form of deed should be employed; that all deeds should be authentic, i.e., properly witnessed instruments received by a competent public official; that the attribution of authenticity should be entrusted to a special body of officials, under control of the Ministry of Justice; that photographic copying should be substituted for the tedious, costly and unreliable hand copying previously employed, the original document being retained by the registering office and photographic facsimiles given to parties; that the language employed in framing deeds should be French or Arabic; and that no real right should be established, transferred or annulled until the deed effecting the operation had been registered

6. In order to make the Land Book a complete record from the time of the system's inception, it was recommended that there should be some form of public declaration of existing rights and that such declaration should be subjected to the same verification as deeds registering transference of property or rights.

7. Further recommendations were that initial registration should confer no guarantee upon a transaction, which should remain opposable to third party claims for a period to be fixed. But such claims should be carefully inquired into both from a legal standpoint and by actual investigation on the spot, before acceptance, while an order by the Court should be necessary before any alteration could be made to the Land Book or the map.

8. It was also urged that the custody of the Land Book and its complementary registers, as also physical scrutiny of the proposed transaction, should be confided to the Survey. Further that the Land Book and the map should be open to inspection, at any time, by the parties to a transaction.

It was a particular aim of the Commission to evolve a system which, by its elasticity and capacity for adjustment to changing conditions should form a provisional and unguaranteed system of title registration, which could be gradually converted into a permanent and guaranteed system.

It is perhaps advisable at this point to describe the system of land subdivision in Egypt. The cultivable area of the country is primarily divided into 14 Mudirias, (provinces or counties) and six Mohafzas (Governorates). Further subdivision of rural areas is by markaz (police districts), nahya (village area) and hôd; of urban areas (within the city or town constituting the governorate) by qisms.

In the course of the reassessment of land tax (1895-1907) and revenue survey (1892-1907) the land comprising each village area was divided into sections called hôds, containing land of closely the same fertility and enjoying approximately equal irrigation, drainage and marketing facilities. Within the limits of each hôd the land tax is assessed at an even rate, this being the primary object of the subdivision. In theory hôds should be from 50 to 100 acres in size, the land being in one piece, the cultivated or cultivable area being as nearly as possible of one quality, while the system of irrigation must be uniform throughout the hôd.

In the well cultivated districts the hôds do in practice range in size from 50 to 150 acres, but in the semi-cultivated tracts fringing the Nile Valley and Delta, hôds as large as 10,000 acres occur, while hôds of from 200 to 500 acres are common. Under the conditions obtaining in these areas there is little to differentiate the quality of the land, while natural features of a type to facilitate subdivision are scarce or lacking. Large hôds of this type are necessarily provisional in character and are destined to be broken up as reclamation, irrigation and drainage advance.

The tax-hôd, when constituted in general conformity with the provisions set out above, forms an admirable penultimate unit of land for purposes of registration of title. Before hôds are utilised for this purpose it is, however, essential that they should, as far as possible, be finally constituted; if large, should at least be so drawn that they can be easily subdivided as development takes place. A high degree of permanence must characterize these subdivisions, as they constitute the basis of the nomenclature of location and reference adopted.

With the establishment of registration of title it is expected that hôds will gradually be divested of a fiscal character. Generally constituted from 14 to 25 years ago in accordance with conditions then obtaining and admirably adapted as an expedient for facilitating the

* The first article appeared in last week's issue of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

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readjustment and collection of the land tax when initially bringing order out of chaos, subdivision of the country by permanent hôds must increasingly be recognised as too inelastic for purposes of periodic reassessment of the land tax. On the other hand, as the penultimate subdivision of land for purposes of registration of title, the hôd may be expected to acquire a new and lasting utility. The ultimate unit of land for purposes of registration of title is the property subdivision usually termed a parcel or plot. A plot may be of any size, provided it does not extend beyond the confines of the hôd or section containing it, but it has been found desirable, so far as possible, that plots should comprise natural subdivisions of the country and that they should not be intersected by marked topographical features such as paths or permanent water channels. It follows that contiguous plots may be combined under the same ownership, even within the same section or hôd.

First steps towards putting into operation the reform outlined in the recommendations detailed above were taken four years ago. The province of Menufia was selected for the experimental adoption of the scheme, and, after the triangulation of the Delta had been revised, a proprietory survey on 1:1,000 scale was undertaken in Menufia. The choice of this province was motived by the fact that it had been one of the first to be surveyed for revenue purposes, and also because the land is more closely subdivided than in any other part of Egypt. For these reasons Menufia was considered to be an excellent area in which to try out the system. Any latent defects were expected to reveal themselves. But the new survey was carried through without meeting unexpected difficulties, being completed in 1923 and the maps of the whole 373,000 acres were finished last year.

In April 1922, a Special Committee was set up to draft the necessary laws and, in general, to give effect to the recommendations put forward by the Commission of 1917 to 1921. Among its recommendations which have been put into practice were:—

That three new survey offices should be opened at Cairo, Minia and Sohag, while the Mixed Courts should establish special branch offices, which should be accommodated in the District Survey offices, to register "*sous seing privé*" deeds.

Two laws were also promulgated giving effect, though not in full degree, to the recommendations of the Land Registration Commission and thus forming the first attempt to put the proposed reforms into operation. The principal provisions of these laws, which became operative on January 1, 1924, were as follows:—

1. Making compulsory the registration of all deeds and judgments having the effect of constituting, transferring, modifying or cancelling any right connected with property. Failure to register the deeds deprived them of any other significance than as records of personal obligations between the parties concerned. Leases of more than nine years were subjected to the same stipulation.

2. Deeds presented for registration must give the names of the parties concerned, those of their fathers and paternal grandfathers, the name of the village, the name and number of the hôd and the number of the plot or plots as given in the Cadastral Survey maps, together with a description of the boundaries and the exact size of the area concerned.

3. The signatures or seals of the parties concerned must be legalised by one of the officials appointed by the Ministry of Justice for this purpose.

4. Provision was made for the registration in the Mixed Court registry of transcriptions effected by the Native Courts.

Instructions issued by the Ministry of Justice amplified the foregoing provisions by laying down that:—

1. Two photographic copies should be made of deeds presented for registration. The original deed was to be retained by the registering office and one copy filed. The other copy is handed to the party concerned. By means of the duplicate the survey informs the Mudiria or Governorate, in order that the changes in the Land Tax Register may be effected. Each of the parties concerned in a transaction has the right to a copy of the deed on payment of a small fee.

2. Nine additional branch registry offices of the Mixed Courts were set up at convenient centres throughout the country, exercising similar powers regarding registration of "*sous seing privé*" deeds to those enjoyed by the central registries of the Mixed Courts of Cairo, Alexandria and Mansura, the three Mixed Court centres.

A further instruction by the Ministry of Justice laid down that all deeds must be drawn up on specially embossed paper, on sale at the registering offices at P.T.5 per sheet.

This, in its broad outlines, is the system adopted up to the present time in Egypt. The concluding article will endeavour to show what degree of success has been achieved, and what modifications have suggested themselves in the light of experience gained during the first year's working of the reform.

THE REFUGEE PROBLEM IN BULGARIA.

Comparatively little has been heard of the refugee problem in Bulgaria. It has been overshadowed by Greece's larger disaster, with the more dramatic background provided for the long lines of refugees that fled or were expelled from Turkey, for there will have been five or more Greek refugees in Greece for every Bulgarian compelled to return to Bulgaria. The Greek problem, moreover, touched the Allies' conscience in view of the circumstances antecedent to the ill-starred invasion of Asia Minor, and not only has a substantial loan been forthcoming for Greece, but also practical assistance in organisation and supervision of relief measures. Bulgaria, on the other hand, has, in common parlance, been left to stew in her own juice. It was awkward for the Allied Powers to display much interest in the Bulgarian refugees, if only for the reason that they were fleeing or being ejected from Greek territory, and tales of hardship or persecution must have reflected on Greece. That aspect of the question, however, has now passed. It is unnecessary to inquire into the circumstances of their departure from Greece or Turkish Thrace. The problem as it exists to-day concerns only their presence in Bulgaria. From time to time references had been made in the Press to the pitiable lot of the refugees in Bulgaria and to the difficulties of the Government in dealing with the problem; but no attempt has been made, as it were, to marshal public opinion in Great Britain or any other country for a serious consideration of a serious position. Some help has been given, by the Red Cross Society, by the Save the Children Fund, but no attempt has been made to provide Bulgaria with financial assistance on the scale that the gravity of the refugee problem demands. Even in the case of Greece, it will be recalled, the help provided by means of a loan was in the nature of a sound business proposition: the reclamation schemes for which the refugees will provide the labour had long been recognised as promising a profitable return on the outlay, and thus offering adequate security for any expenditure under Government guarantee. Bulgaria, however, cannot point to any scheme on a large scale on which refugee labour might be mobilised with the promise of an immediate return of the money spent. The first need is to provide for the immediate wants of the people and, ultimately, to make them self-supporting; the State might make itself responsible for the repayment of the loan, but would not be so well placed as the Greek Government in offering collateral security.

An attempt to describe in detail Bulgaria's refugee problem has now been made by the Bulgarian Red Cross, which has issued a pamphlet entitled "The Refugee Question in Bulgaria" (Sofia: 1925), over the signatures of the Archbishop of Sofia, President of the Executive Committee for Refugee Relief, and Sotir Veltcheff, President of the Junior Red Cross. To English readers it will appear unfortunate that a document of this nature should have been utilised for propaganda purposes and for comments, from the Bulgarian point of view, on Balkan politics. What was wanted was merely a dispassionate statement of the problem with which Bulgaria found herself confronted, statistical information regarding the refugees and their requirements, an account of what had already been done

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to meet their needs, and what yet remained to be done before the country could be free from the burden imposed upon it by the sudden influx of the refugees. The signatories of the Report have not been able to resist the temptation of dwelling upon Bulgaria's wrongs and sufferings from early times, and they have gone back twenty years for the genesis of a Bulgarian refugee problem. Yet the actual problem to-day is in itself serious enough to call for no garnishing. If Europe through the League of Nations or Great Britain, with or without the United States of America, is to come to the help of Bulgaria, it will be on the strength of present-day conditions and not from any desire to modify previously formed judgments on the criminal folly that ranged Bulgaria against the Allies in the Great War. A very much shorter Report would have served the purpose of the signatories better. If the object is to enlist European sympathy, it ought to be realised that such sympathy will be extended only to Bulgaria of to-day, and that there is no surer way of causing sympathy to be withheld altogether than to attempt to use it as an exoneration for past misdeeds. It is kind to Bulgaria to emphasise this point when the sole purpose of this article is to press Bulgarian claims for financial assistance in connexion with the refugee problem. The question is one of humanity, not politics; money is needed to save the lives of the refugees and to enable them to provide for themselves in the future, not in order to record a vote of censure on Bulgaria's neighbours or to endorse the doctrine that she is so much better than they are.

The figures given in the Report for the number of refugees who have entered Bulgaria in recent years is 260,000. Of these 200,000 are said to have come from Thrace and Macedonia, 20,000 from the Dobrudja, 30,000 from Asia Minor, and 10,000 from Western Bulgaria. As the figures relate to the end of 1924, it may be inferred that the numbers have been increased during the last six or seven months. The Macedonian emigrants, we are told, "are scattered throughout all Bulgaria in the cities and villages; the Thracians are found mostly in Southern Bulgaria and in the vicinity of Varna. The refugees from the Dobrudja are settled about Varna, Rustchuk, and Sofia. The Bulgarians from the lost areas in Western Bulgaria live around Sofia and Kustendil. There is not a city or village in Bulgaria without refugees and refugee quarters. Sofia is swelled almost beyond recognition by the refugees . . . the population of Philippopolis has doubled."

It would seem that it was not until the beginning of last year that any systematic attempt was made to deal with the refugee problem so as to prevent segregation in places already overcrowded. A definite plan of land settlement was then introduced, and from January 1, 1924, to March 1, 1925, 27,736 people, representing 6,746 families, were officially registered and allocated by the proper authorities. The Report goes on to speak of "the terrible misery to which a whole nation is being subjected." "With very few exceptions the refugees from Greek Thrace and Greek Macedonia who migrated during 1924 and 1925 arrived at the boundary with nothing but their clothing and furniture; they had no agricultural or other implements, no farm animals or food products and were exhausted in body and spirit." A severe indictment of the conditions under which they left Greek territory follows, but would have been better omitted in a document intended to lead to practical alleviation of Bulgaria's difficulties. "Two hundred thousand wretched, poverty-stricken people are waiting for the Bulgarian Government to provide them with houses, land, and work." Already 6,328 young orphans have been discovered among the refugees, and it is expected that the total figure may prove to be 8,000. The State is doing everything it can for the latest refugees arriving from Greece. All the new arrivals are held in quarantine for a while at the receiving points on the Greek boundary. The officials there inform the Ministry of the Interior by telegraph of the new arrivals, and the Ministry at once sends instructions as to what villages the refugee peasants are to be sent to and where the city refugees are to go. The county superintendents and the mayors of the cities and villages are required to find dwelings for the refugees assigned to their areas . . . committees collect money, food and clothing and distribute them among the refugees. . . . But the help so far given is utterly inadequate to meet the needs, one reason being that there was a very poor harvest in 1924.

The Report is not quite convincing in its estimate of the funds required; but there can be no doubt that the sum will be between one and two million pounds sterling. Even this amount, if Bulgaria is to be able to spend it to the best advantage and make useful and healthy citizens of the refugees, should be accompanied by another loan for general purposes to allow the country a chance to recover from the burdens that an unsuccessful war has placed upon it.

The need for a loan to Bulgaria is urgent, not from altruistic motives or because the Bulgarians, in spite of their War action, have retained a warm spot in English affections, but in the interests of the peace of Europe. A nation as sorely tried as the Bulgarian has been, surrounded on every side by unforgiving enemies, provides an easy forcing ground for Bolshevism and helps to delay the time when South-Eastern Europe can settle down to a united and happier existence.

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Book Reviews and Notes.

IMPERIALISM IN IRAQ.

"THE HEART OF THE MIDDLE EAST." By Richard Coke. London: Thornton Butterworth, 18s. net.)

It is the unescapable lot of the writer who wishes to tell the history of Mesopotamia from earliest to modern times to discuss the question of Britain's present connection with Iraq. Now this question is usually discussed in terms of the future. What will Britain gain from her present support of Iraq? Does it better ensure the safety of her Indian Empire? These, and problems like them, are those commonly preferred when the matter of Iraq is raised. But there is another side to the picture, and it is the great, and very rare merit, of Mr. Richard Coke (whose writings from Baghdad have previously been commended in these columns) to have viewed the British relation in truest perspective, to have seen, that is, that our present commitments in Mesopotamia are the legitimate and inevitable extension of activities that began there three hundred years ago. As he says, in a most instructive and sensible chapter upon "The Coming of the English":—"The capture of Hormuz in 1622, and the consequent political agreement with the Persian Government of the time, led inevitably to the invasion of 1914, and thus to the present situation to-day."

Having seen the necessity of historical vision in treating of Iraq, Mr. Coke sets himself with a will to tracing the course of Mesopotamia and of Iraq (Al-Gezirah and Al-Iraq) from earliest times. This he does with at least adequate accuracy, and one is particularly grateful to him for having avoided that in which his subject so abounds—dates. Of particular value is his emphasising of that swaying position of dominance between East and West, of the fate of Imperialism in Iraq. There is no space here, however, to follow his story of Roman-Persian rivalry, of the coming of the Arab, of the division of Islam into Shiah and Sunni communities (a division which is of greater importance in Iraq than anywhere else), of the golden age of the Abbassids (a comprehension of whose civilisation is still essential to all foreign Imperialists in Iraq), and of the coming of the Mongols and Turks, upon whose decline came back the European, but this time not the Roman, but the English. How in Iraq the English, venerated of the tribes, overcame the Germans, respected but of the towns, is one of the best things in that chapter, that we have already indicated as one of the best in the book.

Of Iraq's chequered history since the Armistice Mr. Coke is a critical but fair witness. He shows 1919 as the year of hope, and how that hope, in the collision between the attempt to allow to Iraq President Wilson's "absolutely unmolested opportunity of autonomous development" and Britain's need of retaining some control there as being her old "sphere of influence," was dissolved and buried itself in the rebellion of disillusion in 1920. This survey of recent history, in which he admittedly tends towards the native version, he rounds with the retirement of Sir Percy Cox, the principal creator of the new State under King Faisal. But he does not close his book until he has described in some detail the various peoples of Iraq, the organisation of the Executive, the money, waters, fields, and roads, health and education, industry and business, and finally, the social life of this Arab Kingdom.

Armed with this knowledge of how Empire after Empire came to and faded away from Iraq, Mr. Coke is far too judicious to hold out any absurdly roseate view of the Arab Kingdom. He sees clearly enough that without British support it could in no wise stand, stating clearly the probability of Ibn Saoud's succeeding King Faisal were there nothing but Iraqi Arabs to prevent it. Nor is he extravagant in recounting the commercial possibilities of the country. Three things, however, that affect the future of Iraq, he speaks on with certainty:—first, that the Arab national spirit (starting in the Wahhabi victories more than a hundred years ago) is a real and growing thing; secondly, that in the case of European Powers' failing to develop their Middle Eastern interests, the Turks may reassert themselves, if not to hegemony, at least to combination with Arab nationalism; and thirdly, that in fifty years' time the East may be as well equipped scientifically as the West. And of the British connection with Iraq he quotes with warm approval Sir Arnold Wilson's dictum that "our Eastern responsibilities will, so long as we remain an Empire, increase and not diminish." On this subject, indeed, Mr. Coke comes very new to embracing the doctrine, despised in some fashionable quarters of to-day, of "the white man's burden." For he writes:—"If the British Empire should collapse, or if the British people should suddenly withdraw from its self-imposed task, the world of the Middle East must immediately sink back into that chaos from which it has been the work of three centuries to rescue it. There is no present alternative . . . . The withdrawal of the British influence does not mean 'independence' or 'self-determination'; it means chaos, utter and complete, until some other Power arises to take up the burden thus thrown down. For there is not one single connecting link, one single unifying idea, between the myriad races and religions that form the jungle of the Middle Eastern world—except the actuality of the British Empire; upon that all the nations, all the foilties lean in common; it is the mortar which, surrounding and enveloping the bricks of every sort and shape, alone secures the building. Britain will refuse the extension of her Imperial task, will abrogate her responsibility to civilisation, only at the risk of forfeiting the tolerance and respect of her fellow workers in the world, and the approval of her God."

There are those who will enthusiastically follow Mr. Coke in his conclusions, and there are those who will diffidently dissent from them, but for neither type of student will it be possible to ignore the facts which he has marshalled in so lucid and intelligent a manner. For general purposes, his is incomparably the most useful book on Iraq that prefers the recent history of Britain's latest experiment in the Middle East.

HISTORY BEFORE THE EVENT.

"THE GREAT PACIFIC WAR." By Hector C. Bywater (London Constable and Co., Ltd.).

The great safeguard against war between the United States of America and Japan is the five thousand miles of Pacific Ocean that separate them. To overcome this difficulty and to provide the *casus belli*, Mr. Bywater has to make Japan seek refuge from a very grave situation at home by a declaration of war against a "popular" enemy. From this plausible beginning he carries his reader more or less convincingly through the two years' campaign, 1931-33. The initial successes go to Japan; the honours at the end remain with America. Everything that he describes might happen; much of it, one is confident, would not. This latter fact, however, in no way detracts from the merit and absorbing interest of the narrative, which is painstakingly accurate in its technical details. To everyone interested in the Far East and in world problems we would say emphatically: If you have a choice between "The Great Pacific War" and the most thrilling novel, choose the former without a moment's hesitation.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Come va risolta la Questione dei Luoghi Santi." By Romolo Tritonj. (Rome: Edizione della "Ramegna Italiana." 15 lire.)

"A Condensed Dictionary English-Turkish." By Commander A. Vahid Bey, Turkish Navy. (London: Oxford University Press. 25s. net.)

"The Reawakening of the Orient and other Addresses." Sir Valentine Chirol, Yusuke Tsurume, and Sir James Arthur Salter. (New York: Yale University Press. 10s. 6d. net.)

"History of the Maratha People." Vol. III. By C. A. Kincaid, C.V.O., I.C.S., and Rao Bahadur D. B. Parasnis. (London; Oxford University Press. 10s. 6d. net.)

"Some Causes of the Present Stagnation of British Trade." By R. G. Glenday and A. L. Phase. With an Introduction by R. T. Nugent. (Federation of British Industries. 1s.)

"A Grammar of the Colloquial Arabic of Syria and Palestine." By G. R. Driver. (London: Probsthain and Co. 12s. 6d. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY
September 3, 1925 (New Style).
August 21, 1925 (Old Style).
Saphar 14, 1344 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Ellul 14, 5685, of the Jewish Calenedar.

Prince Habeb Lotfallah arrived last week at the Ritz Hotel from Paris.

Lord and Lady Henry Bentinck are in residence at Underley Hall, Kirkby Lonsdale, Westmoreland.

Lord and Lady Edward Gleichen, who have been in residence at Forest Row, left this week for Scotland.

The King and Queen of the Belgians sailed last Friday from Marseilles in the s.s. Ranpura for India, where they are going on a private visit.

Field-Marshal Lord Plumer, the new High Commissioner for Palestine, and Lady Plumer, arrived in Jerusalem on August 25.

Zekiai Bey, formerly Secretary to the Turkish Embassy in London, has been appointed Secretary to the Legation in Warsaw.

Ilias Bey Vrioni has been appointed Albanian Minister to the Court of St. James. He has served two periods as Prime Minister of Albania.

Mehmed Bey Konitza, the late Albanian Minister to the Court of St. James, left London yesterday for the South of France.

Major and Lady Alexandra Metcalfe, who have returned to town from Scotland, will leave later in the month for India.

Lord and Lady Cable have returned to their residence in Grosvenor Square from Lyndridge, South Devon. They will shortly leave for Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire.

Major-General Sir Louis Vaughan left London last Thursday by the P. and O. special train to embark in the s.s. Ranpura at Marseilles for Bombay.

Lady Wilson, wife of Sir Leslie Wilson, Governor of Bombay, left London last Thursday to embark in the s.s. Ranpura at Marseilles. for Bombay.

M. Titulesco, Roumanian Minister in London, who has been staying at St. Moritz, left last Thursday to attend the League of Nations Assembly in Geneva. He was accompanied by Mme. Titulesco.

Sir Walter Congreve, the Governor of Malta, left Tunis on August 26, whence he proceeded to London, on leave. During his absence Mr. W. C. F. Robertson, the Lieutenant-Governor, is administering the island.

Before returning to Egypt to continue the work of preserving the treasures of the Luxor tomb, Mr. Howard Carter will deliver a lecture at the New Oxford Theatre, Oxford Street, at 3 p.m., on September 11. The lecture, which will be entitled "The Tomb of Tutankhamen; From Ante-room to Burial Chamber," will be fully illustrated with lantern slides.

MODELS OF THE TEMPLES OF THE JEWS.

The Pro-Jerusalem Society is exhibiting in the Palestine Pavilion of the British Empire Exhibition the well-known Models of the Tabernacle in the Wilderness, of the Temples of Solomon and of Herod, and of the existing Dome of the Rock and al-Aqsa Mosques in the Temple Area. Explanatory addresses are given several times a day illustrative of Old and New Testament History.

Specimens of Jerusalem glazed tiles and pottery and of glass work made in the traditional manner at Hebron are on sale close by.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENT.

MARRIAGE.

JAMESON : WELLSTEAD.—On the 24th August, 1925, at St. James's Church, London, by the Rev. W. F. Webb-Bowen, James Alexander Jameson (of S. Persia) to Mrs. Jean Wilson Wellstead. (Iraq papers, please copy.)

Where to stay in the East

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

Conference of Modern Churchmen.

The time of reflection which we in this country are granted but once a year—it is commonly called the close season for political speeches—is now at an end, but its final days have been marked by notable contributions to the thought of the day, from the religious point of view in the Conference of Modern Churchmen at Oxford, and from the scientific point of view in the meetings of the British Association at Southampton. In comparison with the lectures given at these two assemblies, the words uttered or to be uttered this week by such men as Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, Mr. J. H. Thomas, the Earl of Oxford, Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland, and so on, are but of little consequence.

One of the most interesting papers read at Oxford was by a Staffordshire rector upon "Why we are Members of the Church of England." He attacked the subject in the full and hearty English fashion beloved of our forefathers. "Many of us would far rather be honest atheists than worship a God who, in more senses than one, is under the thumb of the Roman priesthood." And he went on to declare that the God of the Roman Catholic is different from the God of the Anglican. This, indeed, was putting the position of the Church of England on very high, if not dry, ground. It is difficult to estimate how widely such views are entertained by the majority of Anglicans, but there can be little doubt that this speaker was right when he declared that "if the Church of England submitted to Roman domination, it would mean that the main stream of English Christianity would pass to the Free Churches."

Those who question whether this question of the destiny of the Church of England is seriously exercising the thoughtful part of the nation need only spend a few days in our countryside examining the village churches: they will there find such traces of what is called "Anglo-Catholicism" as will probably surprise them.

Religion and Science.

Another important contribution concerned the evolutionary arguments for belief, which were contained in a paper read by a Cheshire vicar upon "What we Believe about the Nature of Man." He explained that the misery arising from the incomplete fusion of the incompatible elements which human nature had received at different stages of evolution, was evidence, not of a fall, but of a partial and precarious rise: Thomas Hardy's Jude was a creature of two worlds. But the point was: were there not this unrest, this dual nature of man, this tragedy, there would be no religion.

Here he touched a very vital point in modern popular philosophy: the reason of the existence of tragedy. This village rector appears to have explained in admirably just fashion that progress and degeneration alternated, and that the story of savagery, cruelty, and superstition was broken only because of the repeated and unfailing appearance of what he called "significant personalities," in whom we had Man *plus* God—in other words, and to the less sophisticated Christian, Saints.

Evolution and Design.

The reading world had hardly finished talking about M. Charles Henry's definition of the Immortality of the Soul (which seems to the uninitiated merely a complicated, mathematical way of arriving at the same goal as that which mystics of all ages have reached by direct means), than it was startled to see that Professor W. A. Parks had told the British Association that materialism cannot provide an adequate account of the wonders of Geology. Not only did he see design in evolution, but he saw no reason that the upward gradient should be discontinued.

Such an encouraging sign of the times as this would surely have been condemned by the mid-Victorian scientists as trespass. Modern scientists, however, are becoming the most modest of men, and the "scientific fact," so long revered of our anti-religionists, is now seen to be often the least certain of "facts." It is, in other words, becoming increasingly easy for the scientist to be religious, and the religious to be scientific—a state of affairs evidenced by two of the papers at Oxford and Southampton which I have noted.

English Fishing and Soviet Russia.

To one part of England, at any rate, the enormities of the Soviet Government of Russia have seemed decreasingly unspeakable: I mean the East Coast. Before the War, of course, the East Coast fishing industry depended largely upon the Continental market, and in the last few years it has been striving hard to regularise its position with Russia. Recently it appears to have had a certain measure of success—which, in view of the arrival of the herring season, is fortunate. Last week the first consignment of fresh herrings was caught off Flamborough Head, and in a week or so the harvest at Yarmouth and Lowestoft will be gathered. It is understood that the majority of the transactions have been made by the medium of the Co-operative Wholesale Society and Arcos.

Cricket.

Being temporarily disabled from playing cricket, I have been doing the next but one best thing in the world—reading about it. The last book issued on the subject is an anthology, compiled by Mr. Samuel S. Looker, and published by Messrs. Simpkin, Marshall and Co. at 3s. 6d. And it is very well worth the price. It is true that one misses several things, such as Francis Thompson's verses on the heroes of Lancashire, paragraphs by Neville Cardus (the "Cricketer" of the *Manchester Guardian*), A. H. J. Cochrane's immortal ballad about the man that snicketn the length ball, and other literature well known to the lover of the game. Nor do we find very much about the part that minor counties have played in the history of the game. One wonders whether the author is aware that Hertfordshire claims precedence over the Southern Counties in starting the game (the club of St. Albans, for example, dates from 1660); or that in 1799, Norfolk was strong enough to challenge the Rest of England, and that a sum of £500 was laid on the result?

But certain omissions every anthologist is bound to make. And this, one may say again, is a very charming little book. It is good to read again of the Oval match between Surrey and Yorkshire last century, which was played to a finish in such a light that the public lamps round the ground were alight ("The Lamplight Match"), or of the story of Morley, the Notts bowler, who always went in last, and (says Mr. P. F. Warner) "was so bad a bat that when he came down the pavilion steps the old horse used instinctively to walk over and place itself between the shafts of the roller," or of the parish clerk in Yorkshire who was also a notable umpire, and who once, going to sleep in church, woke up in time to utter his customary "Amen," only, drowsily to substitute for it a congregation-delighting "Over."

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Indian Affairs.

PARTY JOURNALISM IN INDIA.

In all ordinary subjects of discussion, the preservation of an impartial spirit is the accepted aim of reputable journalism. Party politics are practically everywhere an exception: the good party journalist makes no pretence of impartiality. India has so far been outside the pale of party politics at Home; though there are signs, that it is impossible to ignore, of the coming of a time when this will no longer be the case. The journalist who addresses a British audience on Indian politics has, therefore, no excuse for departing from the strictest appearance of impartiality, even if the true pure quality itself is not always within his reach. But unfortunately the converse is not the case; Great Britian and the British connection are a party question in India, and the Indian journalist who addresses an audience of his own people on the subject approaches it in the most violently partisan spirit. He has other party questions as well, and very acute ones—such as Hindu versus Mohammedan, Brahmin versus non-Brahmin, and the like—in the discussion of which, exhibitions of party spirit cause no surprise to the British journalist, who is himself able to discuss them with complete impartiality, even if his attitude veils a state of more or less complete ignorance. But it comes as a decided shock to the British journalist who, in his attempt to preserve the proper atmosphere of impartiality, examines the files of the Anglo-vernacular newspapers of India, to find them apparently unanimously bent on inflaming anti-British passion on every possible occasion. And if this is true of the Anglo-vernacular press as, with few exceptions, it unfortunately is, it is even more true of the great majority of vernacular papers. One can but face the facts, and some of the facts are most unpalatable.

The most unpalatable of all is the constant suggestion of bad faith towards India on the part of Great Britain. The "exploitation" of India in British interests, and the "economic drain" of India's wealth to Great Britain that is represented as resulting from it, have been constant excuses for abuse of England for many years past: and these topics continue to be reinforced on every possible occasion Two of the burning questions that have recently been agitating Indian publicists are those of exchange and of the position of the cotton industry in Bombay. It is freely asserted that exchange has been "manipulated" by England in order to "cheat the Indian people in their receipts of rupees": and that the present slump in the Bombay mill industry has been deliberately engineered by a "well-concerted scheme for the ruin of the Indian cotton industry" in the interests of Lancashire. One prominent Anglo-vernacular newspaper, in advancing these arguments, describes the statement made by Sir Basil Blackett in his recent interview with the Indian Merchants' Chamber as "cloying humbug" and "sneering sophistry" delivered with "an unctuous leer," that will not succeed in deceiving any intelligent observer as regards the real facts. And a similar spirit seems to pervade every reference to the Englishman in India. The same paper speaks of the Indian Civil Service as "the corporation of mandarins who go on beating their own records in the world championship for salary grabbing"; while the demand of the European services in India for medical attendance for themselves and their families by doctors of their own race meets with the following comment: "We all know that Indian doctors who practice in England are not obstructed by coy conceits of racialism. Indian experts treat the scions of ducal families in England, but east of Suez the meanest sample of East End dregs finds himself bloated with prestige and propagating prejudices of national lucrativeness."

These are but samples, taken at random; the same sort of thing is to be found broadcast throughout the pages of Indian newspapers—not mere ephemeral "rags," but important organs that count their subscribers by the thousand. India is very largely a country of illiterates—a fact that forms the basis of one of the many charges brought against her present rulers—and only a small percentage of her people are able to read a newspaper. But every village contains a few literates, and it is no uncommon thing to see a crowd of Indian villagers sitting to listen to the reading aloud of a newspaper by one of the village literati. The reader picks out the spiciest bits to retail to his hearers, and it is only too often the case that these consist of abuse of the European and all his works. It is a well-known fact that, in India, no vernacular or Anglo-vernacular newspaper can command a wide circulation unless it abuses the Government; and, though the real meaning of this is only that the literate public who buy it approve of such writing, it also connotes the fact that this forms the only political pabulum of the far greater public who hear it. The Indian peasant is not anti-British: on the contrary, he not only trusts and respects the British official, but often regards him with real affection; but the constant stream of abuse that flows from the vernacular press cannot fail to produce deplorable results in the end. The Indian journalist and politician, though such a master of anti-British invective, is himself quite surprisingly thin-skinned. The mildest rebuke to an Indian "public man," or the most temperate attempt to controvert his views or his "facts," is invariably hailed as a "dastardly attack" on one of India's foremost and most devoted patriots. Is it any wonder, then, that the British journalist finds it more than difficult to preserve his impartiality when discussing political questions that affect Britons as well as Indians, or that he feels the hopelessness of appealing to Indian journalists to fight fair—themselves to make some sacrifices in the cause of that sympathy which they profess to expect from Englishmen and on which their high priest Mr. Gandhi relies as the foundation of his Dominion of India? Prominent Indian politicians are for ever declaring that India asks but a genuine gesture of friendship from England, and all will be well: surely it is not much to ask them, in return, to use their influence to extirpate the worst abuses from Indian journalism and so achieve a real advance in the direction of a more friendly atmosphere. As Parliamentary institutions develop in India, the Government of India will find, ranged against it, a properly organised Opposition and this will doubtless be supported by a regular Opposition Press; one can but hope that, when this does happen, the tactics of that Press will be widely different from those that now so greatly discredit party journalism in India. No one will demand the impossible, or ask for impartiality from an Indian party Press: but it is not too much to expect that its partiality will be not only honest but decent.

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CURRENT TOPICS.

The New President of the Assembly.

Mr. Patel, the successful Swarajist candidate for the Presidency of the Legislative Assembly, has made a surprisingly good beginning. In his reply to speeches of welcome from all parties in the Assembly, he said that he had ceased to belong to any party, and asked the leader of the Swaraj Party to have a resolution passed, by that Party, absolving him from his obligations as a Swarajist. The Viceroy and Sir Frederick Whyte (the retiring President) had appealed for co-operation, and he now associated himself with that appeal. As an outward and visible sign of his previous convictions, Mr. Patel appeared in orthodox Khaddar dress and "Gandhi" cap which, before taking the Chair, he exchanged for the full robes of office, including the wig, of the President.

The transformation of the Vice-President of the Swaraj party, and leader of their extreme wing, from a militant Swarajist to a co-operator, is a striking sign of the times and may well be expected to exercise a powerful influence on the policy of his late Party. No less striking is a comparison of the present position with that existing a year ago, when, at the election of the Deputy President, most of the prominent politicians in the Assembly refused to stand because their election would involve a conditional surrender of party freedom. Mr. Patel has not only been a strong, indeed violent opponent of Government, but went so far as to signify his disapproval of its "Satanic" character by refusing, when President of the Bombay Municipality, to take part in the official welcome of the Viceroy to that city. The belief, already expressed in THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA, that responsible Indian politicians, in spite of the chorus of disapproval with which they greeted Lord Birkenhead's statement in the House of Lords, are beginning to realise the true value of the offer of friendly co-operation that it contained, is greatly strengthened by the weighty and statesmanlike speech of the new President of the Assembly.

Sir Frederick Whyte.

Sir Frederick Whyte, the retiring President of the Legislative Assembly, received a great ovation from the Members when handing over his office to his elected successor, Mr. Patel. All Parties united in praising his conduct in the Chair, and in expressing their gratitude to their first President for the high standard that he had set up and for his unfailing courtesy and impartiality. There can be no sort of doubt that Sir Frederick Whyte has been a great success as President of the Assembly: and that the selection of the man, whom India at first accepted somewhat doubtfully as an undistinguished ex-member of a brief Parliament, the reason for the choice of whom was not apparent, has abundantly justified the prescience of the man—whoever he was—who made it. It was no easy task to set the standard for a country entirely new to Parliamentary institutions, and Sir Frederick Whyte has set a very high standard indeed; that he has successfully done so is fully borne out by the attitude of his successor which not only constitutes a remarkable tribute to his own personality, but to that of Sir Frederick also.

Apart from his work as President of the Assembly, Sir Frederick Whyte has been prominent in a number of ways. He conducted the inquiry into the organisation of Diarchy in Burma, and rumour has it that he was a candidate for the appointment of Governor of that Province on the retirement of the last Lieutenant-Governor under the old régime. He has been a prominent figure in the Red Cross and St. John of Jerusalem organisations and in a semi-social and semi-political Society existing in Simla and Delhi known as "Les Amis de la France." In the latter capacity he has appeared in small French plays staged by the Society, with a success that caused his services to be sought by the Simla Amateur Dramatic Society. His name has been mentioned in connection with the Presidency of the Public Services Commission in India, the appointment of which is believed to be imminent: and it is permissible to suppose that his decision, to remain in India until October, has some connection with the possibility of such an appointment. But, whether Destiny is reserving further employment for him in India or not, there can be no question at all that the five years that he has already spent there have been of the greatest value to India and that he has made good use of a great opportunity, such as comes to few men in less exalted positions than those of Viceroy or Governor. Happy are those to whom it is given to do good work, and whose work lives after them: Sir Frederick Whyte has achieved the first, and all indications point to his achievement of the second also.

The Mill-Owners' Deputation.

The Viceroy's reply to the deputation of Bombay mill owners who waited on him on August 21 cannot have been palatable to them, though the cables describe it as "sympathetic." He said that the Government was pledged to the abolition of the excise duty when financial considerations permitted, but did not hold out any hopes of its early abolition. As regards the complaint of unfair Japanese competition, the most he was able to promise was that, if definite evidence of Japanese dumping were produced, the question would be examined: and suggested the stating of a case to the Tariff Board, for inquiry whether the cotton industry needed protection. He expressed the opinion that, if America produced a good cotton crop this year, one of the main troubles of the Indian industry would be ended: and remarked that the total amount of cotton cloth now placed on the Indian market was but slightly less than what it was before the War, though the price of cloth had doubled in the interval, so that the Indian market was now asked to absorb nearly double the value of what it had absorbed before the War.

In the mean time the mill owners, after considering the advantages of a reduction in wages, or working short time, as a palliative, have decided on the former, though it seems not unlikely that the latter may eventually be added as well. The actual saving that would result from the proposed reduction of 11½ per cent. in wages appears to be much too small to produce any real effect on the cost of cloth: and, in view of the very large stocks on hand in the mills, even a drastic use of the short time expedient would be long before it produced an appreciable effect, so long as present prices are maintained. The only possible means of competing with the alleged Japanese dumping is a large reduction in cost; and, as things are at present, there seems to be no possibility of this. The position is, indeed, largely the fault of the Bombay mills themselves—during, and immediately after, the War they made enormous profits, practically the whole of which were paid out in dividends without provision of a reserve against a period of depression such as has now supervened. However much this may detract from the sympathy that would otherwise be felt for the mill owners in their present difficulties, it does not alter the fact that the industry is face to face with an unexampled crisis, from which it is almost impossible to foresee a way of escape. A suggestion has been made that the abolition of the excise duty, when it is possible to effect it, should be accompanied by a corresponding reduction in the import duty on manufactured cotton goods; but this would leave the relative situations of Indian and foreign mills unimpaired, although it ought to lead to an all-round reduction in prices. If such a reduction were accompanied by discriminative action against the products of Japanese mills, it would lessen the severity of Japanese competition, which, after all, is not without its advantages, as tending to keep down the cost of cloth in India: for it is beyond question that the present troubles of the Bombay mills are due to the excessive prices of their products; since the Indian peasant, if he cannot get the commodities that he wants, at a price that suits his pocket, is an adept at managing to do without them. At the time when prices in England reached their maximum about a year after the War, the profiteers were defeated by a "purchasers' strike"—people refused to pay the prices asked and preferred to do without things that they would have bought if the price had been reasonable; and this attitude is, to all intents and purposes, what the cloth industry in India now has to face, on a much vaster scale. It has been calculated that, owing to the higher prices obtained for his crops, the Indian agriculturist is about

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35 per cent. better off than he was before the War; but the lowest estimate of the rise in the price of cloth puts it at 170 per cent.; figures that show how great must be the reduction in price before there can be any reasonable probability of the peasant's purchases of cloth reaching anything approaching their pre-war volume.

India's Foremost Orientalist.

By the death of Sir Ramkrishna Bhandarkar, at the great age of 88, India has lost her foremost Orientalist. Bhandarkar was the first graduate of the Elphinstone College, Bombay, was one of the first Indians to enter the Indian Education Service, and was the senior honorary member of the Royal Asiatic Society. He was a fellow of Calcutta University, Ph.D. of Gottingen and Calcutta, and LL.D. of Aberdeen and Bombay. He was one of the founders of the *Indian Antiquary* and a voluminous writer on Sanskrit, while his "Early History of the Deccan," published in 1884, remains the unchallenged authority on its subject. He was selected to represent the Bombay Government at the first International Congress of Orientalists, which met in London in 1874, but was unable to attend it; and, in 1886, he represented his Province at the Vienna Congress of Orientalists. The Oriental Institute at Poona, opened by the Governor of Bombay in 1917, was erected in Bhandarkar's honour and named after him. He retired from the Indian Education Department over thirty years ago, but remained a member of the Syndicate of Bombay University, of which he was a past Vice-Chancellor and which he represented, for a time, in the Bombay Legislature, besides serving, on the nomination of Lord Curzon, on the Viceregal Legislature in 1903. He was created C.I.E. in 1889 and K.C.I.E. in 1911.

The Indian Currency Commission.

A strong spirit of opposition has been aroused, in the Legislative Assembly, by the publication of the names of the members of the Currency Commission. A motion for the adjournment of the House, to call attention to the composition of the Commission, was carried by a large majority: one Swarajist speaker declaring that Indian currency policy was notoriously dictated from England and that India had no confidence in the Indian members of the Commission, while another stated that it was the duty of Indians to boycott the Commission and to treat it as untouchable.

This is unfortunately an attitude only too familiar in India; where, if the next move proceeds according to custom, it may not unreasonably be expected that the Indian National Congress will constitute a Currency Commission of their own, composed of Indian "experts" in whom "India" professes to have confidence, to take evidence and present a counter report. Also in accordance with precedent, such a Commission would doubtless inform the Government of India of the fact of its constitution and would invite them to "lead evidence" before it. Government's only possible answer—to ignore the unofficial Commission and all its works—would be stigmatised as bureaucratic obstinacy and a refusal of that co-operation which they themselves expect from Indians.

Agriculture in India.

Commenting on that part of Lord Reading's speech to the Legislative Assembly that dealt with agriculture, the Bombay correspondent of *The Times* says that it is apparently proposed not only to bring the Imperial and Provincial Departments of Agriculture into closer co-operation with each other, but also to bring them into closer touch with the public: it may safely be said that to the Legislative Assembly, with its majority of politicians from the towns, the Viceroy's outline of what the State has done for agriculture came as a surprise. The Government of India and the Provincial Governments are not good advertisers; it is only in recent years that they have begun to appreciate the advantage of making their good works known, and they have still much to learn of the arts of publicity and of diffusing the results of their scientific experiments. The tendency in India is always to look to the Government for help, and this is nowhere more noticeable than in agriculture; but the enormous benefits that have been conferred on Indian agriculture by the work of the Agricultural Departments are not appreciated at anything like their proper value by the vernacular Press of India or by the townsmen who form the great bulk of its readers. The official review of agricultural operations in India during the past year estimates that there were, in 1923-24, over five million acres under improved varieties of crops originally isolated or evolved by officers of the Agricultural Department: and that the resultant annual increase in value to the crops of the country is not less than 3½ millions sterling. This great achievement is chiefly due to the Department's production of improved varieties of rice, wheat, and cotton: but its activities are not by any means confined to those important crops—so numerous are they that the most up-to-date methods of propaganda could scarcely take notice of them all, and this is perhaps the reason why the tremendous achievements of the Department are not more adequately appreciated by some of the critics of Government. The most important fact is that the good work already accomplished has won the confidence of the cultivator and paved the way for a further advance in the direction where, as is universally agreed, it is most urgently needed—towards the improvement of economic conditions in the rural areas.

Indian Foreign Trade During June.

The trade returns for British India for June show a further decrease in imports and a further increase in exports compared with the previous month. The value of imports of merchandise fell from 1,893 to 1,632 lakhs, and the value of exports rose from 3,258 to 3,310 lakhs. The net imports of treasure fell from 425 to 346 lakhs, and the visible balance of trade in favour of India was 1,452 lakhs, compared with 1,052 lakhs in May. The only imported article that shows a noticeable increase was sugar, which increased by 15,000 tons in quantity and 25 lakhs in value. There were noticeable decreases in the imports of iron and steel (41 lakhs) and of railway material (11 lakhs); the greatest decrease was in cotton piece-goods, which declined by 36 million yards in quantity and 167 lakhs in value. In exports, there was a fall of 96 lakhs in food grains and a rise of 82 lakhs in tea. The export of raw materials increased by 500 lakhs, chiefly in cotton and oilseeds, while raw hides and skins also showed an increase and wool a decrease. The total shipment of raw cotton was 80,800 tons, of which Japan took 37,300 tons, China 17,100 tons, Italy 5,400 tons, and the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, and Germany about 4,000 tons each. The shares of the United Kingdom, Japan, the United States, and Germany were respectively, in imports, 52, 10, 7, and 6 per cent., and in exports 18, 20, 9, and 5 per cent. The tonnage of vessels entered into British India and cleared outwards with cargoes from and to foreign countries and British Possessions remained practically the same as that of the previous month, the former showing a slight increase and the latter a slight decrease.

Madras Irrigation Project.

A fourth great irrigation scheme must be added to the three mentioned by Mr. Pilcher in his third article on "Indian Markets and British Producers," noticed in our issue of last week. This is the Metur-Cauvery project, which was inaugurated by the Governor of Madras last month. This is one of the largest projects of the kind ever undertaken. The dam will be 200 feet high and over 6,000 feet in length, the lake formed by it being 100 miles in circumference, with a capacity of 93,500 million cubic feet. The project includes the construction of a main irrigation canal 88 miles in length, and the improvement and extension of the existing Vadaver Canal in the Cauvery delta. The works, which are expected to be completed in ten years, will improve the existing fluctuating water supplies to the present delta irrigation of over a million acres and will extend irrigation to 300,000 acres at present unprotected, while it is expected ultimately to bring under irrigation a further area of about the same dimensions. The cost of the project is estimated at about 4½ millions sterling, and it is expected to produce a revenue of 7½ per cent. on the capital expenditure

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Imperial Wireless.

Construction has already begun at the British end for the connection of Great Britain and India by wireless, on the Beam system. The British transmitting station is located near Grimsby and the receiving station at Winthorpe, near Skegness; while the Indian stations are to be at Poona and Dhond (45 miles east of Poona) respectively. Under the contract, the British stations are to be completed in May 1926: and a number of engineers of the Marconi Company have already arrived in India to superintend the erection of the stations there.

There is already a fairly complete network of wireless stations in India, though they have not so far been much used for commercial traffic. Atmospheric difficulties are at present very troublesome, particularly in the monsoon period; but it is hoped that the Beam system will be found to go some way towards minimising them; and the opening of the Imperial station in India, on this principle, may perhaps lead to its extension to the internal system. There is a widely held belief that wireless is destined to supersede cable communication; but, as far as it is possible to foresee eventualities, this is unlikely to be the case, at any rate for a long time to come—cables and wireless will remain complementary to each other. In the War, the British Empire reaped an enormous advantage by the strength of its position in regard to cables, since it held both ends of so many of them and was therefore able to send secret cipher messages without fear of their being tapped en route; whereas wireless sends out its messages to the wide world, for any receiver within range to pick up at will. One of the advantages claimed for the Beam system is that it will reduce the possibilities of unauthorised reception of such messages. The general public, who know nothing about ciphers except that they exist, are strong in their belief that almost any cipher system is insoluble; whereas the fact is that the most skilfully arranged code is susceptible of solution, provided only that the expert solver is able to obtain sufficient material: and this is what the use of wireless telegraphy tends to give him.

INDIAN EXCHANGE.

London, August 31.

We have had a very quiet week in the London market, with no perceptible change in rates until Friday. Business on this side has been very restricted, with few orders, so that the strength in the market has come from India. Last Friday, Calcutta cabled that the market was firm at 1s. 6⅛d. for telegraphic, chiefly due, we understand, to selling orders from other quarters; and banks and others, in order to satisfy their requirements, had to sell to Government. In the beginning of the week purchases by Government were made at 1s. 6⅛d.

Towards the end of the week the rate was raised to 1s. 6 5-32d., and cable advices from Calcutta on Monday intimate that Government would not buy lower than 1s. 6 3-16d. It is difficult to understand the reason for this sudden firmness in exchange, but it has been stated that it may be due to further purchases of cotton in India by Japan in consequence of the Shanghai market being closed. We do not think that this is the only reason, as the principal demand has arisen on the Calcutta side, and money movements in connection with the jute crop have, no doubt, contributed.

So far as reports go, the monsoon appears to be satisfactory, and, as it may be reasonable to assume that normal crops will be gathered, it may be as well to consider how much higher the rupee is likely to go as we approach the height of the season. Last year at this time, T.T. rates were quoted 1s. 5¼d., and they gradually advanced to 1s. 6d. by the end of the year, but did not rise much beyond that point.

In view of the shrinkage in imports into India, it is probable that Government may be called upon to provide finance on a very much larger scale than hitherto, and the question which merchants have to face is whether the Government will stand up to the full extent of the calls to be made upon it on behalf of exporters. If they decide to do so, can they be relied upon to keep the rupee from soaring?

CORRESPONDENCE

PROVINCIAL AUTONOMY IN INDIA.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—Coles Pasha's interesting article in your issue of August 20 advocates the breaking up of the existing Provinces into homogeneous States, on a racial and linguistic basis; and that each of these States should, to begin with, have a Parliament of its own, to which, when it had passed out of an initial state of tutelage, should be added a Senate or Second Chamber. Such States would owe allegiance to a Central (Federal) Government which would deal with Imperial questions, they themselves completely controlling their own State questions. In his speech at the opening of the Legislative Assembly at Simla the Viceroy asked whether even the most ardent friends of provincial autonomy really contemplated the existence of nine or more—perhaps many more—separate Sovereign States in India. This is, apparently, what Coles Pasha's article does contemplate; and he adds to the suggestion of a number of British Indian "Republics," the outline of a scheme for eventually bringing into line with these Republics the native Indian Monarchies, by the extension of the limits of some of the existing ones, and the creation of new ones, who would, he hopes, in time, from the force of the example of the British Indian Republics contiguous to them, become Constitutional instead of Absolute Monarchies. The cost of the existing Provincial Governments is already very heavy; and the proposal, not only to increase their number, but to make them all in time bi-cameral, would entail prohibitive expenditure. As an example of the increased cost already incurred under the Reforms, one may instance the Province of Assam. Under the old régime, Assam was governed by a Chief Commissioner and, I believe, three Secretaries and Deputy Secretaries, and its governance was, even then, hardly a whole-time job for its Chief Commissioner. It now boasts a Governor, two Executive Councillors, and two Ministers, with, I believe, seven Secretaries and Deputy Secretaries.

I venture to suggest a different solution of the idea of Provincial Autonomy, by an extension of the principle of semi-autonomous sub-provinces, of which the existing example is Sind, which is ruled, under the orders of the Government of Bombay, by an official whose title is the Commissioner in Sind. So far from increasing the number of Provinces, I think that their number should be reduced, and that India should be divided into five Provinces—North, South, East, West, and Central—omitting Burma, whose destiny seems likely to lie apart from that of India, with which her only link is the accidental one of (rather inaccessible) contiguity. These Provinces would, in the main, follow the boundaries of the Punjab, Madras, Bengal, Bombay, and the United Provinces respectively; the actual adjustment of boundaries being made on racial and linguistic lines. Each of these Provinces would be made up of a number of sub-Provinces, each of which would be ruled by an official—who might be designated Lieutenant-Governor—on the model of the Commissioner in Sind. For instance, the Province of Bengal would consist of five sub-Provinces, or States—Western Bengal, Eastern Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Assam; each of which would elect its own representatives to the local "House of Representatives" of Bengal. The Lieutenant-Governors would be either Englishmen or Indians, with a Chief Secretary who would be either an Indian or an Englishman; and the Chief Secretary would act as adviser to the Lieutenant-Governor, in much the same way that the Resident in an Indian State acts as adviser to the ruling Prince; so that the form of Government in the British-Indian States would approximate to that existing in the native Indian States.

This is, of course, only the rough outline of an idea which does, however, I believe, offer a better chance of successful elaboration than that recommended in Coles Pasha's article. I believe it would meet the demand made by Indian politicians for increased responsibility, and would meet the British objection that this can only be granted on condition that Indian politicians are content to learn to walk before they try to run.—Yours, etc.,

Kew, August 27. C. CAPPER.

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CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, August 17.

Ministerships in the Central Provinces.

Sir Montagu Butler, in his speech at the opening of the present Session of the Central Provinces Legislative Council, made a strong appeal for co-operation. After referring to the progress which had been made during the previous sitting and the steps which had been taken by Government to meet the wishes of the Council, he said that he had hoped to lay before them a demand for Ministers' salaries; but, from statements in the Press, it appeared that the present policy of the Swarajists was to harness the political future of the Central Provinces to that of Bengal. It was for the Council to judge whether the Province had had so much political education in the past as to be able to afford to neglect the present opportunity for gaining political experience, and if they did not want to administer the wide range of transferred subjects, the responsibility was entirely their own. The Governor has since interviewed the leaders of the Swaraj Party and invited them to accept portfolios; he has been met with a firm refusal. The Extremist Press make much of the rejection, which they attribute to Lord Birkenhead's speech, but the *Times of India* throws an interesting sidelight on the situation in its statement that rivalries and jealousies in the Swaraj ranks are at the root of the decision. Whatever the cause, the result is an unfortunate one; public opinion is slowly but surely veering round to a saner view of things political, and the outcome of the present Swaraj tactics will probably cause the dissolution of the Council, and a fresh election, when it is problematic whether the Swarajists will be able to claim the honours.

A Swarajist Setback.

The Swaraj Party has been engaged during the week in making elaborate preparations for the opening of the session of the Bengal Legislative Council, and these have been considered of such importance as to bring Pandit Motilal Nehru to Calcutta. The main item of business has been the nomination of a candidate for the post of President of the Council, and it has savoured of the deliberations which preceded the election of Mr. Sen Gupta to the Mayoral chair. Motilal Nehru was of the opinion that a Mohammedan should be elected, and his views were endorsed by Sen Gupta, who patronisingly remarked that, if a Mohammedan were not elected, this section of the community might think that their claims were being overlooked, particularly as there were indications that the Corporation would decide on the exhumation of the body of the "saint" in the New Market, a decision which would go against their feelings. The main consideration was that there should be some *quid pro quo* for his own election to the Mayoralty. Ultimately it was decided to adopt Dr. A. Suhrawardy as the party's nominee. The Presidential election took place yesterday, with Kumar S. S. Roy (Independent), Dr. A. Suhrawardy (Swarajist), and Khan Bahadur A. Salam (Mohammedan Liberal) as candidates for the honour, which carries with it a salary of Rs.3,000 per month. The first ballot eliminated the name of the last mentioned, who secured only eight votes out of 128, and in the subsequent poll Kumar S. S. Roy defeated the Swarajist candidate by the narrow margin of six votes. The significance of the Swarajist defeat lies in the severance of the Independents from the Extremist ranks, and as such is the first real protest which has been made against the return of the Swarajists to an anarchical policy; it will be interesting to see what further surprises the present session of the Legislative Council has in store.

The Mohammedans.

Mr. Sen Gupta's hopes for Hindu-Moslem unity are threatened with a disappointment. It will be recalled that almost a year ago a (Christian) beggar who was held in reverence by the Mohammedan butchers, died in the Market premises and was buried there with the knowledge of the Deputy Mayor and the then Chief Executive Officer. After several meetings of the Corporation it was decided to brick up the grave, which is in a passage-way, and refer the Corporation's position for the opinion of the Advocate-General. This has now been received, and is to the effect that the body can legally be exhumed; the Corporation, which is largely Hindu in its constitution, is faced with the problem of exhuming the body and offending Mohammedan susceptibilities or, alternatively, of allowing the body to remain, in direct contravention of the provisions of the Municipal Act. This item of business was on the agenda of the meeting held last night, but an acrimonious discussion, which arose in regard to the Bill for walling up the passage, prevented a decision. It is evident, however, that Mohammedan Councillors do not intend to allow the body to be removed without a fight: and it is stated that a general letter of resignation has been prepared and signed by seven out of the fifteen Mohammedan Councillors to be submitted in the event of the Corporation contravening their wishes. The Corporation have power on their side, and it remains to be seen whether their sense of municipal duty will be strong enough to outweigh the risk of a political breach.

Markets.

Business this week has again been restricted by holidays and there are no features to report in any of the markets. Jute is weaker but gunnies have kept approximately to last week's levels with few inquiries; the market for piece-goods remains dull but slightly steadier in tone. Tea sales for the better qualities have been satisfactory, with the poorer descriptions showing small declines. The London tea market has reacted on the offer of the new season's crop, but this may be accounted for in part by the report that stocks at the end of July this year exceeded those at the same time last year by about 22 million pounds.

The Share Market has been inactive in almost all departments; jute shares, after being steadier, eased at the close, the more speculative section showing an appreciable drop; a small inquiry for coal shares prevails, but no interest is shown in Teas and Cottons. Government Securities remain firm. Money continues very easy and at nominal rates, with few borrowers. Exchange is very firm.

BOMBAY LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bombay, August 14.

The Bombay Stock Exchange.

There is a good deal of agitation on the question of Government legislation, which has been brought forward again as the result of the so-called financial crisis of May.

The Stock Exchange handles its ordinary and legitimate business of investments adequately enough. The volume is, however, very small. The total capital of the Joint Stock Companies of Bombay is not large; a great proportion of it is held by the managing agents, and, allowing for the permanent holdings of small investors, the balance available for circulation is inconsiderable. This is recognised in the rather similar market of Calcutta, where the business is almost entirely in the hands of a few firms of very high standing.

In Bombay, while the small investor cannot complain of the market that is made for his securities, the whole business is overshadowed by the enormous amount of speculation that goes on in the shares of fifteen or twenty specified mill concerns. Forward selling is on such a reckless scale that, on several occasions, a Bull ring has found itself the possessor of two or three times the total capital of a company for a given settlement. These operations are naturally confined to small groups of professional speculators and their hangers-on, and do not in any way affect the main interests of the City; but the recurring profits and losses of the various gangs do, no doubt, lead to a serious dislocation of business. A strong committee could put an end to it all, either at the outset by calling upon the broker to explain his action in selling a proportion of the capital of the company which it was obviously beyond his power to deliver, or by letting things take their

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course and expelling defaulters at the first sign of their failure to deliver.

So far from this being the case, the Bears are protected by a rule of the Stock Exchange which empowers the Committee to declare a corner at any time, and to fix a settlement rate without regard to the price to which the market has been forced by the Bulls. This power, which is by no means infrequently put into force, gives in itself very great freedom to Bear raiders; and both sides are further encouraged by the knowledge that, in the event of serious trouble, they will be allowed to make any composition they like with their creditors without in any way endangering their standing as members.

Sir William Atlay, two years ago, presided over a Committee to inquire into the working of the Stock Exchange. The Committee made, in effect, the very mild recommendations, that the rule for the protection of Bears should be eliminated, and that members should not be allowed to enter into compositions with their creditors. These recommendations were ignored, and all went on the same until another financial crisis took place in May.

In consequence of that, Government has offered the Stock Exchange a charter involving the abolition, or at any rate the very strict control, of the rule empowering the Committee to declare a corner at discretion. The Committee has apparently made a counter-offer to Government, that it would be more satisfactory all round if a new rule were introduced freeing a broker from all responsibility for the default of his principal: a suggestion which is believed to be unique in the history of Stock Exchanges. Whether forward operations in shares really deserve the attention of Government is a doubtful question. It is nothing but a gambling game, played by professionals under their own rules, and the public is allowed to cut into it whenever it likes. It has very little more effect on the trade or finances of Bombay than the operations of Lord Hastings and Mr. Chaplin over Hermit's Derby had on the City of London. Lord Hastings' bankers no doubt found the situation an unpleasant one, and certain people in Bombay are reported to have been inconvenienced by the May settlement. But that is the total effect of these recurring periods of financial crisis.

To stop sheer gambling in any form is notoriously one of the most difficult things that a Government can attempt; and this particular kind of light-hearted and irresponsible gambling is so well suited to the genius of Bombay that it will, no doubt, persist, in one form or another, almost indefinitely.

Only the standing of Stock Exchanges throughout the world is so high, and the reliability of their members so unquestioned, that it is a pity that in Bombay alone the functions of the Stock Exchange should be so nearly related to those of a bucket-shop.

SIMLA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Simla, August 13.

Lord Reading's Return.

On August 8 Lord and Lady Reading returned to Simla after more than three months' absence from India. They were preceded by a few hours by Field Marshal Sir William Birdwood, the New Commander-in-Chief, who had arrived in Bombay with them in the Narkunda, which took the opportunity of showing what she is capable of on special occasions, by completing her journey in one day less than usual. As a result of these arrivals, the headquarters of Government have reverted to a degree of official normality which they have not known since the beginning of the hot weather. Although, to all outward appearances, the administration of India has proceeded as usual during the temporary Viceroyalty of Lord Lytton, it is hardly surprising if the final decision in many of the major problems which confront the Government has been held over until Lord Reading's return. The period of the Legislative Assembly's session is always the busiest of the year in the Secretariat as a whole, but it is probable that, in consequence, the period of the session which opens on August 20 will prove even busier than usual.

Communal Tension.

The Mohurram celebrations have passed off without any serious incidents, although the period of the festival has in many places been one of grave anxiety for the local authorities. The extent to which communal feelings are aroused on these occasions is best exemplified by the events which occurred at Panipat, a small town not far from Delhi, at the beginning of August. At the end of July the situation had become so strained that the local officials had thought it advisable to take security for their good behaviour from several of the leading firebrands belonging both to the Moslem and Hindu communities. In spite of this precaution, on August 1, when the Mohurram procession was moving through the streets of the town, it found its way barred by a hostile crowd of about a thousand Hindus. This crowd had been smuggled into the town in small parties from the adjoining villages, apparently with the connivance of the Hindus residing in the town; and the fact that it was armed with loaded staves, pitchforks, and other weapons showed that its members were intent on making trouble. With the procession were a number of Moslems armed in a similar manner, and, when the two parties approached one another, there was nothing but a handful of police to prevent a clash. The local authorities on the spot, both British and Indian, acted, however, with promptitude and firmness; the small body of police charged the Hindus and drove them headlong out of the town, where they dispersed to their homes; and the Moslem procession was able to continue on its way. Thus ended a situation which at one time looked extremely ugly, and there can be no doubt that, had the police failed to get the Hindus on the run, a serious riot would have taken place, which might well have been followed by looting and incendiarism on a large scale.

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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

170, *Strand, London, W.C.2.*
Tuesday Morning.

International Debts.

It is a commentary on the economic effects of the War that now, nearly seven years after the Armistice, the question of the settlement of obligations arising from the struggle should still hang like a cloud over the Allied countries. The British policy after the Armistice was to cancel all debts between the Allies, but unfortunately the attitude of America rendered that impossible, and the settlement that we made with that country was of the most onerous description. Opinions will always differ as to the advisability of that hasty agreement, but it has been made, and so long as it stands it ties our hands in regard to agreements in regard to our European debtors. Hence while it has been an odious task for us to negotiate at all with France in a matter which we would much rather have wiped out, and while we have made every possible concession in the circumstances, provision has had to be made for the payment of £12,500,000 annually for a period of 62 years. It is small compared with our payments to America, but France has still to negotiate a settlement of her obligations to America, and as it does not appear that our generous treatment of our Ally has had any effect in the United States other than to create a feeling of irritation, it would seem that France cannot look for any leniency in that quarter. Our terms with France are dependent on those made with America, so that it may well be that she too in the end will find herself faced with annual payments not much below those which we have to make. If, as one must assume, America treats all her debtors in like fashion, those Near Eastern countries which are intimately concerned in the question of the settlement of War debts will also suffer. Great Britain and the other countries concerned may, and quite conceivably will, be able to stand the strain of these prolonged and heavy payments, but it needs no emphasis that the effect of having to make them will be to hamper enterprise and generally to retard the recovery from the effects of the War. And it is a moot point whether America will find the receipt of her numerous payments from Europe an unmixed blessing.

Near Eastern Fairs.

It is impossible not to be struck by the number of fairs and exhibitions of one kind and another that are due to take place in the Near East in the near future. In the second half of this month Belgrade is to hold its second international sample fair, while from September 21 to October 21 there is an oil-well equipment exhibition at Bucharest. Then in October there are the international fair at Salonika and the Palestine and Near East exhibition and fair at Tel-Aviv, while in the new year there is to be an agricultural exhibition at Cairo. This does not exhaust the list of Near Eastern exhibitions and fairs (two are in progress at the present time, the Chisinau general and sample fair and the Liubliana international sample fair), but those I have mentioned indicate very plainly the great scope that now exists in this direction for British traders who want to enter the Near Eastern markets. In recent fairs in Yugoslavia there has been a marked increase in the British representation, and it is to be hoped that what is done in this instance will apply to all, for these fairs afford one of the best openings for displaying goods, a fact of which it has long been evident that our trade rivals are well aware.

The Cotton Position.

This season we have had, if anything, rather more than the usual number of shocks with regard to the supply of cotton, but most people are by this time getting quite innured to the fluctuations in the position. A few weeks ago it seemed almost certain that the American crop would be short, but the intervening period has seen a great change, and now it appears probable that there will be an ample supply of cotton this year to meet requirements, provided, of course, that the world demand for piece goods does not suddenly develop on a great scale, and that contingency is, I think, remote, though there is no doubt that the demand will grow steadily. The latest American report indicates a crop very considerably in advance of the corresponding forecast last year, and, as a record acreage has been put under cotton, the conditions would have to be very unfavourable for the yield to be at an unsatisfactory level. There is still a considerable period to elapse, and the crop may yet be adversely affected by the weather, but, in view of the acreage and the present indications, we are more justified in anticipating a really large crop. From Egypt, too, the news is satisfactory, and, as the Empire production this year will show a very marked advance, it would seem that at the moment there need be no undue anxiety with regard to Lancashire's supplies. With the next year or two over safely, this country will stand in a much stronger position, and from now onwards it will certainly be true to say that each year that passes will make the fluctuations in the American crop of less account. But the fact that the outlook as regards Empire cotton production is improving so rapidly ought not to be allowed to lure us into a feeling of security. There can be no real safety until we are within measurable distance of being independent of America for our supplies, and to bring that about calls for redoubled efforts.

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Egyptian Cotton.

Representations have frequently been made by the Fine Cotton Spinners' and Doublers' Association regarding the need for the maintenance of the high-class character of Egyptian cottons and for the prevention of the mixing of types and the introduction of foreign substances when the cotton is being shipped. The Egyptian Minister in London has recently written to the managing director of the Association, stating that the matters in question are receiving the earnest attention of the Egyptian Government. They have under consideration, he states, drafts of legislation which they intend to enact to put an end to the complaints mentioned. "I am also to say," he adds, "that several schemes have already been recommended to the Egyptian Government which will have the result of stopping any possibility of mixing foreign substances, such as jute, hemp, or dry leaves of various plants, with the cotton exported. Among the schemes under examination is the institution of a permanent committee which will supervise the process of ginning and the export of cotton."

The Future of Wembley.

The most interesting idea that I have seen put forward so far with regard to the future of Wembley is that it should be made the home of the cinematograph industry in this country. Few of the new industries that have sprung up in recent years have grown more quickly than this one, and few promise to be of more importance in the future. Unfortunately, as I have had occasion to emphasise so often in these columns, Great Britain has been unable up to the present to hold her own in this industry against foreign competition. Apart from the economic aspect, it is vitally essential that the British viewpoint should be adequately presented to the world through the medium of the films, and it would be far from unfitting if when the Exhibition ends the buildings and grounds were to be utilised for a determined attempt to place the British film industry on a sound basis.

African and Eastern.

A very interesting survey of the position and prospects of the African and Eastern Trade Corporation was given at the general meeting by the Chairman, Mr. J. H. Batty. He pointed out that during the past year the market prices of West African produce here remained steady and at a comparatively high level, and the increased quantity produced and the prices ruling have put more money into circulation, which has had a satisfactory effect on trade. The improvement in the general trade there has greatly assisted the company's cotton mills, and it is anticipated that they may soon be working at full capacity. The outlook is satisfactory. The indications up to the present foreshadow a further improvement in profits in the ensuing year, provided conditions remain normal.

Greece's Progress.

The report of the International Financial Commission on the Greek loans under its control for the year ended December 31, 1924, is, on the whole, a most hopeful document. The gross yield of the assigned revenues was 1,459,107,717 drachmæ and £19,547 in 1924, against 970,215,690 drachmæ and £104,232 for the previous year. There was thus an increase of 488,922,027 drachmæ and a decrease of £84,865, the net increase being roughly 47 per cent. There were special causes, it is true, which contributed to this remarkable increase. In the first place, a difference of fourteen days between the two years, owing to the change of calendar, made a difference of 4 per cent. in favour of 1924. In the second place, the additions to the price of salt and the tobacco duty, which were imposed in the course of 1923, brought about a great increase in the revenue from these sources. Thirdly, the increase in the Customs receipts, which represents alone two-thirds of the total increase, is to be attributed partly to the growth in spending capacity of the country and partly to causes which must be considered as temporary. The greatly increased excess of imports over exports was largely due to the efforts of importers to increase their stocks in view of the impending higher tariff. But, making adequate allowances for these various special circumstances, the report shows that Greece is enjoying a marked degree of prosperity, and it is obvious that, given satisfactory conditions, the country should continue to go rapidly ahead.

Expansion of Revenues.

The revenues subject to plus-values in favour of the old gold loans amounted to 110,604,205 drachmæ, against 98,609,889 drachmæ in 1923. The distribution of the sums, with the addition of the interest on redeemed bonds, has permitted the payment to the holders of the old Debt of 97 per cent. of the full interest on the 4 per cent. loan of 1887, and of 86 per cent. on the other loans, against 85 and 74 per cent. respectively for the preceding year. The service of the Debts subject to the control of the Commission absorbed altogether in 1924 the sum of 595,435,698 drachmæ and £65, against 668,564,650 drachmæ and £347 in 1923. The better rates of exchange were largely responsible for this improvement. Thus the average rate for purchases of sterling, which constitute the greater part of the remittances for the service of the external debt, was 256.24 drachmæ, against 298.19 drachmæ in 1923, and there was also an improvement in the average rate for remittances in francs.

Transit Trade.

It will be seen from the report on Syria, further extracts from which are given elsewhere, that the French have made a special effort to restore the transit trade of Beyrout, Aleppo, and Damascus. Special conventions have been made with neighbouring countries for the mutual refund of duties paid on goods re-exported, and these steps have resulted in some measure of success, and it is possible that, in the course of time, there may be a considerable development of the transit trade. Attempts are being made also to

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encourage the growth of a tourist traffic. It may be mentioned in this connection that last summer there was a record influx of Egyptian visitors. Mr. Satow states that Syria and the Lebanon can never hope to excel in industry, and such industries as there are must be content to cater for special local needs. But in its silk cocoon production, as a summer resort, and as the starting-point on the overland route to Persia and possibly beyond the Lebanon has assets of value. COMMENTATOR.

CYPRUS IN 1924.

A Satisfactory Year.

If Cyprus has experienced some economic vicissitudes since the War, the Island had not much cause for dissatisfaction with conditions in 1924. In the report for that year* which has just been issued it is pointed out that 1924 was noteworthy as marking a general improvement in trade conditions and in the Island's prosperity after the depression of the post-War period. For the first time, in fact, since 1924 the Island had a favourable trade balance. The exports amounted in value to £1,271,399, while the imports totalled £1,243,356, there being thus an excess of exports over imports of £27,983. For 1923 the respective trade figures were £893,733 and £1,072,573, so that it will be seen how vital a change has taken place in the trade situation. The causes of the marked expansion of the export trade are to be found in the demand for livestock abroad, principally in Greece, and the good prices obtained for carobs. There was further a great increase in the export of minerals, particularly iron pyrites. It will be noted that imports, too, showed a significant tendency to expand, indicating that the purchasing power of the population is increasing. In this connection the report states that there is no reason to apprehend that over-importation has taken place as in the years immediately following the War.

From what has been said, it will be gathered that the year was a good one for agriculture, on which, of course, the Island depends, and this was the case except as regards cereals, which made a poor showing. The yield of barley was particularly indifferent, while the other crops generally were below the average. Both as regards quantity and quality the carob crop was very satisfactory, and excellent prices were obtained for this commodity. Raisins also gave a good yield, and met with a good demand. The wines and spirits trade showed an encouraging revival, and it is stated that the prospects generally in this industry are much brighter than they have been for some time. There was an increased yield of silk cocoons, and satisfactory prices were readily obtained for the crop. The cotton crop, however, was disappointing. There was a larger area under cultivation, but the production was seriously affected by the ravages of diseases. There was an excellent orange crop, and generally the year was most favourable for fruit and vegetables.

A particularly satisfactory feature of the trade of the year was the improvement in the volume of trade between Cyprus and the other parts of the Empire. The value of the Island's imports from the United Kingdom and other parts of the British Empire was £516,365, or 41.53 per cent., as compared with £392,139, or 36.6 per cent., for 1923. On the export side the position is not quite so satisfactory, though here, too, trade with the Empire predominates. The value of the exports to the United Kingdom was £301,504, or 23.71 per cent., and to other parts of the Empire £12,169, or 0.96 per cent. The figures for the United Kingdom show an increase on the previous year of £89,000, but the percentage remains about the same. It is to be regretted that, apart from the United Kingdom, the Empire has not in the past been a purchaser on a large scale of Cypriot produce, but it may be hoped that the participation of Cyprus in the British Exhibition at Wembley will go far to remedy this. As a matter of fact, it is quite certain that it will. A *raison d'être* of the Exhibition is to bring the various parts of the Empire into touch with one another, and the excellent display of Cypriot products before buyers from all parts of the Empire will in due course have its effect on the trade returns.

Turning to the revenue of the Island, it may be noted that the position in 1924 was more satisfactory than had been anticipated. The local revenue amounted to £593,318, or £48,692 in excess of the original estimate. Adding the grant-in-aid from Imperial funds, there was a total revenue from all sources of £643,318, as against £642,389 for 1923. The expenditure totalled £535,870, and including the payment of £92,800 in respect of the Cyprus share of the Turkish debt charge, the total was £628,670, as compared with £675,499 for the previous year. There was thus a balance of £14,645, as against an excess of expenditure of £33,110 in 1923. This favourable result was due to the trade revival, and to the strict control over expenditure. It is interesting to give the figures for revenue and expenditure from the British Occupation in 1878 to the end of last year. They are as follows:—

Revenue.		Expenditure.	
Collected locally ...	£13,273,956	Current	£10,499,481
Grant-in-aid ...	1,747,085	Turkish Debt Charge	4,304,134
	£15,021,041		£14,803,615

Over this period the Island therefore had a surplus of £217,426, and, given progress in the development of agriculture, favourable trade conditions, and the increased outlets that will result from the Exhibition, it is to be anticipated that in future years the Island will show increasingly favourable results.

* Cyprus. Report for 1924. (H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C.2. 1s. 9d. net.)

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at June 30, 1925 published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes. Banking department, liabilities: share capital (300,000 fully paid shares of £10 each) £E2,925,000; Reserve fund: statutory reserve £E1,462,500; special reserve £E901,875; current, deposit and other accounts £E13,579,540; Egyptian Government £E20,090,105; Sudan Government £E141,703; Mixed Tribunals £E1,762,213; bankers account £E593,142; cheques and bills payable £E301,322; sundry other accounts £E752,555; £E42,509,955. Assets:— Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government £E27,866,334; sundry securities £E315,509; advances on merchandise £E665,874; advances on securities £E1,972,419; advances otherwise secured £E399,563; sundry other advances £E1,009,815; bills of exchange £E2,041,736; local bills discounted £E398,370; buildings and furniture £E230,973; money at call and at short notice £E780,000; bankers accounts £E4,533,595; sundry other accounts £E166,071; cash: notes £E1,577,301; gold £E41,397; silver, nickel, etc., £E510,998, £E2,129,696; £E42,509,955. Issue department: Notes issued £E32,300,000. Gold £E3,339,576; *British Treasury Bills £E12,810,424, £E16,150,000; Securities: Egyptian Government securities and securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government £E420,262; British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds £E15,729,738, £E16,150,000; £E32,300,000.

*By the authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of Gold (See Journal Official of 30th October 1916).

The output of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields for the week ended August 28 was: Gemsah, 18 tons (last week 21 tons); Hurghada, 3,295 tons (last week 3,323 tons).

Sir Marshall Frederick Reid, a director of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank and the National Bank of India, left £41,177.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal from August 22 to 28 amounted to 3,670,000 francs, against 3,340,000 francs for the corresponding period last year.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended August 20, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has been rather active, but prices have been again weak; the net changes on the week are the following:—Sakellaridis, 1.03 dollars down for November, 0.68 dollars down for January, 0.25 dollars down for March; Ashmouni, 0.70 dollars down for August, 0.57 dollars down for October, 0.72 dollars down for December. Straddling operations have continued, although on a more restricted scale than of late, and consisted of sales of Sakel in our market against purchases of Sakel in Liverpool. The Ashmouni market has shown a good deal of activity this week and October is now quoted at a discount of 13.35 dollars under November Sakel, whereas this difference was 16.81 dollars a week ago. America has been in the Upper Egypt market for a few hundred bales of medium grades and the Continent for the better grades new crop cotton. Fresh arrivals from the southern districts of Upper Egypt are now daily appearing on the market, but although demand for this cotton is still very moderate, the fall in the basis has been checked as holders do not show much anxiety to sell. The difference between October New York and October Alexandria remains at about 7.72 dollars; we do not expect much change in this difference for the time being; however, should the present paucity of demand continue, the weight of the arrivals may later in the season narrow the difference inasmuch as the reports on the extra staple American crop are so good. The available stock in Alexandria has now reached the low figure of Crs. 294,246; it consists mostly of cotton of medium and inferior grades, about 30 per cent. being Sakel and 70 per cent. Ashmouni, etc. The week's receipts amount to Crs. 6,285 against exports Crs. 41,420; the stock stands at Crs. 294,246.

Spot: Minet el Bassal, though showing some slight improvement over last week's demand from abroad, is still a quiet market and sales amount to about 4,000 B/s, of which we estimate 500 B/s Sakel, 3,300 B/s Uppers, and 200 B/s Zagora. Rather more interest has been shown in Uppers than for some time past, but the demand for Sakel is down at practically minimum.

Sakellarides: A poor business has been done and such demand as there is has been for low and medium qualities. With the exception of Fair and Fully Fair, which are steady and inclined to harden, spot differences are generally considerably easier.

Ashmouni and Zagora: A good business has been done in all grades. Spot differences are rather dearer for Fair and Fully Fair, unchanged for Good Fair and Fully Good Fair, but distinctly cheaper for Good and better which are now appearing in increasing quantities as the new crop cotton arrives on the market.

Brown, Pilion, and White: Are neglected and no business is reported. Quotations are nominal. Spot differences for Brown and Pilion are firm for the medium grades and easier for the high grades. For White they are generally rather easier.

Crop 1925: The reports received point to a quite normal progress of the crop, this being especially the case for Upper Egyptian and the varieties other than Sakel planted in the Delta. As regards Sakel, although it has recouped a great part of its initial delay, it cannot, however, be said as yet that the condition on average is as good as that at the same time last year. The pink boll worm attack is developing, but the proportion of bolls attacked is either equal or less than at the same time last year. Some fogs are reported but caused almost no damage.

TEXTILES.

IF you wish to obtain your Textile goods from England at the lowest possible prices, communicate with K. JEBARA, 25, Princess Street, Manchester. (Established 1887).

MANCHESTER COTTON MARKET.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended August 29 states:—The fall in the price of American raw cotton which commenced at the beginning of August, and which had a brief interruption last week, has been resumed, and, so far, Manchester's expectations in this connection are being fulfilled. In the long run, of course, it cannot be doubted that lower prices will mean a larger business, but the effect at the moment is to make prospective buyers wait until they think the bottom has been reached; that many will wait too long is almost certain, but in the meantime the effect of this caution is to keep business here very quiet.

Yarn.—There is nothing of interest to report regarding this section. Buyers are following a hand-to-mouth policy, but owing to short time and local holidays the output seems to be farly well cleared. The mills in Oldham will be closed for the whole of next week, and some of them probably for a longer period. In Egyptian counts business has been very meagre. All round quotations are a little lower on the week, though again probably not to the full extent of the fall in raw cotton.

Cloth.—A somewhat lifeless condition of affairs has prevailed. India appears to be doing very little towards securing the supplies which she usually requires in the autumn, and it is hoped that a much larger business will shortly develop for that market. The same remarks apply also to Egypt. The state of affairs in China is, of course, quite against a large trade being done and, under the circumstances, the number of contracts which have been placed is considered satisfactory. The home trade remains quiet.

Raw Cotton.—The report of the American Agricultural Bureau published on Monday last gave the condition of the crop as 62.00 per cent., and the estimated yield at 13,990,000 bales. These figures were approximately what had been expected and had no special effect on quotations. Attention was given to the fact that the amount of cotton ginned up to August 15 was 578,000 bales as compared with 135,901 bales last year, so that it is evident that the crop is maturing early. There is a feeling that the Bureau makes a practice of under-estimating rather than over-estimating the total crop, and throughout the week prices have shown a falling tendency. During the week the Egyptian Government have issued a statement to the effect that the area of cotton planted is 1,924,000 feddans as compared with 1,787,000 feddans last year. The amount under Sakellarides shows an increase of approximately 300,000 feddans, or a little under 40 per cent. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows:—American Middling, 12.60; Egyptian Fully Good Fair Sakellarides, 28.65.

Mr. J. L. Rieu, Commissioner in Sind for the past six years, left Karachi last Thursday evening for England on three months' leave. His successor, Mr. P. R. Cadell, is due to arrive at Karachi during this month.

Yussuf Hikmet Bey, the former Chief of the Political Section of the Turkish Foreign Office in Angora, arrived in Belgrade on August 24. He paid a visit to M. Nintchitch, the Yugoslav Foreign Minister, as the unaccredited representative of the Turkish Government.

An attempt was made last Saturday morning to wreck the Simplon-Orient express which left Bucharest the previous evening. Several rails near Turnu-Severin had been removed, with the result that the engine and seven carriages ran off the line. No one was injured.

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British Consular Reports

III.—SYRIA.

(*Concluded.*)

Trade Methods.

In the smaller ways of business the best means to adopt is to appoint a local representative from among the numerous body of commission agents in each commercial centre. It is advisable that a British firm looking for orders in Syria should, if possible, send out a representative to inquire into local conditions, and personally choose an agent to suit his requirements. British firms may, if they cannot send out a representative, arrange for a local agent by corresponding with consular officers, a method followed in a number of cases during the two years under review.

Keen local competition, which rarely allows more than 5 per cent. profit on any sale of manufactured goods, has restricted gambling, though it encourages the temptation to risk when one of the European exchanges takes a downward plunge. Credit, generally speaking, is said to be good, though carefully watched by the banks. The restriction of credit by the banks to firms of undoubted standing has made for financial soundness.

The harvest of 1925 is said to promise well, and there are various features connected with the economic life of the country which may perhaps justify a mild optimism as to the commercial outlook for 1925 and 1926.

Industry.

The Lebanon has only one industry of any importance, the rearing of silkworms, and the exportation of cocoons, silk, and silk waste. In a less degree this industry obtains in the Antiach district and at certain places on the coast.

The industry appears to be advancing, and this is all the more satisfactory in that after the war there were grave doubts whether it could be revived. There had been great destruction of mulberry trees, and there was a serious shortage of labour.

The total production of fresh cocoons in 1924 amounted to 2,800,000 kgs., which was an excess almost 600,000 kgs. on the previous year, of 300,000 kgs. over the estimate made at the beginning of the season and well over 50 per cent. of the pre-war production. According to official statistics, the exports in 1924 were as follows:—Cocoons, 232,700 kgs.; silk, 127,900 kgs., and silk waste, 115,000 kgs. The main increases were in cocoons and silk waste. A necessary word of warning has, however, had to be given by the authorities, who were perturbed by the fact that it was found difficult to sell the Lebanese silk sent to France. They have pointed out that, while competition from artificial silk is not likely to prove harmful, methods are being everywhere improved so that, until more modern methods of silk production can be introduced into the Lebanon, producers would do well to concentrate on the export of cocoons. The presence in France of unsold stocks of native silk has been due to the careless way in which it had been prepared.

There is a scheme to erect in the neighbourhood of Beyrout a factory for making scent, and good results are forecasted. Many of the local flowers are highly scented, and, given reasonable care, plants like the sweet-scented geranium and the jasmine thrive abundantly.

In Damascus the local textile industry shows little sign of recovery. It is hoped to develop this trade with Iraq now that communications have been improved, but the chances of recovering the important Egyptian market are slight. Egypt began during the war itself to manufacture goods previously obtained from Syria, and many Damascus artisans have emigrated thither.

Tanning at Damascus is usually conducted on a family basis, but a modern factory equipped with machinery from France and Germany is being set up. The Damascus dyeing trade, which is also conducted on a family basis, has declined with the textile industry. The rope industry, although provided with an excellent raw material, cannot compete with the European machine-made article. The brass and inlaid woodwork of Damascus are well known. The exports in 1924 were valued at £125,000, and increased by 25 per cent. as compared with 1923.

Aleppo is not a district which possesses any industrial organisation of note. Such industries as it possesses in the main cater for local requirements.

An Agricultural Country.

The whole country is essentially agricultural, and its future prosperity is undoubtedly bound up with the development of agriculture. The authorities have awakened to this fact, and efforts to improve conditions are discernible. Thus, in the State of the Great Lebanon, a decree has just been issued creating an agricultural bank which will take over the assets of its Turkish predecessor, and will be in a position to make advances to cultivators and to provide livestock, seed-corn, agricultural instruments and fertilisers. Further, in the same State, agricultural councils have just been created of which the mission is to further in every way the prosperity of agriculture. One other step in advance deserving notice is that the authorities have this year done away with the farming out of the tithe, and intend to collect it themselves. The average paid during the last four years is to be taken, and this amount will be demanded from the villages, the inhabitants being left free to collect the required amount proportionally among themselves. It is understood that this system will be maintained for five years, and that the tithe tax will then be abolished and replaced by something more equitable and less open to abuse.

The mass of the Lebanon is too rugged and mountainous for cereal production. The only part of it of any importance for grain-growing is the Bekaa plain, where certain drainage works have been carried out. The really important districts are those of Aleppo, where the use of

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97⅜—9/16
Athens	Drachmæ to £ ...	25 22½	324-326
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	270—273
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.38—20.40
Berne	Francs to £.....	25.22½	25.06-25.07
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 3/16—18 7/32
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	107.95
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	975
Budapest	Kronen to £	24 02	345-347,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18—18 7/32
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	830—840
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4 85—4.85
Paris	Francs to £.....	25.22½	103.40—'5
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	163¾
Rome	Lire to £	25 22½	129
Sofia.....	Leva to £	25.22½	670
Teheran	Krans to £	50	43.60
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	34.40-34.48
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	27

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tractors for ploughing is on the increase, and Damascus, including the Hauran. These large areas are suitable for grain growing, but much land is still either partially developed or quite undeveloped. The land tenure system is still very faulty. Wealthy landowners may possess as many as a hundred villages. These are worked, if at all, on the "metayage" (profit-sharing) system, and the peasant is little better than a serf.

The Damascus district is cereally self-sufficient, and in good years exports considerable quantities of grain. The 1923 harvest was good, and permitted of a considerable cereal export. Its successor was, however, so bad that the export of grain was forbidden. The same conditions obtained in the Aleppo area. While the prospects for the 1925 harvest are somewhat uncertain, it is now clear that the harvest will be much better than at one time seemed likely. Early climatic conditions of an unusual type at one time threatened disaster, but unexpectedly heavy rains in April saved the situation.

A good deal of wool is produced in the Aleppo district. The sheep move slowly down from Kurdistan to the coast in the winter, and are shorn in Syria. The severe winter caused heavy losses both of sheep and of camels.

The 1924 olive yield was estimated throughout the country to be about 35 to 40 per cent. of a normal crop. Nevertheless, prices were, on the whole, below the average. It is hoped, and timely rain has given some reason for the hope, that the 1925 yield, which cannot, however, yet be estimated with any close accuracy, may be about 50 to 60 per cent. of a normal one. The bulk of the crop is consumed locally. Some excellent fruit is produced, and more should be done to stimulate production and export. Damascus is famous for its apricots, which are exported, in the form of dried fruit and paste, mainly to Egypt. The respective quantities exported in 1925 were about 700 tons of fruit and 100 tons of paste at £40 and £100 per ton. Apricot kernels are also exported, and in 1924 Germany was a large customer. The amount exported was smaller, but prices were higher. Damascus also produces excellent grapes. The oranges of Sidon and Tripoli are good. Before the war Tripoli oranges used to go to Constantinople and South Russia. This season some 50,000 cases were sent to England. Unfortunately, little that is efficacious has been done to stamp out the scale diseases with which many of the local orange and lemon trees are affected. Unless measures are taken soon, a potential source of wealth will be lost to the country. Banana plantations round Beyrout and Sidon yield a palatable fruit. They were badly damaged by the severe winter.

Syria has in Egypt an excellent market for her fruit, a fact which has recently been realised by the authorities. At present only sea transport is available, but when, in course of time, Tripoli and Beyrout are linked up with Cairo by rail via Haifa, the export of fruit should be much developed.

Cotton-Growing.

The possibilities of cotton-growing are here, as everywhere, attracting attention. Cotton has for years past been grown in the region of Idlib, in the Aleppo district. Its cultivation is reported now to be interesting the best class of landowners. This cotton is exported via Alexandretta. In 1924 the amount so exported was 1,190 metric tons, valued at 700,000 francs. Of this, Italy took 436 tons and the United Kingdom 322 tons. A further 132 tons were exported via Beyrout and Tripoli. The erection of a ginning factory on European lines and under European supervision is now contemplated, in the hope of solving the difficulties arising from a lack of proper standardisation of the staple. Experiments are being conducted in various parts of the country as to the kinds of cotton which can best be grown. They are considered to have given promising results. In the Damascus and Hauran districts the prospects of successful cotton cultivation are of the slightest.

A certain amount of tobacco is grown in the Lebanon, but the most important district of cultivation is the State of the Alaouites. This produces two kinds of tobacco, known respectively as Abouriha and Shekelbent. The former kind goes mostly to the United Kingdom, which in 1924 took 6,918 bales out of 7,963. The other kind is used by the Tobacco Régie, which in 1924 took 300 tons. The 1924 Abouriha export was in excess of that for 1923 by 1,081 bales. Cultivation is increasing, and the 1925 crop should exceed that of 1924 by 30 per cent. During the past year there was much discussion as to whether the Régie should continue in a modified form or be entirely abolished. No decision has yet been taken.

Motor Transport.

The use of motor transport is increasing in the north, and the motor lorry from Aleppo is reputed practically to have killed the camel caravan trade, while the service on the Alexandretta road, maintained mostly by Fiat lorries, is of growing importance. Between Beyrout and Damascus, on the other hand, by reducing its freight rates by one-third in 1923, the Damas, Hama et Prolongements Company has practically put a stop to the road-conveyance of goods between these two towns, a traffic which had assumed considerable proportions.

The native population has taken very kindly to the use of the motor-car. According to the last statistics available, the number of cars in use in the country is 2,428, of which 1,509 are Fords, while there are about 140 motor lorries and trucks. In general American cars are most in favour, and after them come some Italian makes. The trans-desert services which link up Iraq and Persia with Syria have become established facts. It is worth recording that between the months of February and October, 1924, inclusive, 2,417 passengers travelled from Baghdad to Damascus, and 4,235 from Damascus to Baghdad. The largeness of these latter figures is due to the fact that during August, September, and October many pilgrims returning from the Hedjaz made use of the overland route. Neither the summer heat nor the rains of winter have put a stop to the traffic, and in February, 1925, 136 cars with 403 passengers travelled in either one or the other direction between Baghdad and Damascus. It is gratifying to recall that the serious development of this route is due to British enterprise.

There has during the past two years been little road-making in the Damascus area. The greater part of the road from that city to Homs is now, however, metalled, while various tracks have been arranged so that they can be used by motor-cars in dry weather. Aleppo has not as yet much in the way of roads. The one to Alexandretta carries a good deal of motor traffic, but that to Hama is in an abominable state. The Lebanon is, on the other hand, surprisingly well provided with roads, although, despite continual repairs, their surfaces often leaves much to be desired. The absence of good road material affords an excuse, but not a sufficient one. Under the existing system of contracts the work is often scamped.

Arrangements are being made for a re-union of the members of the British Salonika Forces on Sunday October 4. Those taking part will muster on the Horse Guards Parade at noon, and after a short service will march to Whitehall to place a wreath on the Cenotaph. This will be followed by a re-union dinner at the Drill Hall, Westminster, at half-past one.

General Sir Ian Hamilton, who has recently been visiting British graves at the Dardanelles, was robbed of a large sum of money while returning across Macedonia in the Simplon-Athens express. The money was in the pocket of his coat, which was hanging up in the compartment, and it is supposed that during the night thieves had reached the coat through a window that had been left open.

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Near East Markets.

SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended August 15:—

The arrivals of sultanas on the Smyrna market since the opening of the season are estimated at 205 tons, and the sales to date are put at 190 tons. The closing prices, London/Liverpool, are: Alpha, 81s. Beta, 75s. The crop is about ten days late. New fruit only commenced coming to the market this week, and quantities are as yet restricted to the growths of only one or two districts as represented by types Alpha and Beta.

Market conditions are firm. Prices are maintained, as supplies are inadequate to the demand. The weather prevailing is favourable for drying conditions, and if it continues shold benefit the general run of the quality of the crop.

For the week ended August 22 Messrs. Giraud report as follows:—The arrivals of sultanas are estimated at 790 tons, and the sales to date are put at 650 tons. The closing prices per cwt., c.i.f. London/Liverpool, are: Type 13, 63s.; type 14, 66s.; type 15, 70s.; type 16, 75s.; type 17, 80s. The volume of arrivals is gradually increasing. Prices are at a high level, and the business coming in is limited. The market, however, is steady, there being an insufficient weight of fruit on dealers' hands to influence a decline.

SPECIAL MARKET REPORTS.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank:—

Teheran, July 25.—There is no change to report. The market is even quieter than of late, owing to the approaching Moharram holidays.

Haifa, August 8.—The grain market has been active this week. Offers have been rapidly absorbed, so that prices remain very firm. At the close there was a new advance, and prices were generally firm.

AGRICULTURAL SITUATION IN INDIA.

An official report on the situation at the end of July states:—

The monsoon was sufficient in parts of Bombay and Madras, Bihar, East and North Bengal, Assam, parts of United Provinces, Central Provinces, Hyderabad, Punjab, hilly tracts of North-West Frontier Province, Burma, Central India, and parts of Rajputana. In Orissa, owing to the excessive rain in early part of monsoon, considerable damage was done by the flood. Excessive rainfall in April and May did some damage to the early rice and jute in Assam. There was excess rainfall in two districts of Lower Burma, in Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand, in Central India, in East Punjab, where sowing was retarded, and in East and North Bengal, where some damage was caused in certain tracts. More rain is needed in the eastern talukas of Deccan Karnatic, in Bombay, Northern and Central Districts of Madras Presidency, especially Madras Deccan, Sind, West Bengal, North-Eastern District of the United Provinces, one district of Central Provinces, parts of North-West Frontier Province, Baluchistan, parts of Rajputana and Western India States. Standing crops are generally fair everywhere. The condition of jute is fair in East and North Bengal, but poor in Assam. In Bengal the area under jute increased by 6 per cent. The sugar-cane crop is exceptionally good in United Provinces. Economic conditions are generally fair except in North Baluchistan. Fodder and water are generally sufficient. The condition of cattle is satisfactory except in two districts of Upper Burma and in four Rajputana States where some cattle disease exists. In Bengal, the price of jute has risen considerably. In Assam, the price of rice ruled fairly high, but is now lower. In the Punjab the price of wheat was higher than last year. In Hyderabad, the price of staple food grains continued high, and in North-West Frontier Province prices were considerably higher than last year. Elsewhere prices generally were steady or show downward tendency. The general economic outlook is hopeful, on the whole.

THE SALONIKA SKIN MARKET.

Macedonia and Thrace produced approximately 500,000 lambskins, 300,000 sheepskins, and 180,000 kidskins during 1924. The quality of these skins, however, was not as good as that of the 1923 production (says an American Consular Report). During the year approximately 100,000 lambskins of Yugoslav origin were imported into this market. Some very small lots of skins from old Greece reached the Salonika market. All of the production of Thrace and Macedonia and the quantity which reached here from Yugoslavia were exported, with the exception of 25,000 to 50,000 short sheepskins used by the local tanning industry. The quality of the skins produced in 1925 is excellent and, according to dealers, is above that of the previous five years. On account of the low prices this season for wool, woollen skins are in small demand.

ENGINEERING TOPICS.

Olympia Motor Show.

At the forthcoming Olympia Motor Show Dunlop's exhibits include high pressure cords in beaded edge and straight side types, balloon cords for existing rims, and the Dunlop balloon cord of the wired type, for use with Dunlop well-base rims. Another tyre at this stand will be the "Warwick"—a tyre manufactured throughout at Port Dunlop, and introduced to provide a "quality" British cover at the low selling price of 45s. Users of 30x3½ covers have here a cover with an efficient non-skid tread design, and the capacity for good hard service. The method of fitting and removing the Dunlop cord balloon of the wired type will be demonstrated by experts on the stand. In addition to tyres there will be on show the company's range of wheels, including wire, steel, artillery and disc types. Dunlop accessories—including the new jack and foot-pump for use with balloon tyres—will also be exhibited. The foot-pump is fitted with a second barrel which gives a flow of air during the return stroke of the pump.

At the forthcoming Olympia Cycle Show one of the chief features at the Dunlop stand will be the new Dunlop cord reinforced cycle tyre—a newcomer which takes the place of the Dunlop cord heavy. This new tyre carries an exactly similar tread design to the Dunlop "sports" motor cycle tyre which was so prominently associated with the long list of Dunlop successes in the T.T. and other spectacular events. In the range will also be found the Dunlop cord, Warwick cord, Cambridge cord, and Clipper speed covers, the latter one of the popular tyres with the "light machine" brigade, and much in evidence among all club members. Path racing tyres—including the Dunlop tubular sprint, will be on show, and for the motor cyclist there will be the Dunlop "sports" tyre already mentioned. This tyre is, of course, of the wired-on type, used in conjunction with the Dunlop well-base rim, ensuring ease in fitting and removal. For the first time the Endrick patent wired-on cycle rim also appears at this stand, Dunlop's having acquired the patent and sole manufacturing and selling rights. It will be seen in bright, plated, and imitation wood finishes, and in two sizes—26x1¼ and 26x1⅜. The very narrow section used enables caliper brakes to be fitted with ease. A wide and comprehensive range of accessories will also be found on the Dunlop stand—including belts, fasteners, punches, outfits, pumps, levers, connections, repair materials, and so on.

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Company Meetings.

AFRICAN AND EASTERN TRADE CORPORATION, LTD.

Thirty-seventh Annual General Meeting.

Mr. J. H. Batty (chairman of directors), presiding over the annual ordinary general meeting of the African and Eastern Trade Corporation, Ltd., in the Banqueting Hall of the Exchange Station Hotel, Liverpool, on Friday, referred to the great loss the nation, and West Africa in particular, had sustained by the death of Lord Leverhulme. He also referred to the recent death of Sir George Goldie. The past year, Mr. Batty said, had been one of unprecedented events in West Africa, notably the visit of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, which had done an enormous amount of good in cementing the goodwill and confidence of West Africans to the Mother Country. The good result of the visit will remain throughout this generation. During the year West Africa had suffered many losses in personnel—the transference of Sir Hugh Clifford from Nigeria to Ceylon, Sir Donald Cameron to the Governorship of Tanganyika, Mr. W. F. Gowers to the Governorship of Uganda, and the retirement, through ill-health, of Sir Harry Moorhouse.

Referring to the general trade of West Africa, Mr. Batty said: The revenue of Nigeria for 1924 exceeded £6,700,000, being £12,000 above the previous record in the boom year of 1920. The total value of trade amounted to £27,640,740, an increase of over £4,000,000 on the previous year. The exports from that colony also show a marked improvement, and easily exceed previous figures. There were 78,000 tons of ground nuts shipped last year, being 21,000 tons above the previous record year of 1918 and 56,000 tons higher than in 1923; 16,000 bales of cotton, as against 11,000 bales in 1923; 37,000 tons of cocoa, as against 32,000 tons in 1923; 127,000 tons of palm oil, as against 99,000 tons in 1923; and 262,000 tons palm kernels, as against 223,00 tons in 1923.

There have been indications lately that the market for Shea nuts has been broadening, and if this should prove to be the case it will doubtless encourage the natives to give further attention to this produce, of which there are almost unlimited quantities available throughout Northern Nigeria and the Northern Territories of the Gold Coast.

During the past year the market prices of West African produce have remained steady and at a comparatively high level. The increased quantity produced and the prices ruling have put larger sums of money into circulation, which has had a beneficial effect on trade. Provided we have no industrial strikes and conditions in England gradually improve, with affairs on the Continent steadily returning to normal, prices should remain somewhere near the present level, and so encourage the natives to increase production and further stimulate trade.

As regards oil concessions, the boring operations have been stopped as there have been no indications encouraging enough to continue drilling.

They would be interested to hear that the company was now running a monthly steamship service to and from West Africa. A new steamer, the Nigerian, had just been launched on the Clyde this month, and was expected to commence her maiden voyage in October. This vessel had been specially built for the trade and fitted with the latest appliances.

The trading results for the year, after making provision for all bad and doubtful debts, depreciation on stocks and maintenance of all plant and properties at home and abroad, amounted to £471,048 11s. 4d., an increase of £28,695 14s. 3d. on last year. When addressing them a year ago he mentioned that the improvement indicated in 1923 had been maintained in 1924, and to some extent this is reflected in the account before them. The increase shown was really larger than appeared on the surface, as in both 1922 and 1923 accounts the results included substantial amounts from E.P.D. adjustment, whereas this year there had been no contribution from this source. The indications up to the present foreshadowed that the profits for the ensuing year should show a further improvement, provided conditions—industrial and political—remain normal for the remainder of the year.

In conclusion, the Chairman moved the adoption of the accounts and report. This was seconded by the vice-chairman, Mr. R. B. Miller, and unanimously adopted.

A final dividend on the ordinary shares of 4 per cent., less tax, was declared, making, with 4 per cent. interim already paid, a total dividend for the year of 8 per cent.

The retiring directors, Messrs. T. Rowland Hughes, H. C. Hutchinson, J. Pickering Jones, and M. H. McNeill were unanimously re-elected, and the appointment of Mr. Oliver V. C. Hoare as a director in the place of the late Mr. E. A. Beazley was confirmed.

A sum of £4,000 was voted as directors' fees.

The auditors, Messrs. Harmood Banner and Son, were reappointed.

A telegram of congratulation was sent to Sir Graeme Thomson, the newly-appointed Governor of Nigeria, and to Sir Hugh Clifford one of appreciation of his long services to West Africa.

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KARACHI via Bombay, calling at Gibraltar and Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS UPPER DECK CABINS.
MODERATE FARES.
RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.
Indian Government Vouchers accepted.

Passenger sailing dates :—

*ELYSIA, Sept. 11.
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CALIFORNIA, Oct. 14.
*CASTALIA, Oct. 27.
*OLYMPIA, Nov. 13.
*SCINDIA, Nov. 27.
*MASSILIA, Dec. 11.

*First class passengers only. Specially low fares.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA, 17,000 TONS, carrying 1st, 2nd and 3rd class passengers, sails from LIVERPOOL Oct. 14. MARSEILLES Oct. 20. All 1st and 2nd class state rooms are fitted with Punkah Louvres and with Fans. This vessel has exceptionally fine 3rd class accommodation.

ANCHOR LINE,
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FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses :—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Elysia for Bombay (Liverpool, September 8). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Holywell for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 5).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Warwickshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, September 9).

British India Line.—S.s. Mandala for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 12); s.s. Nirvana for Bombay and Karachi (London, September 12).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Pavia for Gibraltar, Oran, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, September 5).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Valencia for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 17).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 5); s.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 12); s.s. Vedamore for Galatz and Braila only (Liverpool, September 30); s.s. Dromore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 17).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. China for Bombay (London, September 4); s.s. Nagoya for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 5).

Prince Line.—S.s. Burmese Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, and Haifa (London, September 12); s.s. Egyptian Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, and Haifa (London, October 3).

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Egypt imported typewriters during the first three months of this year to the value of £E9,358.

The Greek Minister of Finance controdicts the reports about a fresh note issue, and says the Government is even going to withdraw notes to the amount of 80,000,000 drachmæ from circulation (says a Reuter message).

The Greek Government has decided to establish a special bourse for currency dealings in order to prevent speculation.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended August 10 amounted to £E8,471, making the total from April 1 £E98,482.

The launch took place in August at the Clydeholm Shipyard, Whiteinch, of Messrs. Barclay Curle and Co., of the single-screw awning deck steamer Nigeria, which was built for the African and Eastern Trade Corporation, Ltd.

The Sudan Building and Agricultural Co., Ltd., has been registered with a capital of £500,000, in 200,000 seven per cent. Preference shares and 300,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each. The objects are to acquire and develop buildings and agricultural lands, and to carry on business as importers and exporters and merchants. An agreement has been made with the Societe Immobiliere et Agricole du Sudan and others, to acquire the commercial business of Messrs. Stamatopoulo Brothers, and other properties and rights in the Sudan. The directors include Sir Edward Goschen, Bart. (Chairman), Sir Sayed Ali Mirghani, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., and Colonel E. A. Stanton Pasha.

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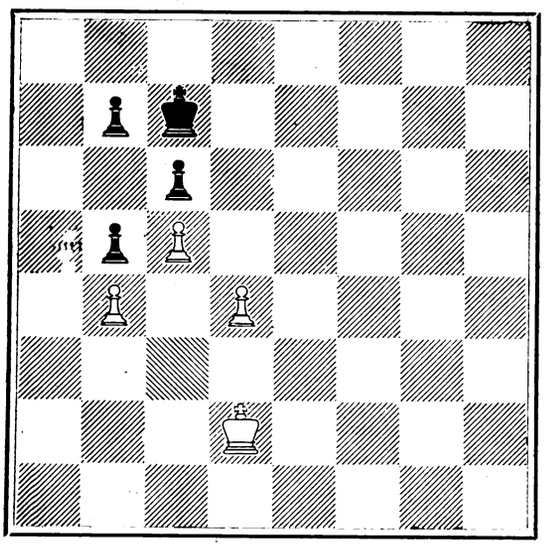
CHESS.

By "CARO-KANN."



PROBLEM No. 12.

White to play. What result?

As I anticipated, Mr. H. E. Atkins has succeeded in retaining the British Championship at Stratford-on-Avon. He had a very close struggle with Mr. F. D. Yates throughout; and it is interesting to note that his score is higher than in the case of any of his previous victories. 8 or 8½ normally wins; once, if my recollection is correct, 7½ was enough. This time Mr. Atkins has scored 9½, and with that remarkable score is 1 in front of the second. It is his ninth victory, and one can well imagine the record he would have put up if he had not retired some years before the War. As it is, were he not to win again, it will probably be generations before his record is surpassed, if, indeed, it ever is.

I give this week two more games from the Championship. The first is between Mr. H. E. Atkins (White) and Mr. W. Gooding (Black). 1, P—Q4, P—Q4; 2, P—QB4, P—K3; 3, Kt—QB3, Kt—KB3; 4, B—Kt5, B—K2; 5, P—K3, O—O; 6, Kt—B3, QKt—Q2; 7, R—B, P—B3 (1); 8, Q—B2, Kt—K5; 9, BxB, QxB; 10, B—Q3 (2), P—KB4; 11, O—O, Q—B3 (3); 12, Q—K2, K—R; 13, K—R, P—K Kt4 (4); 14, BxKt, BPxB; 15, Kt—Q2, Q—R3; 16, P—B3 (5), PxKBP; 17, KtxP, P—Kt5; 18, Kt—Q2, Kt—B3; 19, K—Kt, B—Q2; 20, P—K Kt3, QR—K; 21, R—B4, P—K4; 22, PxP, RxP; 23, Q—B2, Q—Kt4; 24, R—KB, R—Kt2; 25, P—K4, PxBP; 26, KtxP, R—QB4; 27, P—K5, resigns.

(1) This move suggests the intention to bring about the stonewall formation.

(2) Obviously not KtxKt, PxKt; 11, Q—P, for then Q—Kt5 (ch) with the better game.

(3) An indifferent continuation. Better would be Q—B2, leaving the square at B3 for the Kt. But whatever is played, Black has the worse game, being backward in development.

(4) Before doing this it would have been better to have played Q—R3 and then Kt—B3, but then the hostile Kt at K5 would make it a most difficult matter to develop the B.

(5) The way in which Mr. Atkins handles this position is beyond praise. From the beginning to the end he gives Black no chance.

The following game was played between Mr. F. D. Yates (White) and Mr. T. H Tylor (Black): 1, P—K4, P—K4; 2, K Kt—B3, K Kt—B3; 3, Kt B3, Kt—B3; 4B—Kt5, B—Kt5; 5, O—O, O—O; 6, P—Q3, BxKt; 7 PxB, P—Q3; 8, R—K, B—Kt5; 9, P—KR3, B—R4; 10, P—Q4, PxP; 11, PxP, BxKt; 12, PxB, K Kt—R4; 13, P—K B4, Q—R5; 14, BxKt, PxB; 15, Q—Kt 4, Q x Q; 16, P x Q, Kt—B3; 17, P—K B3, O R—Kt; 18, B—R3, K R—Q; 19, Q R—Kt, Kt—Q2; 20, R—Kt3, P—Q B4; 21 P x P, KtxP; 22, BxKt, PxB; 23, K—B2, RxR; 24, BPxR, R—Q7 (ch); 25, R—K2, RxR (ch); 26, KxR, K—B; 27, P—B5, K—K2; 28, P—B4, K—Q3; 29, K—Q3, P—QR3; 30, K—B4, K—B3; 31, P—K5, K—Q2; 32, KxP, K—K2; 33, K—Q5, P—Kt3; 34, K—K4, K—B; 35, PxP, resigns.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

EGYPT.

Motor Boats.—The Egyptian Quarantine Board invites tenders for (a) two motor-boats (petrol driven), (b) two petrol-driven ocean patrol motor-boats (vedettes automobile). October 30. (D.O.T.).

Lorries.—The Director General, State Domains Administration, Savoy House, Sharia Qasr el Nil, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of two lorries. October 5.

Books and Stationery.—The Under Secretary of State, War Office, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of books and stationery to the Department of Ordnance Services, Egyptian Army Stores, Citadel, Cairo. September 12.

Cotton Seed Oil.—The Under Secretary of State, War Office, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of cotton seed oil, olive oil, and caustic soda, to the Egyptian Army Supply Stores, at Tura. September 15.

Electrical Installation.—The Ministry of the Interior, Savoy House, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and installation of an electric power station and distributing system for the town of Minieh. The contract comprises the supply and installation of diesel-driven generator sets and cables, etc. October 1. (D.O.T.)

Sewage Pumping Machinery.—The Director-General, Main Drainage Department, No. 2, Sharia Abbas, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply, erection and delivery of sewage pumping machinery, comprising 3 large and 1 small Diesel engines and 3 large and 1 small centrifugal pumps, complete with auxiliary plant. November 2.

Machinery, Etc.—The Controller, Technical, Industrial and Commercial Education, Sharia Qasr el Aini, Cairo, invites tenders for the machinery and machine tools required for the engineering and the carpentry also the metal plate sections of the new Mansurah Trades School (September 9); hand tools and machinery required for the Workshops of the School of Engineering (September 17); supply of Diesel engine, generator, switch board, etc., and locomotive boiler, for Assiout Model Workshops; machinery for the Engineering and Carpentry Section, for Port Said Trades School; machinery for the Engineering Section of the Bulaq Technical School (September 17).

Trunk Record Table.—The Superintendent of Stores, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of a trunk record table. Copies of the specification may be obtained on application, against payment in advance of 500 milliemes (not acceptable in postage stamps) at the Stores Department, Saptia (Cairo), or Gabbary (Alexandria), September 10.

Iron Bolts, Etc.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of a considerable quantity of galvanised wrought iron bolts with nuts and washers. September 12.

Machine Tools.—The Ministry of Education, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of machine tools required for the Port Said Technical School. September 17. (D.O.T.)

ROUMANIA.

Drugs and Chemicals, Textiles, Provisions, Paper and Writing Materials, Office Equipment, Machinery, etc.—Six merchant firms in Czernowitz at present importing from Central European countries have expressed a desire to enter into business relations with British manufacturers of the following goods with a view to purchase on their own account:—Firm No. 1.—Drugs and chemicals. Firm No. 2.—Woollen goods of all kinds and qualities, shirting and linings. Firm Firm No. 3.—Provisions, especially tea, coffee and rice, woollen and cotton stockings and knitting materials, paper and writing materials, drugs and chemicals. Firm No. 4.—Cotton and woollen manufactures of all kinds. Firm No. 5.—Paper and writing materials, office equipment, musical instruments and toys. Firm No. 6.—Machinery and lifting appliances, railway accessories, machine tools and wood working machinery, tubes, non-ferrous metals, tools, gas, water, and steam fittings, motor and cycle tyres, belting, bolts, nuts and screws, meters, asbestos and mechanical rubber goods, etc. (D.O.T.)

THE SUDAN.

Dynamo, etc.—The Inspector General of Irrigation, Sudan, Khartoum, invites tenders for the supply and erection of a dynamo, wiring and fittings for an installation of electric light and fans at Gebel Aulia in the Sudan. October 1.

TURKEY.

Machine Tools and Furnaces for Metal Smelting.—The "Commission d'Achats des Postes et Telegraphes," Stamboul, Constantinople, invites tenders for the supply of lathes, milling machines, shearing machine press, etc., also metal smelting furnaces. September 8. (D.O.T.)

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†NAGOYA	7,000	Sept. 5	——	Colombo and Calcutta
§COMORIN	15,000	Sept. 11	——	Colombo and Australia
*MANTUA	11,000	Sept. 11	Sept. 18	Straits, China, Japan
RAWALPINDI	16,600	Sept. 18	Sept. 25	Bombay and Karachi
†NOVARA	7,000	Sept. 19	——	Colombo and Calcutta
KALYAN	9,000	Sept. 25	——	Straits, China, Japan

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§NIRVANA	6,021	Sept. 5	Sept 12	Bombay and Karachi
‡MANDALA	8,246	Sept 5	Sept. 12	Madras and Calcutta
MERKARA	8,235	Sept. 19	Sept. 25	Bombay and Karachi
DOMALA	8,441	Sept. 19	Sept. 26	Madras and Calcutta
*MANTOLA	8,963	Sept. 19	Oct. 2	East African Ports
‡MADURA	8,975	Oct. 1	Oct. 9	Bombay and Karachi
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City of Hongkong	9,678	Oct. 3	Madras & Calcutta
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The NEAR EAST AND INDIA

OCT 1 1925

A Weekly Review of the Politics and Commerce of the Balkan Peninsula, Turkey, Egypt, and the Sudan, Syria, Palestine, Arabia, Iraq, Persia and India.

No. 748.—Vol. XXVIII.
Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1925.

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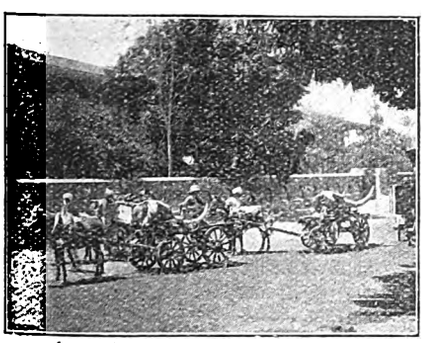

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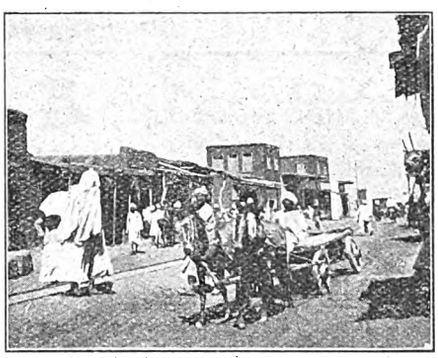

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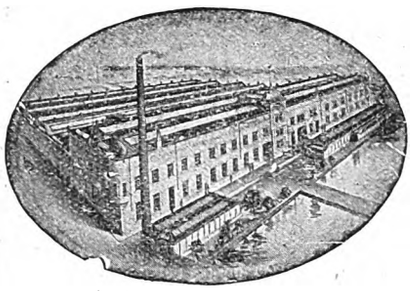
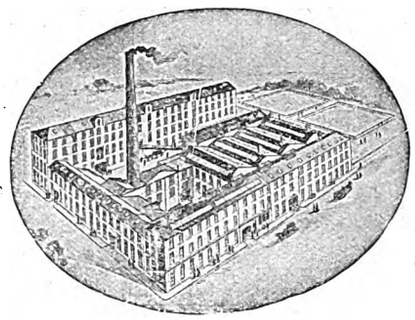
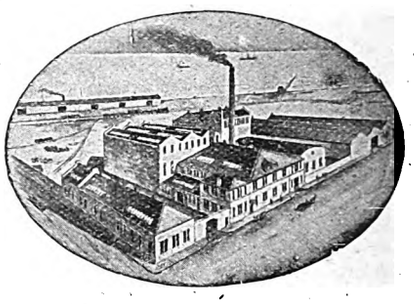

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No. 748.—VOL. XXVIII. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1925.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	Page
NOTES OF THE WEEK	301
SPECIAL LETTERS—	
Palestine	304
Egypt	304
Bulgaria	305
Cyprus	306
SPECIAL ARTICLE—	
Land Registration in Egypt—III.	307
LEADING ARTICLE—	
Bulgaria's Refugee Problem ...	303
CORRESPONDENCE	312
PERSONAL AND GENERAL ...	311
THE WEEK AT HOME	313
INDIAN AFFAIRS—	
The I.M.S.	315
Current Topics	316
Special Letter : Calcutta ...	319
Correspondence	319
Indian Exchange	320
COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
Notes and News	321
Trade and Conditions in Smyrna	323
Progress in the Sudan	324
Near East Markets	326
Shipping Intelligence	326
The Egyptian Cotton Market ...	328
Chess	329

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

The League and Mosul.

The Council of the League of Nations, as was to be feared, has not adopted a very heroic attitude towards the Mosul problem. After hearing statements and replies from the British and Turkish delegates, it has appointed a Committee to report on the subject; in other words, a committee to report on the Commission's Report, as well as on any other evidence that may be presented to it. This procedure is, perhaps, inevitable, but it leaves room for an almost indefinite postponement of the final decision. It is the fashion in many quarters to talk of the difficulty and delicacy of the Council's position; but why a solution of the problem in accordance—to use M. Briand's words—with "the superior interests of justice" should prove embarrassing to the League it is not easy to see. Only a wrong decision or an evasion of the issue can harm the prestige of the League; a definite settlement, supported by clear-cut arguments and pronounced with conviction will go far to strengthen the League's position. A compromise is out of the question; the problem does not lend itself to one, the Turks are resolved not to have anything to do with one. The Council should, therefore, deliver the judgment that its intelligence prompts, and leave the consequences to take care of themselves.

The Protagonists at Geneva.

When the Council came to deal with the Mosul question, the spokesmen of Great Britain and Turkey were invited to state their respective cases. Mr. Amery, by common consent, made a brilliant and effective opening for Great Britain. He reaffirmed the British promise to abide by the decision of the Council, and declared that Great Britain was prepared to carry out her mandatory responsibility on the present lines, in other words, to continue her co-operation with the Iraq Government after the expiration of the existing Treaty, but the British Government would not bind itself to the period of twenty-five years suggested by the Commission. Summarising the Commission's conclusions, he drew from them clear and definite support for the British claim. Tewfik Rushdi Bey was obviously handicapped by the weakness of the Turkish case. Before Mr. Amery had spoken, he had read out a formal protest against the alleged violation of the Brussels frontier line by British aeroplanes and against alleged aggressive action of British warships in Turkish territorial waters. Mr. Amery's reply was a prompt and convincing denial of the Turkish accusations; Rushdi Bey had no reply and had to content himself with reserving the right to raise the question again later. In the afternoon, on the subject of the Mosul frontier, he was equally unhappy. He had to avoid the Commission's conclusions, which are not favourable to Turkey, and relied for his arguments on some of the members' half-formed impressions or on passages torn from their text. Finally he denounced the mandatory system and declared that the League Council would only vindicate justice if it restored Mosul to Turkey. On the following day the two representatives spoke again; Mr. Amery replied to the Turkish arguments, but Rushdi Bey does not appear to have had much to say and declined to reaffirm the promise given by Fethi Bey that Turkey would abide by the decision of the League. The sub-committee of three—the representatives of Sweden, Spain, and Uruguay—was then appointed; it is not anticipated that this Committee will be in a position to report to the Council before the end of this week.

Great Britain's Attitude.

In spite of, literally, frantic efforts on the part of a section of the Press to stir up public opinion against British policy in Iraq, there are many indications that the sound common sense of the nation asserts itself in this question and that the British public as a whole refuses to be stampeded by a Press campaign of monotonous and undignified reiteration. Both the present Conservative Government and the late Labour Ministry have carefully investigated the Iraq question and satisfied themselves that

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Great Britain is adopting the only policy consonant with her interests and with morality. The Liberal Party stands committed to a policy of withdrawal to Basrah, adopted more or less on an expression of opinion of Lord Oxford alone, in which it has not shown sufficient interest to reconsider, still less to reaffirm. Naturally the British public has no desire to throw money away heedlessly or needlessly; but when it has shrieked at it by the penny Press that already two hundred millions sterling have been sunk in Iraq, its business instincts prompt it to ask itself what is the best way of getting back some return on that expenditure. Clearly by scuttling out of the country now Great Britain will lose the whole of that money; by staying at a moderate annual cost, there should be some chance of recovering some part of the outlay, unless the genius of the British race is dead. So much for the beating by the terrorists of the big financial drum. When it comes—in the same Press—to the conjuring up of the bogey of war, with harrowing paragraphs of the horrors of the campaign, "British soldiers dying like flies," and so on, British public feeling can only be one of nausea and contempt. Were it otherwise, there would be much to be said for withdrawing not only from Iraq, but from every other part of our overseas Empire.

Britain and Iraq.

There will, no doubt, be some people whose misgivings have been aroused by the controversy over Mosul. They have no desire to see Great Britain involved in trouble with Turkey, and, believing that nothing turns out quite so badly as it is expected to, they would purchase good relations with the Turks at the expense of Iraq. Mr. J. L. Garvin, in the *Observer*, makes himself the exponent of these views. It is curious to find that such a shrewd observer of, and well-informed writer on, world affairs should have been reduced to so many dubious arguments in support of his contention. Mosul, he writes, "is the very model of a mouse-trap, and we are asked to walk into it." This is quite untrue. If we must have analogies, Mosul, that is to say, the present frontier, is a high brick wall dividing the Iraqi garden from the Turkish estate. The British and Iraqi gardeners have planted the garden right up to the wall and have even used its southern aspect for useful products that will not grow to the north of the wall. They are neither asking nor are they being asked to walk anywhere or into anything; it is the Turks who are demanding to have the wall demolished and are claiming a large part of the planted garden. Nor are we more impressed with the suggestion that Moslem India, after all that has happened in the Turkish Republic, will be more favourably disposed towards Turkey's rulers, whose religious zeal is at least suspect, than towards Iraqis, who are Moslems without the taint of free-thinking, even though they be divided into Shiahs and Sunnis. Again, Mr. Garvin likens Mosul to Chanak, with which it has nothing in common. If epigrams must prevail, it could more accurately be termed an Air-Gibraltar for the future highway of the Empire's air communications. Britain does not want to hold it for herself, but it should remain in friendly hands. Throughout two columns of unconvincing argument, there is no question in the *Observer* of the Iraqis. Grudgingly it is allowed that Iraq is to be protected for three years; thereafter, it is to be dismembered and thrown to the Turks. The abandonment of a single man in Khartoum was a crime and a disgrace to the Government responsible for it; what will be said of the betrayal of a whole nation who have pinned their faith to Great Britain, however much they may desire to be responsible for their own administrative machinery?

The Turkish Attitude.

Sooner or later the advocates of the scuttle policy come back to the strangest of strange arguments (in a British mouth): Turkey wants Mosul, therefore she must have it. They are impressed, not to say terrified, by Turkish insistence on the subject. A Turkish threat or "warning" is held over our heads, and we are bidden to tremble and obey. It is obvious that these people know nothing of Eastern methods of negotiation. If they knew more about present-day Turkey, they would realise that the Turks care nothing about Mosul in itself. If opportunity were given them to negotiate about Aleppo or Mecca, they would stage the drama with equal effect. They do not want to lose the opportunity of a *quid pro quo* for the Mosul vilayet; that much is true. Moreover, they were nervous about the effect of part of Kurdistan remaining outside Turkey; but they have now taken the measure of their own Kurds, and are indifferent to what happens to other Kurds. Turkey is not going to war with Great Britain over the Mosul vilayet. If a bad frontier is made, lending itself to Turkish incursions, raids there will be, until the major interests of Turkey compel her to resume friendly relations with Great Britain. An Iraq, on the other hand, deprived of British moral protection will be a gratuitous incentive to Turkey to reverse the verdict of the Great War and to flaunt her contempt for the League of Nations. Only a charlatan or an ignoramus will in one and the same breath pay homage to the League of Nations and advocate the abandonment of Mosul to Turkey. By all means let Turkey be admitted as a partner in the Mosul oilfields with Great Britain, France, the United States, etc.; but let us not be fearful of doing the right thing by Iraq.

The Jebel Druse Revolt.

The same uncertainty regarding the course of events in Syria persists as a result of the reluctance of the French authorities to take their countrymen into their confidence. Reports of the surrender of the Sueida garrison are current, but are not to be believed until further confirmation is received; news of a further mishap to French troops must also be disbelieved. As in Morocco the French Government has had to place Field-Marshal Pétain in charge of the campaign, so in Syria General Gamelin has been sent out to take command in the field, under General Sarrail. In both theatres the danger is that the natives will be able to hold their own until the winter season sets in, when France will be compelled to keep large forces under arms and so incur expenditure that is liable to be resented strongly at home. Moreover, the longer the Druses and the Riffis hold out, the greater the risk of their movements spreading to surrounding regions. There can be no doubt of France's capacity to master both, but General Sarrail was clearly late in appreciating the significance of the Druse rising.

Roumania's Land Laws.

In the midst of weightier matters that are occupying the attention of the Council of the League of Nations an episode in which Roumania played the chief part may be overlooked. A petition had been submitted to the League by Hungarian colonists in the Banat and Transylvania,

(Continued on page 306.)

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1925.

BULGARIA'S REFUGEE PROBLEM.

In spite of its full agenda, it is to be hoped that the Council of the League of Nations now in session at Geneva will find time to give consideration to the problem of Bulgaria's refugee population. Official statistics give seven hundred thousand, or fourteen per cent. of the population, as the number of refugees in Bulgaria. Of these, however, a little more than a third will have entered the country since the War, the greater number from Macedonia and Thrace, with possibly forty thousand from the Dobruja, Asia Minor, and territory in Western Bulgaria now ceded to Yugoslavia. Included in this quarter of a million refugees will be a number of *emigrés* who entered Bulgaria under the auspices of a Mixed Greek-Bulgarian Commission according to the provisions of a special Convention attached to the Treaty of Neuilly. This Commission was appointed to supervise so-called voluntary emigration between the two countries, and those who took advantage of its services could have their properties valued and count on receiving eventually payment for them, although only ten per cent is actually paid in cash. Even if their hopes in regard to the remainder suffer some disappointment, these *emigrés* will have reached Bulgaria with some money, whereas the refugees, whose numbers must be nearly two hundred thousand, will have none. In the case of the earlier refugees, those who arrived shortly after the end of the War, there can be no doubt that they found themselves welcomed as agriculturists in an agricultural country where the density of population has never been excessive, and did not have much difficulty in settling down in their new surroundings. The financial situation of Bulgaria was at that time fairly bright; no reparations were being paid, and the national currency had not seriously decreased in value. A certain amount of assistance, therefore, would be given to the new arrivals. Unfortunately for the country, the financial situation steadily became worse as the refugee tide increased in volume. The rural population was inclined to look askance at the newcomers, who were for the most part without funds, and, although the Government made sporadic efforts to alleviate their lot, the full gravity of the problem was not at first appreciated. The independence and self-reliance of the Bulgarian stood the refugees in good stead, but was powerless to make effective headway against the accumulation of hardship, privation, and impaired health which the refugee tide at its flood represented.

For the first time last winter the necessity of a more comprehensive scheme for dealing with the refugees was recognised by the Government, in the face of the danger of many of the refugees becoming tools in the hands of Communist agitators. Bulgaria, it must be remembered, is a poor country; the total amount of paper money in circulation works out at only thirty shillings per head. Although various societies have been at work relieving distress—the Bulgarian Red Cross, with its soup kitchens and orphanages, the British Save the Children Fund, with a small agricultural settlement scheme, the American Red Cross, with monetary donations—their efforts, even when supported by Government grants and Bank loans, were quite inadequate to meet the situation. The wider streams of foreign charity that flowed for Russians, Greeks, and Armenians, have, for one reason or another, not been tapped for Bulgaria. It may be that she has lacked the necessary political and social influence in Western Europe, or the fact that she has not cried out has led to the belief that she has no refugee problem worthy of attention. The time, however, has come when, in the interests not only of Bulgaria, but also of Europe as a whole, this problem must be dealt with on comprehensive lines.

The Bulgarian refugee problem is not as formidable as the Greek. A constructive relief scheme would have to make provision for from 150,000 to 200,000 refugees. There should be no question of charity, in the form of money doles. What is required is a plan which will enable the refugees to become productive, self-supporting citizens. Nearly all are by profession agriculturists. They are eager and able to work, but they lack the necessary tools and machinery. Foreign firms who produce agricultural implements are not able to sell large quantities of their goods in Bulgaria owing to the difficulty of obtaining prompt payment. Some arrangement might be made by which foreign firms send their goods on credit, and receive in return a guarantee by the competent body dealing out relief. A further need is housing accommodation. The conditions in the refugee area in Eastern Bulgaria are, we believe, deplorable. Hygienic arrangements are practically non-existent, and the flimsy structures which barely keep out the hot summer sun are quite powerless against snow and rain during the winter. An adequate housing scheme would have to provide some twenty thousand well-constructed habitations. Irrigation work may also prove necessary. The vast majority of the refugees are installed in the Philippopolis plain and in the country along the Black Sea coast. The land in these districts is rich, but the Philippopolis plain suffers from lack of water, while along the coast there are big tracts infested with malaria. These undertakings must naturally rank after the other needs of the refugees, but they play their part in any scheme for dealing with the problem on large and economic lines. It is estimated that a sum of two million pounds sterling will be required to afford Bulgaria adequate relief from the refugee incubus that now weighs upon her, and for this amount it may be supposed that the Bulgarian Government would be willing to give the necessary guarantee, provided that the financial terms of the loan were not too onerous. No one acquainted with the actual conditions in the country can doubt that external aid in one form or another is essential to a solution of Bulgaria's refugee problem. In view of the fact that the Greek Loan has been placed on an international footing, it is desirable that the League of Nations should do the same in Bulgaria's case.

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The Near and Middle East*

From Our Own Correspondents.

Jerusalem, August 29.

The New Regime.

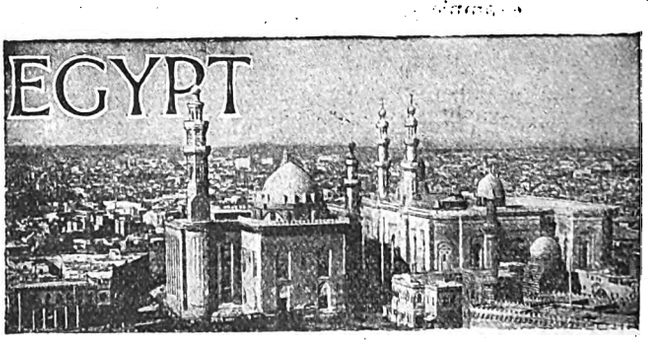
Lord Plumer is at last with us, the Samuel régime already seems a thing of the distant past, and everyone is holding himself alert to see what this new phase in Palestine's history is going to bring forth. The local Arabs—and many of the Jews are much the same— are beginning to mark minutely the new High Commissioner's every step, smile or frown: it is not part of their oriental political training to learn that an official may be only a piece of mechanism in a system and not necessarily the maker or marrer of the system. A flood of "open letters to Lord Plumer" is pouring out from the local Arab Press, consisting of welcome heavily diluted with advice and groans about the iniquities and burdens endured in the past. A refreshing exception is the *Mirât esh-Sharq*, the organ of the (comparatively) moderate "National Party." In the course of a long "open letter" in English, extending over four columns, it says: "We would not have the British public (of whose interest in the people of the Holy Land, we are gratefully aware)—we would not have them withdraw their sympathy from us in the belief that we 'have forgotten nothing and learned nothing.' We have learned much: we will readily forget much. More: we wish the date of your Excellency's arrival in our country, August 25, 1925, to mark a landmark in the so-called 'Arab problem' of Palestine. From this day we wish our attitude toward the officials of the Mandatory Power to be openly recognised and known as one that cheerfully discards grievances and habits acquired in past years, that cleanses from our minds all bitterness aroused by real or supposed injustice and misjudgments of the past." It then goes on to say that the great majority of the Arabs of Palestine are willing temporarily to shelve the Balfour Declaration controversy and to work wholeheartedly in co-operation with the Government provided only that the Government will re-open negotiations with native Palestinian leaders as to the possibility of making some slight modification in the "Order in Council" which covers the Constitution of Palestine. It is impossible to estimate exactly how true is this paper's assertion that it represents the bulk of Arab opinion, yet it is a noteworthy step to find some Arab opinion preparing to accept, more or less, things as they are as a basis for Arab politics.

Attempt at Arab Unity.

But Arab opinion is still far from having reached a common mind. Since the news of Lord Plumer's appointment Arab leaders have worked hard to beat out a common policy and to show a united front in (as they imagined) the completely new circumstances to be introduced by such a completely different High Commissioner. But these efforts seem to have borne no fruit.

The Jewish Attitude.

The Jewish attitude is mostly that of "wait and see." They are rather more alive than are the Arabs to the fact of the non-absolutism of whoever may be High Commissioner, and of the presumable permanence of Great Britain's policy. But they are not quite happy with the change from their smiling co-religionist (on whom, to some extent, they always felt that they could bring some degree of pressure in the shape of patriotic and religious appeal) to a highly placed military official who, they feel, will by his very nature and training lack all sympathy with their ideals and be totally unmoved by any pressure they may be able to bring to bear. Some of the Jewish leaders are pointing to what the Arabs have gained by their combativeness and opposition: they recommend their people to take a leaf out of the same book and by steady and persistent complaint recover little by little what (they claim) as a result of their mistaken complacency has been wrongfully withheld from them by the ex-High Commissioner's faint-hearted methods in applying the precise provisions of the Mandate. In this respect they point to the non-granting of waste Crown lands, excessive limitation of Jewish immigration, and other minor matters such as lack of financial support of Jewish education and (alleged) discrimination against Jewish officials and the Hebrew language. A symbol of the rise of this spirit of combativeness is the resurrection to active public life of Mr. Vladimir Jabotinsky as a power in Zionism. He was elected as a delegate to the Fourteenth Zionist Congress at Vienna by a new party in Palestine, which calls itself "the Revisionists," pledged to bid for much higher Jewish claims in the "National Home."



Cairo, August 30.

Cairo Fatiguing.

Every day and in every way Cairo, at this tail-end of the summer, becomes more and more depressing. The worst of the heat is over, but infinitely more disagreeable than the hot dry desert winds that sweep the capital from May to July is the sticky, clammy humidity that now, with the Nile at full flood, makes life extremely trying. Alexandria has the reputation of being damper and nastier than Cairo in August and September, but, for weeks past, not only has the normal daily temperature (92 deg. F. to 95 deg. F.) of the capital been considerably higher than that of the seaside town, but also the relative humidity, ranging between 72 per cent. and 84 per cent., of Cairo has been much the greater. In such weather clothes cling and all effort, mental or physical, becomes burdensome

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Athletic enthusiasm flags, and the only popular diversion is to motor out along the Mena road towards sunset and enjoy the slightly drier and fresher air blowing across the desert. Everybody who can get away is away in Europe, business is practically at a standstill, and the sole opportunities for amusement are offered by *rechauffé* cinema films of the year before last.

Stagnation.

Political activities are as stagnant as all others: with the Premier and half the Cabinet absent in Europe, the Government is merely marking time until the autumn, and newspapers are hard put to it to fill their columns. Even criminals, if recent statistics are to be trusted, are suffering from the general lassitude, for law-breaking of every kind has shown a marked decline of late. Alone of the community, doctors, such of them as are not away on holiday in Europe, are busy, for this heavy, damp warmth breeds flies, germs and sickness, and sore throats, influenza colds, typhoid and dysentry are rife. Undertakers, too, should be happy, for during three weeks of the past three months the number of deaths in Cairo has exceeded the total of births. This fact has caused much comment and alarm in the local Press, and, indeed, it is somewhat remarkable. Without being in a position to say that never before since statistics have been published have the capital's departures exceeded the arrivals, I can certainly affirm that, apart from the time of the influenza epidemic shortly after the War, the present summer is the only period in recent years when there have been more deaths than births during three weeks out of twelve. he mortality is, of course, largely infantile, the rate for which is, at this time of year, always very high, due mainly to gastro-intestinal troubles, which, again, are traceable chiefly to deficient and defective milk supply. Buffalo milk is largely used by the poorer classes in preference to the more expensive cow's milk, and buffalo milk, with its high content of very undigestible casein, is poor stuff for babies at the best of times. When it has been liberally adulterated with unfiltered and probably infected Nile water, and then exposed for a few hours to the attention of innumerable flies, come thither to refresh themselves after hot and toilsome hours on street rubbish heaps, the "milk" becomes about as wholesome and nourishing an article of food for children as would be rat poison. Hence the very high percentage of the city babies of Egypt who never live to celebrate their first birthday anniversaries.

Gifts for Waifs and Strays.

The good example set by King Fuad in giving £12,000 for the establishment of a naval training school for waifs and strays has not been without its effect on others, for now Prince Amr Ibrahim has come forward with the offer of his steam-yacht, the Sakaria, for the school. The Sakaria is a very trim craft of 350 tons burthen, for which the Prince paid £15,000 and, although a private yacht may need considerable refitting to make it suitable for a training school, the committee appointed by His Maiesty to proceed with the scheme is evidently convinced that the conversion is practicable, for it has advised that Prince Amr's offer should be acepted. Prince Amr (who is, strictly speaking, a nabil, not a prince) is a son of the late Prince Mohammed Wahid ed Din, and is not likely to feel the loss of the Sakaria very keenly, as he owns two or three other yachts, besides having an income of over £25,000 a year.

Retirement of Mr. Bury.

Mr. L. E. Bury, of the Ministry of Public Works, is retiring from the Egyptian Government service to take up the appointment of Adviser to the Iraq Ministry of Public Works, a post offered to him some months ago, and which he has now definitely accepted. Mr. Bury, who was at Eton and Trinity, Cambridge, has had twenty years' service in the local Irrigation Department. He is a very capable official, whose work has not been confined to routine channels. Indeed, during a considerable portion of his service he has been on special missions of one kind or another, the most recent of which was that of Mr. Dupuis, to whom Mr. Bury was personal assistant during Mr. Dupuis' investigation of Nile problems. During the War Mr. Bury was appointed as Deputy Director of Inland Water Transport, in which capacity he was awarded the C.B.E. It is a striking tribute to Mr. Bury's qualities that, in spite of his good fortune, he is exceedingly popular with fellow officials of the Irrigation Department.

Sofia, September 2.

The Government's Position.

On returning from Rila Monastery, where he has been spending the holidays, Professor Zankoff gave an interview to a local Government newspaper in which he strongly denounced the activities of certain politicians who had been advocating a change in Government. M. Zankoff declared that there was no necessity for any changes in the Cabinet, and that what Bulgaria required was a strong and stable Government.

The Prime Minister's words are generally interpreted as a sign that he is going to resist to the last any attempt which may be made to change the personnel of his Ministers. It will be highly interesting to see how Professor Zankoff's attitude will react on the Government and on himself. There is one current of opinion which maintains that in openly giving battle to his critics the Premier has considerably strengthened his position and will probably be able to remain in power, along with his present companions, for another year. A different opinion prevails amongst another section of political observers, namely, that M. Zankoff, in refusing to allow his Cabinet to be reconstructed, has jeopardised his own position, which formerly was not in any danger. Time alone will show which view is correct.

Bulgaria and Turkey.

After a prolonged visit to Angora, M. Simeon Radeff, the Bulgarian Diplomatic Representative at Constantinople, has been unable to come to any agreement with the Turkish Government regarding matters outstanding

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between the two countries. It is, of course, officially announced that negotiations have not been broken off, nor even adjourned, but if one reads between the lines one can see that Turks and Bulgarians are not yet going to conclude a Treaty of Alliance, an event so frequently predicted by certain London newspapers. If the truth be known, neither country is very keen to get back to normal relations because neither minds very much about the other. Turkey has got her hands quite full enough in Asia Minor, while the same remark applies to Bulgaria with her neighbours. No doubt in time some kind of Treaty of amity will be signed, but there are absolutely no indications of any real Turko-Bulgarian friendship. Very probably M. Radeff will soon hand over his task to someone else, as he has been appointed Minister to Washington, and is shortly expected to take up his new post.

British Warships at Varna.

Two units, H.M.S. Frobisher and Dragon, belonging to the first cruiser squadron of the Mediterranean fleet arrived at Varna on August 30, and will remain for eight days. It is four years since any British warships have anchored in Bulgarian waters and Varna is delighted at their visit. Rear-Admiral Waisdell, whose flagship is the H.M.S. Frobisher, fired a royal salute on entering Varna in honour of King Boris, who is at present residing at Euxinograd Palace. This week the Admiral has been received in audience by the King, whilst a gala dinner, in the King's honour, will probably be given on the Frobisher. The officers and men of the two ships have played football matched against local teams, the most important match being won by the Bulgarians by two goals to love. After leaving Varna the warships will proceed to Constanza.

Miscellaneous News.

The Bulgarian Delegation of the Annual Assembly of the League of Nations will consist of the Foreign Minister, M. Kalfoff, and the former Ministers M.M. Michael Madjaroff and Danailoff.

Miss Helen Wilkinson, Labour M.P., for Middlesborough, has just paid a short visit to Bulgaria.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, September 1.

Death of Irfan Bey.

The Turkish community has suffered a great loss by the death of one of its most active and prominent members, Irfan Bey. For many years he has been the most able of the Ottoman members of the Legislative Council, as well as member of the Executive Council. He also held with ability the office of Turkish Delegate of *Wakf* in the Department which administers Moslem properties dedicated to religion and charitable purposes. In this he co-operated zealously with successive British delegates. He was very energetic in the Legislative Council. He strenuously opposed the efforts of the Greek members to intrude political aims into debates, and—with the Moslem colleagues—supported measures which had for their object the progress and welfare of the island, and which were often opposed in a spirit of pure obstruction which culminated in late years in a foolish withdrawal of Greek members from the Council.

The funeral service, at the Ayia Sophia Mosque, was attended by a large number of Moslems, by ex-King Hussein, the A.D.C. of the Governor, the Chief Secretary, and heads of Departments. By permission of the Government he was interred in the precincts of the *Yéni Jami* (New Mosque), as he had desired.

Water Supplies in Cyprus.

Not is there often a lack of water for irrigation, but in many places a supply of drinking water is deficient both in quantity and quality. In many villages the women have had to toil daily to more or less distant springs, or wells, in the latter case bringing turbid supplies drawn in leather buckets. In some villages, even where Moslem inhabitants largely predominate, only muddy water can be obtained except in houses where it is filtered in porous jars. Since the British occupation praiseworthy efforts have been made, not only in towns but in many villages, where, often after much wranging and opposition, it has been decided to bring in a good supply by iron pipes. A great change has been brought about, and the value of an adequate and pure supply is very generally recognised. Strange to say, in the capital, Nicosia, the water supply has often been the subject of complaint. It has sometimes been due to the contamination in the channels of supply; sometimes to the distribution, quantity, etc. A Water Board is charged with the duty of maintenance and distribution, but it does not seem to have fully grappled with all its difficulties. This year again there are much grumbling and dissatisfaction, on account of a shortage in the hot season. It seems desirable that all obstacles should be resolutely faced, and that, whatever the cost, the supply should be placed on a footing worthy of the city which is the capital of the island and contains the largest population.

(Continued from page 302.)

complaining against the treatment that they had received under the Roumanian Land Reform Laws, and implying that the Roumanian Government was failing in her duty to minorities. The reply of the Roumanian Government was given by M. Titulesco, Minister to the Court of St. James's, who in a trenchant *exposé* of the scheme of land reform, which had been carried out throughout the length and breadth of Greater Roumania, had no difficulty in convincing the Council that not only had no regulations been applied in the case of the colonists that had not been enforced everywhere else, but that the Roumanian Government had actually decided to distribute as a free gift the sum of seven hundred gold francs among the colonists, with a view to helping them over a time of difficulty which was being experienced by the whole country. M. Titulesco's address appears to have made an exceedingly favourable impression on the Council.

The Attack on the Desert Convoy.

Mr. Stephen Bentley, who was in charge of the Nairn motor convoy from Baghdad to Beyrout, which was attacked on August 26 at a spot 34 miles from Damascus, has, we regret to learn, died from the wounds that he then received. Mr. Bentley was well known in connexion with the Desert Mail Service and was highly esteemed by passengers on the route. Being in charge of the convoy, he would naturally be bringing up the rear, and it is significant that, while the other cars escaped with two passengers slightly wounded, Mr. Bentley drew the worst of the attack on himself.

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LAND REGISTRATION IN EGYPT.*

III.

Before discussing the results of the first eighteen months' working of Egypt's new land-registration system, the lessons learned and defects discovered during this initial period, it will be well to re-state briefly the position. Since January 1, 1924, registration of transactions in real estate has been compulsory; deeds must be drawn up on specially embossed paper, sold by the Survey offices, and must be drafted in the manner laid down, furnishing all information which may subsequently be required for identification purposes; photographic copying of deeds has been substituted for cumbrous and sometimes inaccurate hand copying; and the Survey Department has opened over sixty inquiry offices in convenient centres all over the country, to assist vendors and buyers in their transactions. This, shortly, is the part of the reform that has so far been given the force of law.

What has not yet been done, but remains an essential preliminary to the functioning of a complete system of land registration, is:—

(a) Making compulsory, through some form of public declaration, the registration of existing rights over land;

(b) The institution of a body of officials, under the control of the Ministry of Justice, to scrutinise and ascribe authenticity to deeds, as a necessary complement to the task, which the Survey Department has been fulfilling since January 1, 1924, of verifying the description of the property referred to in deeds submitted for registration and of guaranteeing, after verification, that the deed exactly identifies and describes the land in question.

It will be appreciated that, until the existing machinery has been extended and developed so as to enable it to perform the above-mentioned two essential functions, it will be impossible for the Egyptian Government to give one of the most important advantages of land registration, namely, guarantee of title.

Without compulsory statutory declaration, applicable to all landed property, such property will only come under notice of the registering officials, and will, therefore, only secure entry in the Land Book and complementary registers, if and when there is a transference of a right in that property. So that several decades might elapse before the Land Book would become complete.

Until the completion of the reform by the introduction of the regulations just mentioned, the Land Book and kindred registers can have no official value. But, in anticipation of the full scheme being put into early operation, the Survey Department, simultaneously with the initiation of compulsory registration of translatory deeds, introduced into its machinery the three registers which will form the basis of the complete system, namely, the Land Book, the Register of Proprietors, and the Register of Charges on Property. The revision of the triangulation of the country was undertaken; the proprietory survey begun in new areas, and, as mentioned above, inquiry offices attached to all District Survey offices to assist applicants in precisely defining property to be registered. A delay of six months was granted, as an incentive to property owners to register, for the registration of previously executed deeds at a reduced fee of 2 per cent., instead of the normal 5 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Procedure in a Land Transaction.

Before discussing to what extent these innovations have justified the hopes which accompanied their introduction, it will be as well to describe exactly what happens when two typical Egyptian peasants carry through a deal in land. The description applies to Menufia Province, where, as previously explained, the reform is being put into more complete operation than in any other province.

Every province is divided into cadastral sections, and in each section is located a Survey detachment, with one or more survey officers and the necessary assistants. The owner of the land and the would-be buyer notify the survey officer of the section in which the land is situated, or, if more convenient, the local district Survey office, that the sale is intended. The notification gives all the details which the parties themselves are able to supply. The notifications are entered in the register of the local Survey office and dealt with in rotation. The official in charge of the most conveniently situated Survey detachment is instructed to proceed to the property involved, and, in the presence of the owner, intending buyer, any neighbours who are available, and the Omda or Sheikh of the village, the tract concerned is measured and delimited by means of beacons placed at the corners. A document is drawn up by the Survey official giving the location, boundaries, etc., of the parcel of land to be sold. This document is signed by the surveyor, the parties to the transaction, the Omda or Sheikh, and the neighbouring landowners, and is then sent to the local Survey office, where the description and area are checked with the 1 : 1,000 map of the district. The parties are then instructed to present themselves, on a named day, to complete the formalities of sale.

Arrived at their local Survey office, they pay P.T.5 for a deed form, printed on the embossed paper already mentioned. If they are able to fill up the form themselves, they are at liberty to do so, and the clerk in the inquiry office will give them every assistance in the task. But if, as is more probable, they are unable either to read or write, the clerk will write the deed for them, without fee. This service is very frequently utilised, and is satisfactory from every point of view, ensuring not only that the deed shall be in proper form, but also that a standard quality of black ink, the most suitable for the subsequent photographic reproduction, shall be used. The draft deed, giving all information necessary for the identification both of the property concerned and of the parties to the transaction, is then returned to the buyer of the land, who takes it to the office of the Mixed Courts official attached to every District Survey office, to carry out the legal formalities and collect the fees connected with the execution of deeds of sale of land. The fee of 5 per cent. of the value of the land is paid, a receipt being given, and the parties sign, or attach their seals to, the deed, the signatures being authenticated by the registration clerk.

The deed is then sent to the photographic department, which makes two copies, one of which, together with the original, is sent to the central registry of the Mixed Courts, in Cairo. The other copy is given to the buyer.

The normal delay between the date of notification by intending parties to a transaction and the signing of the deed, on completion of all formalities, is five or six days. But this period is only necessary for the transaction which involves a plot of land's first appearance in the registers. Once the identification and measurement of the plot have been recorded, any subsequent transaction concerning the same area can be completed within a few hours.

Building up the Land Book.

Although, as pointed out above, the Land Book will have no official value until the complete reform has been put into operation, the Survey Department has, since the inception of the scheme on January 1, 1924, entered every registered transaction in the Land Book, the Register of Proprietors, and the Register of Charges. The entries are made from the photographic negatives, which are filed in the District Survey Offices. Although the records thus made have at present no legal recognition, they will afford valuable evidence in the event of future disputes regarding ownership of registered land. Moreover, the nucleus of a complete Land Book is being built up. Special maps are kept in each District Survey Office, and whenever a plot is registered for the first time it is coloured yellow on the map, so that, at a glance, it can be seen whether any particular plot has been registered or not. It is interesting

* The first two articles appeared in THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA of August 27 and September 3.

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to see, after only a little over eighteen months, how large a total area has already come within the cognisance of the —as yet—unofficial records. But the most important feature of the work is, perhaps, the training it is giving the Survey officials. When the time comes to establish the registers as an essential and unquestionable record of land tenure, there will be a large trained staff ready and competent to undertake the work.

The Land Book is a 250-page volume of the loose-leaf type, one village to each volume, each plot having a page to itself. Eventually, it is anticipated, there will be one volume to each hôd. The Register of Proprietors is arranged on the basis of one Markaz to each register, and is on the small loose-leaf book system. The Register of Charges is a loose-leaf volume of 500 pages, kept by unit of property, designed to record the details of charges on land for which there is no room in the Land Book, where only the main features of the often very numerous and complicated charges can be entered.

The working of the present system having been thus briefly sketched, it is useful to examine the results hitherto achieved.

The Results Accomplished.

Making registration of deeds compulsory has not, it may be admitted, resulted in parties to deeds invariably feeling themselves compelled to register. There is abundant evidence that the drafting of occult deeds, to which it was hoped the law stipulating that no right could be transferred without registration would put an end, is still widely practised. This results from a variety of causes. The admittedly very high registration fee of 5 per cent. *ad valorem* is, doubtless, a deterrent from registration to many purchasers of property. Others, well able to afford the fee, hope that its recent increase from 2 to 5 per cent. may prove to have been only a temporary measure. They are, therefore, waiting to register their property after the expected reduction has been made. It is possible, also, that many peasant landowners, accustomed to the transference of land by the simple consent of the parties concerned, have not yet appreciated the new principle introduced by the recent law. It is further conceivable that a simple-minded peasant, having in his possession a deed of official-looking stamped paper, in itself a more legal-looking document than anything to which he has previously been accustomed, thinks it good enough for him, and refrains from the further and expensive formality of registration. That this attitude accounts for the failure to register a large number of deeds seems to be indicated by the fact that in 1924 the Survey of Egypt printed and sold 331,846 sheets of specially embossed paper, of which only 105,489 were registered. These represented 40,873 deeds, and on this basis, after taking account of the number of sheets which might have been spoiled, destroyed, or lost, and allowing for stocks held by lawyers and banks, it is estimated that over 80,000 *sous seing privé* deeds were executed in 1924, but not registered. From other sources it has been established that only one out of every four deeds executed in 1924 received registration.

As against this unsatisfactory state of affairs, there is the encouraging fact that the first three months of the present year showed a marked improvement on the similar period of 1924. Indeed, during the first quarter of this year the total number of registrations—19,404—exceeded that of the first seven months of 1925. There is, therefore, ground for hoping that, even without the introduction of the second part of the reform, the public would gradually come to regard registration as an essential part of any transaction in land. A buyer who fails to register his purchase exposes himself, of course, to serious risks, should he at any time in the future have to establish his title, but in very many cases, and not alone of peasant farmers but also of Europeans, the purchaser, when he has confidence in the integrity of the vendor, prefers to run the slight risk of complications in the future rather than pay the heavy 5 per cent. *ad valorem* registration fee. In such cases all that is done is for the parties to get "*date certaine*" of their documents in the Mixed Court registry, or merely have their signatures legalised, on payment of a small fee, by the Native Courts or the Mekhemas Sharia. By a curious inconsistency the Mixed Courts still give "*date certaine*" to deeds which, legally, must be registered under the law enforced on January 1, 1924, and it has been ascertained that out of 62,879 deeds given "*date certaine*" last year, no fewer than 39,749 ought to have been registered and have paid the 5 per cent. fee.

Without investigating all the minor deficiencies which eighteen months' working has discovered in the present system, and many of which are peculiar to Egypt and Egypt's multiplicity of legal jurisdictions, it may be said that, while the present partial system of land registration has not given quite the results which had been hoped of it, it has afforded valuable experience, and has reinforced the arguments, enunciated by the 1917-1921 Commission on Land Registration, and adhered to ever since by all the officials concerned in the work, that the reform can only become fully operative and fully beneficial when it is a complete system, embracing registration of title with State guarantee. This postulates that all deeds should be authentic, that a corps of officials should be formed to undertake the work of scrutinising deeds and ascribing authenticity, and that the Mixed Courts, Native Tribunals, and Mekhemas Sharia should not give "*date certaine*" or legalise signatures to deeds susceptible of registration unless and until registration is effected.

The full reform might already have been put into operation in Egypt were it not that this country's exceptional international status and the obligations undertaken in virtue of the Capitulations render the introduction of any new legislation affecting foreigners and their property rights a matter of great difficulty, which can only be carried through with the consent of all the Capitulatory Powers. The institution of the Land Book as the basis of title to property and the investing of the Land Book and its complementary registers with the qualities of absolute guarantee, not opposable by any third party, is a reform so sweeping that several more years may well elapse before agreement by all the interested parties has been reached.

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EX-KING HUSSEIN AND GREAT BRITAIN.

[We reproduce below a copy, sent to us by the late King of the Hejaz from Cyprus, of the letter which ex-King Hussein has directed to the British Prime Minister.—ED.]

To His Excellency,
The Right Honourable Stanley Baldwin, M.P.,
Prime Minister of England.

Your Excellency,—On the pretext put forward by Ibn Saoud that I turned Maan and Aqaba into two military ports I was requested by the British Government to leave Aqaba and was taken away from my country and my people.

In order to avoid any possibility of misunderstanding, and not to place the British Government in an invidious position with Ibn Saoud I was compelled to comply with the request of your Honourable Government, however severe and harsh.

Telegrams purporting to emanate from London and recently published in the Egyptian Press state that I am in Cyprus as a prisoner of war. Such false statements cause much anxiety to my people at home and to my friends. I am consequently addressing your Excellency with a view to clearing the situation and in the hope of coming to some understanding.

May I remind your Excellency of the contents of the letter addressed to me by your Foreign Office as follows:—

"As the Sultan of Nejd has prepared troops to attack Aqaba for the sole reason that your Majesty and the Government of the Hejaz have made Maan and Aqaba two military ports and as the British Government is re-

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sponsible for the public security of Palestine and the eastern part of Arabia, including Maan and Aqaba under our Mandate, we beg you to leave Aqaba in three weeks time."

Notwithstanding the fact that the statements of Ibn Saoud concerning the turning of Maan and Aqaba into military posts were absolutely false, I left Aqaba in order to continue on terms of good friendship with your Honourable Government. Neither myself nor the Hejaz Government have at any time made Maan or Aqaba military ports, or taken from them any one soldier to take part in the war again Ibn Saoud. The ports were used for the transport of volunteers who offered their services of their own free will to help in the defence of Jeddah and the Hejaz Railway.

I earnestly desire that your Honourable Government should cause an official inquiry to be made into the facts in order to convince themselves as to the truth of my statements. It was a most unjust proceeding for your Honourable Government to require me to leave my country owing to a tissue of false statements by Ibn Saoud, he at the same time being permitted to carry on his operations without let or hindrance, even to attacking Mecca, taking the lives and fortunes of the people, committing acts of rape and destruction in the Sacred City of the Mohammedans and on the neighbouring Arab tribes, who have a right to look to the British nation for protection, help, and sympathy against such wanton acts.

If your Excellency considers I am in any way guilty of any act, I am willing to accept personally, without complaint, any penalty that may be imposed on me, but I wish it to be clearly understood that my actions have always been governed by sincerity and faithfulness to the British Government and the British people.

It has always been my most fervent desire for the sake of my country and the United Kingdom as an allied country, to put into operation the articles of the Treaty agreed upon between your Honourable Government and myself, and in virtue of which I made so many promises to the people and tribes that gathered round me in the Great War, suffering all the hardships and losses which follow in the track of so great a conflict, faithful in our allegiance to the British Empire through the dark days when the Dardanelles were evacuated and Kut el Amara and Paris were in eminent danger. During that anxious time your new friend Ibn Saoud was living a happy and secure life, regarded by all as our mutual enemy. If such significant facts as these can possibly be forgotten by the British nation, history at least will perpetuate them to serve as a lesson to the small nations.

Kindly permit me to bring to the notice of your Excellency the intense surprise expressed by the Arab tribes that it should be possible for Ibn Saoud to raise so considerable an army unassisted, for the purpose of attacking the Hejaz. The completely crippled condition of Ibn Saoud after his reverses in the Great War is still fresh in the minds of the Arab people. It will be remembered that during the Great War he was attacked by Ibn Raschid and was defeated in the famous attack on Gourab. This defeat was completed at Koweit, when Ibn Saoud escaped leaving in the hands of the victor all he possessed in men and munitions. At that time Ibn Saoud requested my help, and I at once dispatched my son Abdullah with the necessary number of troops. They arrived after the complete defeat of Ibn Saoud and protected him from any new attack by Ibn Raschid. After staying for one month in the famous village of Shaara, my son and his troops compelled Ibn Raschid to return back to the limits of his own country.

In order to make clear to your Excellency and the British nation the ideas and aims regarding the Arab nation for which I have always earnestly strived, I give you below the text of a letter which I addressed to Ibn Saoud and sent to him by his delegate who came to Mecca in 1340 at the head of some 7,000 pilgrims.

"To His Excellency Ibn Saoud.

"I pay to you my compliments and my respects. It was a great pleasure for me to receive the letter you kindly sent to me by your delegates el Sheikh Massaed Ibn Swalem, and his friends. I was delighted to receive them and I thank God for the information they gave me concerning your good health.

"I thank you sincerely for the kind expressions concerning myself contained in your letter and I pray that God will reward you and that He will help both of us to act in the right way and make both of us the best of men.

"I grieve to think of the past, of the troubles and trials which the nation has suffered and which is so well known to all, but such has been the will of the Almighty. Under all conditions I assure you, Abdel Aziz, that you will always find in me the same faithful friend who will not change with circumstances or situations, as my nature does not alter.

"That which I have explained to your Sheikh Ahmed Ibn Thenian will continue to be my firm principle, as my pre-eminent desire is for your happiness and prosperity and that of all the Arabs, and I swear to you by God who created Heaven and Earth and all that in them is that this is my one and only aspiration, and to secure this end I am prepared to hand over to you the country and the power with the greatest of pleasure if the misfortune and suffering of the people, which has been experienced in the past and in all probability will be experienced in the future, will thereby be alleviated and avoided.

"I have explained fully to your delegate Sheikh Messaed Ibn Swalem all my hopes and aspirations. All that I have said to him is the most sincere truth, from which I will never depart and will never desire or dream of anything but the prosperity, happiness and greatness of the Arabs.

"I am perfectly in accord with you that time does not permit of further experiment and we must work sincerely for the nation's good.

"I pray to God that He will lead us both in the right way and that He will guide our efforts to bring forth the most good for the country and the people.

"With my sincere compliments to you."

Unfortunately for all of us Ibn Saoud did not deign to reply to this letter.

In view of all that has happened I approach your Excellency in my previous capacity as King of Hejaz and a true and honest friend and ally of the British nation with the request that your Honourable Government should take such steps as are compatible with the honour and dignity of Great Britain to protect the Arab nation from the continuance of the disturbances which are a sore trial to my people and can only terminate in the utter ruin of the country, the continuance of which is in complete contradiction to the declaration of His Excellency the High Commissioner of His Majesty the King of England, who in his letter addressed to me dated August 30, 1915, expressed the great desire of His Majesty and his Honourable Government for the progress of the Arabs and their acquiring their previous prosperity and independence, stating that the interests of the Arabs would be considered as those of the British Empire; with other expressions full of sympathy and friendship, causing us to unite in strong allegiance to the British nation and to fight against our own people.

If it is any offence to remind your Excellency and your Honourable Government of these facts, it should be considered justification that I gave up the throne and agreed to live in a small corner of my country in the hope that by so doing it would enable the British Government to avoid the destruction of her old friend the Hejaz.

With regard to the Mandate referred to in your letter from your Foreign Office, I refer your Excellency to the communication addressed by his Excellency Field-Marshal Lord Allenby to the Arab Government on this subject dated October 20, 1918, copy of which you doubtless have on his files.

With reference to the decision of the League of Nations which you mention, it has never been heard that the people of the eastern part of Arabia, Maan and its dependencies, have ever been consulted, and such consultation is the fundamental principle of the Mandate.

In spite of all that has been said and of any discussions, if the British Government has any special interest in occupying any part of the world they are powerful enough

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to do it openly, without opposition and without recourse to methods which will result in human disaster.

I send your Excellency cordial greetings. May God guide you in your deliberations and may the peace and prosperity of the Arabs be assured by your wise and sympathetic intervention.

(Signed) Hussein Ibn Ali, late King of Hejaz.

Nicosia (Cyprus), August 22, 1925.

AN APPEAL FROM MECCA.

[We have received from a correspondent the following translation of an article that appeared in *Al Mokattam* of August 20. It is a message which reached the Cairo journal from Mecca, having been sent by "Mohammed Effendi Rustem, Chief Secretary of the Royal Party, Mecca"; and it is stated that copies of this message have already been submitted to the Foreign Offices of all Moslem States.—ED.]

THE MECCANS AND THEIR NEIGHBOURS APPLYING FOR THE SUCCOUR OF THE MOSLEM WORLD.

To the Moslem World.

Peace be unto you and God's mercy and blessings.

Owing to this disastrous war, which has affected everybody and everything, and especially owing to its prolongation, the people of the Hejaz—in other words, the inhabitants of Mecca and of its suburbs, and the Bedouin—are completely destitute. They are compelled, therefore, to transmit this message to their Moslem brethren in order to supply them with the following information.

1. The inhabitants of Mecca and of its suburbs are greatly dissatisfied with the inhuman and cruel treatment meted out to them by the Nejd Government and by the Army of Occupation. Dissatisfaction is due to the facts given below:—

(a) They (the Government and the Army) consider our creed to be foolish and vain. They adopt queer systems of dogma inconsistent with those laid down in the Quran and in the Traditions. Both the Quran and the Traditions are interpreted by them (the Wahhabis) in such a manner as to support their dogmas and opinions.

(b) They force us against our will to follow their beliefs.

(c) In a very insulting way they scourge everyone whom they find smoking.

(d) The Sultan's representatives who are put in charge of the administration of the Hejaz are an ill-tempered, capricious, and ignorant type of official, whose one maxim is "Might is Right."

(e) The present Government has made a proposition to the local traders and financiers for the raising of a loan, and the proposal is being forcibly carried out, so that any goods or merchandise in this territory are confiscated by the Government.

(f) All necessary war provisions are being obtained from this territory.

(g) They (the Government and the Army) have demolished all the Religious Sacred Places which Moslems have greatly respected and honoured.

(h) They have no regard for the personal liberty of a man's private life.

(i) They have already exhausted all the local cash (moneys), which is exchanged for the new beaten coins of Sultan Ibn Saoud, and these coins have been put into currency.

(j) They ill-treat and keep under surveillance any person against whom any charge is made, without inquiry into such groundless charges.

And these are only a fraction of the complaints made by the population of the Hejaz against the present Government of Nejd.

2. The Hejaz being an independent State, the above-mentioned treatment considerably affects the rights of the Hejazis.

3. The Hejazis support with all their might the measures taken by the Government of Jeddah.

4. The Hejazis publicly declare that they desire never to renounce acknowledgment of King Ali as their lawful Sovereign.

5. Declarations made by the Sultan Ibn Saoud, or by his deceiving followers, can never be considered as indicating the free opinions of the people of Hejaz. The deprivation of our liberty and the practice of coercion upon us are measures commonly taken against us by the present cruel Government.

We, the people of the Hejaz, submit this information in the full confidence that in sympathy our Moslem brothers will consider our complaints carefully, and, mindful of our afflictions, hasten the deliverance of the inhabitants of the Holy Land.

(Sd) Mecca's Young Men's Ethical Association.

(Sd) Mecca's National Association.

(Sd) Mecca's Liberal Party.

On Behalf of all the inhabitants of Mecca, of its Suburbs, and Bedouin.

THE IRAQ "PLEDGE."

Rarely can a political question have been subjected to such gross and deliberate misrepresentation as that of Great Britain's relations with Iraq. The statement regarding an evacuation pledge appears to have been started, or at least was recently revived, in the *Daily Mail* of August 31. It was there stated:—

"Mr. Baldwin stated on May 3, 1923, that we were to withdraw from Mesopotamia after an interval which will terminate three years hence, on August 6, 1928."

On September 4 it was stated:—

"The proposed policy of the Government is a direct breaking of a pledge. We are pledged under a treaty . . . to evacuate the country in another three years."

On September 5:—"We have given a pledge to retire from the whole region in August, 1928."

The allegation of a "pledge" is echoed and improved upon by all newspapers that take their views and facts from the *Daily Mail*, until it becomes in the *Evening Standard* "a protocol, definitely reducing the mandate *(sic)* from twenty to four years." Mr. J. L. Garvin apparently repeats the misstatement in the *Observer* of September 6 in the words:—

"Mr. Baldwin, when Prime Minister for the first time, engaged to terminate this commitment within three years from now."

The reference in the *Observer*, it must be admitted, is not clear. Mr. Baldwin was Chancellor of the Exchequer, and not Prime Minister, on May 3, 1923. On that date he announced in the House of Commons the Government's new policy in regard to Iraq. He stated that "in order to obviate the inconvenience of introducing amendments into the body of a Treaty already signed, it had been decided to bring about the necessary modifications by means of a protocol," and he proceeded to read the text of the Protocol, which runs as follows:—

"It is understood between the High Contracting Parties that notwithstanding the provisions of Article 18, the present Treaty shall terminate upon Iraq becoming a member of the League of Nations and in any case not later than four years from ratification of peace with Turkey. Nothing in this Protocol shall prevent a fresh agreement from being concluded with a view to regulate the subsequent relations between the High Contracting Parties; and negotiations for that object shall be entered into between them before the expiration of the above period."

Not a word was said about evacuation, and it is obvious that the last sentence of the Protocol, if it does not definitely preclude evacuation, rendered any pledge to that effect impossible at the time when Mr. Baldwin was speaking.

The Greek Government is to sell by auction the furniture and other contents of the Archileion, the Royal Palace in Corfu, built by the Empress Elizabeth and acquired by the former German Emperor, Wilhelm II.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY

September 10, 1925 (New Style).
August 28, 1925 (Old Style).
Saphar 21, 1344 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Ellul 21, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Gaekwar of Baroda returned to London last week from France.

Ismail Sirry Pasha, the Egyptian Minister for Public Works, arrived in London last week from Cairo.

Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby and Viscountess Allenby are spending the early autumn at Stanley, Perthshire.

Sir Montague Barlow has left England for Ceylon and Malaya, and hopes to return to London *via* India before Christmas.

The Egyptian Minister in London, who for the past month has been staying in Paris, is now staying in Lausanne.

Sir Edward and the Hon. Lady Grigg will leave London to-day for Marseilles to embark in the Mashobra for Kenya Colony.

Viscount and Viscountess Willingdon left London for Geneva last Saturday. Lord Willingdon is representing India at the Assembly of the League of Nations.

The Greek Minister left London last Friday for Paris. M. Mélas, First Secretary at the Legation, will act as Chargé d'Affaires during the absence of the Minister.

Sir Alfred and Lady Mond returned to London on September 2, from the Continent, and left the following day for Melchet Court, where they will remain until September 12.

M. Pashitch, the veteran Prime Minister of Yugoslavia, has recovered from his recent indisposition, and, having completed his cure at Evian-les-Bains, is expected to return shortly to Belgrade.

King Faisal, who is at present staying at 6, Prince's Gate, South Kensington (the residence of Mr. E. S. Kadoorie) intends to leave London within the next week or two for Vichy, where he will take the cure.

The following have been appointed members of the Governing Body of the School of Oriental Studies (London Institution) for a further period of five years: Sir J. P. Hewett, Mr. P. J. Hartog, Mr. A. B. Keith, Mr. E. J. Rapson, and Mr. D. G. Hogarth.

The Maharajah of Jhalawar, who is making an extended tour for the benefit of his health, arrived at Southampton last Friday morning in the White Star liner Ionic from New Zealand. After a short stay in this country he will return direct to India.

Colonel C. G. Liddell, C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O., who for the past two years has been Deputy Administrator of the British Empire Exhibition, has resigned his position at Wembley, and is rejoining his regiment—the 1st Leicestershire—which is at present stationed at Ismailia, in Egypt. Colonel Liddell sailed for Alexandria last Friday.

The marriage took place on September 1, at St. Mark's, Surbiton, between Captain C. C. Stuart White, R.E., elder son of Mr. C. A. White, late Chief Engineer and Secretary to the Government of Behar and Orissa, Indian Public Works Department, and Mrs. C. A. White, of Stevenage, and Miss Audrey Rose Dickson, daughter of the late Dr. T. H. Dickson and Mrs. Dickson, of Surbiton, and granddaughter of the late General Sir Arthur Howlett, K.C.B., Indian Army. The Rev. A. R. F. Hyslop officiated, assisted by the Rev. W. B. White and the Rev. C. D. Moore (uncles of the bridegroom).

M. Venizelos, the Greek statesman, and Mme. Venizelos are spending the summer in Switzerland.

Kemal Bey, First Secretary at the Turkish Embassy, returned to London last Sunday evening from Paris.

General Gamelin, who has been appointed General Officer Commanding the French troops in Syria, left France on September 7 and will take the place of General Michaud, who has been recalled to France.

The marriage arranged between the Rev. Cecil John Grimes, Chaplain, Indian Ecclesiastical Establishment (Bengal), and Caroline Blanche, third daughter of Mr. G. B. Bowen, D.L., J.P., and Mrs. Bowen, of Llyngwair, Pembrokeshire, will take place to-day, at Nevern Church.

The engagement is announced of Lieut.-Colonel E. F. Norton, Royal Artillery, to Joyce, younger daughter of Dr. William Pasteur and Mrs. Pasteur, of Tunbridge Wells. Colonel Norton took over the command of last year's Everest expedition, when General the Hon. C. G. Bruce fell ill. He was one of the first three to reach the 27,000 ft. level in the 1922 expedition.

M. Zamados, the retiring Greek Minister in Belgrade, left there last Thursday for Athens. The Greek Government has appointed as the new Minister M. Polichronidos, who formerly held posts in London and at The Hague.

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CORRESPONDENCE

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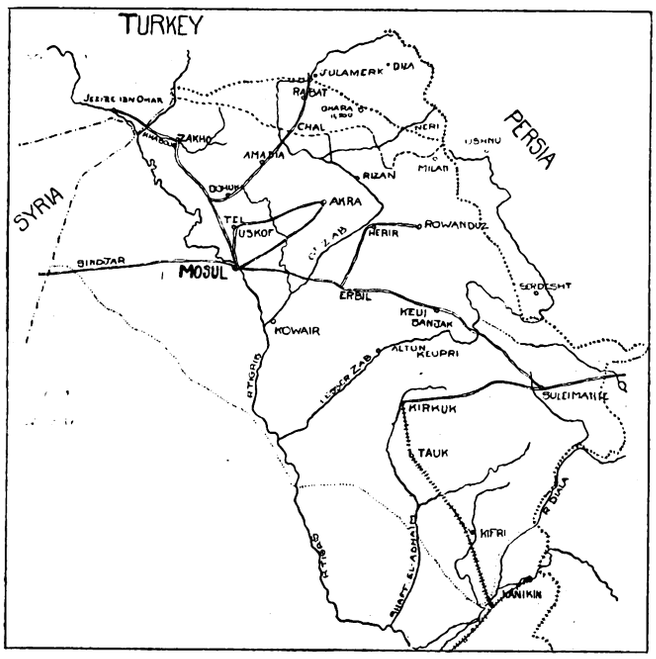
THE MOSUL REPORT.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—Examination of the Report of the Iraq Boundary Commission shows that the Commissioners have failed to appreciate two most important factors affecting the relative strategic values of the "Brussels line" and the line claimed by the British Government for the northern frontier of Iraq.

In Part Three of the Report, Chapter I. (dealing with Geographical and Ethnical Arguments), Section 1, A, we read that the Commissioners "were not able to verify in detail the practicability of the roads and passes mentioned" (in the frontier area between the Khabur River and the Persian frontier). This, no doubt, accounts for the incorrect impressions received. Yet there follows the misleading statement: "In any case the valley of the Zab is recognised as being practicable for the passage of quite large bodies of mountain troops." The reference is to the valley of the Greater Zab River, north of Amadia. The



The Mosul Vilayet as claimed by Turkey. The Brussels Line is shown passing through Chal; the frontier claimed by Great Britain passes through Julamerk and Neri.

road through this gorge is little better than a series of tracks from village to village, and, owing to deep snow and constant avalanches, is used only with the greatest difficulty, even by the inhabitants of this region, during the five or six winter months of the year. Under the most favourable weather conditions for movements of troops, an army, if *opposed* by a small force in these wild mountains, would find the route impracticable.

The Commissioners make no further observations regarding the nature of the passes from Turkey to Iraq lying between the Greater Zab Gorge and the Persian frontier except in Chapter IV. (dealing with Strategical Arguments), where they state that "there is no doubt that the line proposed by the British Government is an excellent strategic frontier. . . . The extremely mountainous area between this proposed northern frontier and Lakes Van and Urmia does not lend itself to the concentration of troops; the approaches from this region to the disputed territory (the Mosul Vilayet) consist entirely of roads or tracks which are difficult in summer and totally impassable in winter. A Turkish army intending to invade Iraq would not concentrate in this region where the communications are so difficult. . . ." This is not consistent with the previous reference to the Zab valley, and shows that the Commissioners are lacking in clearly formulated opinions on this subject.

In the same chapter they refer to "the impossibility of securing lateral communications" in the mountain area; and in Chapter VI. (General Conclusions) they state that "the frontier claimed by the British Government is a very good one. Towards the south, any of the successive mountain ranges might be used as a line of delimitation. The 'Brussels line' is as suitable for this purpose as the frontier proposed by the British Government; the ridge to the south of Zakho, Amadia, and Neri offers the same advantages. . . ."

This shows (a) that the Commissioners have paid insufficient attention to the importance of the fact that the mountains between Neri and Diza Gavvar are, as they point out, closed by snow for four or five months during the year, and, in summer and autumn, passable for troops only with the greatest difficulty; and (b) that they have completely ignored the trough of low-lying country which extends from Zakho to Amadia and Rowanduz and is always passable for troops.

This depression forms a most important lateral line of communication for Iraq, but, in the hands of an enemy, would, at all times of the year, form an easy route for troops marching from the neighbourhood of Zakho to the turbulent areas east of Apra and the south and south-west of Rowanduz. There are no similar valleys either to the north or the south.

The value of the route in question is fully appreciated by the Turks. In the spring of 1923 the Turkish force operating in the Rowanduz area was completely cut off by snow from its base at Diza Gavvar. The commander at Rowanduz, therefore, despatched Haji Abdul Latif, a rebel Kurd, to Amadia to eject the Iraq police stationed there, supporting him with a detachment of troops, with which it was intended that the town should be occupied. There can be no doubt that this move of the Turks was preliminary to an effort to open direct communication between Rowanduz and the Turkish forces at Jazirah ibn Omar. Some initial success was achieved by Abdul Latif, but the situation was saved by Mar Sergius, Bishop of the Jelu Assyrian clan, who, with a small party of his henchmen, drove the enemy from the town.

The Zakho-Amadia-Rowanduz depression is one of the most important topographical features in Northern Iraq; and its existence refutes the argument that the various ranges between Mosul and the Hakkiari highlands would form equally "safe" frontiers. While it can be of no use to the Turks except in offensive operations, it can be secured definitely for Iraq only by assignment to her of the whole area claimed by the British Government.—I am, etc.,

"A MOSUL RESIDENT."

THE FATE OF MEDINA.

Last Saturday, September 5, was observed as a day of mourning throughout Persia owing to the report that the Wahhabis of Ibn Saoud had bombarded the Tomb of the Prophet in Medina. The Sultan of Nejd, however, has replied to King Fuad's message of inquiry that his followers are respecting every place on Medina holy to Moslems.

The Bulgarian Sobranye met again on September 1, but will probably adjourn to-day until the middle of October.

The Egyptian Government has confirmed the decision of the Religious Court in dismissing Sheikh Abd-el-Razek from the position of *alim* (professor of religious jurisprudence).

Rear-Admiral A. K. Waistell, commanding the First Cruiser Squadron, entertained the King of Bulgaria to luncheon last Friday on board the cruiser Frobisher, which is lying at Varna.

His Beatitude the Lord Photios, Patriarch and Pope of Alexandria, died at Zurich on September 5, at the age of 72. He had stopped there on his way back from the Conference of the Churches at Stockholm in order to meet the Greek school-teachers now in Switzerland.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

Trade Union Congress.

The Trade Union Congress which met at Scarborough yesterday owes the importance which everywhere is now being given to it to two points of discussion: the future relation of British Trade Unionism with the international movement, particularly with Russian organisations, and the future position that the Congress should occupy in the industrial life of this country.

These two matters are not, moreover, disconnected, for they are subjects both dear to the hearts of the Left. Socialist working men in Great Britain do not see Russia as workingmen of countries closer to Moscow see her, and sympathy with her present endeavours is still a real thing; nor is it a matter of grief to many of them that the recent dispute over the mines was postponed owing to economic rather than to political pressure. In other words, there are grounds for believing that there has in recent months been a trend, not to Communism indeed, but at least to sympathy with the Left. Whether this trend has been sufficient to make the Minority Movement important from other than the vocal point of view remains to be seen. Personally I should imagine that the bulk of the Congress will still cling to the old, limited ideal of Trade Union functions; but without doubt there has since the fall of the Labour Government been a tendency to develop rather the industrial side than the political side of the Trade Union movement. At the present time the General Council of the Trade Union movement regards the activities of the Labour Party with a certain amount of possibly not ill-founded suspicion.

On the whole, however, one does not anticipate any startling decisions from this Scarborough Congress. Mayfair will probably still sleep well rather than fitfully.

The Coal Commission.

After what seems to have been an unconscionable time—in the terms of the subsidy, it cost from one to two million pounds—the Government has at last appointed a Commission to inquire into the Coal Industry. Four men, interested in the industry neither from the employers' nor the employees' side, have been chosen, to give a unanimous opinion; and, generally speaking, the selection of them has been widely approved. Very few papers have chosen to question the impartiality of Sir Herbert Samuel, Sir William Beveridge, General Lawrence, and Mr. Kenneth Lee.

At the same time, the names of the Commission have not pleased everybody, although no one has emphasised quite so quickly as Mr. A. J. Cook, the miners' Secretary whose threats are alternately derided and dreaded by the meticulous, the fact that whereas Capital is well represented on the Commission, Labour finds no place. However, there is nothing but to hope for the best from a body whose recommendations must at least command respect from the majority of the population.

The Seamen's Strike.

The unofficial strike of the seamen who refuse to accept the reduction of £1 a month from their wages appears to have been invested with more importance than it really merited. What is important is, not that these men struck, nor that without very much difficulty the shipping companies were able to circumvent the strike, but the character of the intimidation that has been practised upon the strikers. It does seem that men wishing to be loyal to their Union and to go down to their ships have been having a thin time at the hands of the strikers on the docks—men who assert that the ship-owners are making large profits, and that, therefore, wages should not be reduced.

It is rather the Imperial aspect of this matter than the domestic one that is troubling our authorities, for representatives of that very patriotic Union, the National Sailors' and Firemens', have suffered much continually abroad.

Liberalism and Prohibition.

Politics at the moment are rather a dead and unsociable topic, but one cannot resist recording the reported intention of the Liberals next autumn to launch a campaign with local veto as the rallying cry; it is even being said (by those who do not like them) that their ultimate intention is to advocate Prohibition for the whole nation.

There may be something in the rumour, for modern Liberals are capable of almost any folly that would curtail the liberty of man. As a move to capture the old Nonconformist vote and also the votes of a number of women married to incomplete abstainers, it holds out the prospect of immediate advantage. But whether it can be sincerely made, whether the brilliance of certain Liberal speakers may be more the result of their own convictions on the subject than of the fact that they have been unable to accustom themselves to drinking water neat—these are, perhaps, indiscreet questions. But it really is so very, foolish to attempt to deceive people on this matter of drink.

The Limitation of Population.

It is so commonly and despairingly assumed, both in public writing and in private conversation, that the numbers of our unemployed (which, by the way, have increased since the Conservative Government superseded the Labour Administration, although not because of this change) are directly connected with what we are pleased to call our over-population, that it was pleasant to see a Liverpool don, Professor A. M. Carr-Saunders, stating last week bluntly that "at present we had no means of finding out if we were under or over populated," and that "no judgment could be made whether our present unemployment was due to over-population or not."

At the same time this professor dispelled the ignorant belief that since the earliest times the population of the world had gone on increasing, and that the possibility of over-population had only recently come about. Limitation of population had always been practised, but with regard to methods of limitation we were very much in the dark. One would have liked to see this lecture reproduced in full, for it is obvious that this provincial don knew far more about his subject than do the Birth-Control publicists who so bespatter our daily Press with their muddied thoughts.

English Trees and their Usage.

A hundred years or so have passed since Lord Collingwood could tell to English gentlemen their duty, for the sake of the country's Navy, of casting an acorn into every hedge, or when Cobbett could write of the larch and the fir as being fit only for burning. For the truth now is that the oak, so beloved and revered of generations of Englishmen, is, temporarily at any rate, taking a back-seat. Neither by private person nor by Government is the oak any more being planted. Instead of our ships wanting oak, our aeroplanes now need ash. Instead of oak beams in construction (though they are still often used), girders and concrete are being used. It is very sad, this retreat of oak; but the merchants have ordained that the larch, the Scotch fir, the Douglas fir (which at

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the moment is all the rage, particularly in Norfolk), the ash, the beech, the willow, even the sycamore, shall take precedence over what one imagines is the oldest of English trees.

"The oldest of trees!" So at least one could think when seeing the reverent care with which the ruined giant oaks in places like Hatfield Park are guarded. Moreover, while these gnarled old growths are being zealously preserved, it is comforting to reflect that birds will carry the seeds whither they will, and that oak easily thrives. I know a field in Hertfordshire which, from being a lone field some few years ago, is now become an oak plantation. Similarly with the elm: it is really proof against the fashions of the worthy afforesters.

The Approach of Winter.

Rudely and with as much disconcertingness as ever winter rushed at us over the week-end. Of course we are used to tricks like this, but to be switched from the height of summer to almost wintry conditions within a week, with no sort of autumnal transition period, made many people so sulky that they promptly caught colds, and, instead of battling out of doors against the elements to see what they were really up to, they shivered in front of premature fires in their drawing-rooms.

From a gentle westerly breeze, the wind swept round many degrees to the north, so that snow fell in places, and almost everywhere there were frosts at night. On the East Coast, particularly, the combination of the September tides with the Nor'-Wester so piled up the seas as to give serious trouble to the unwary visitors. In Yorkshire and Norfolk and Kent a good deal of damage was done; and the hinterland of the Essex coast will surely suffer if the wind holds to the N.W. Acres and acres from the Humber to the Thames will be drowned.

The End of County Cricket.

In such a time it was fitting that county cricket should end—"fine burying weather for such a game," as some one has said. The cricket of 1925 was always interesting, and the country championship table did not lie, as it sometimes does, when it engineered Yorkshire into top-place. For Yorkshire were without doubt the team of the year. There was an Australian tenacity about their game, and the reproach of dull batting, which in previous years had been not undeservedly made on them could this year never be preferred. Next to them most people would have placed Middlesex, but on the system of points both Surrey and Lancashire were shown to be well ahead of the Metropolitan eleven.

The most encouraging feature of the season—apart from the marvellous cricket of Hobbs—has been the emergence of such young cricketers as Hammond, Larwood, Clark, Sibbles, Wensley, and Santall. It is true that very few of these will be sufficiently developed by next year to help to beat the Australians, but their rise certainly makes us hopeful of the next English visit to Australia.

The Foundling Hospital.

The threat to the Foundling Hospital estate to which I referred some weeks ago has now materialised, and it has been officially stated that a new syndicate, Foundling Estate, Limited, has bought the district for a million and a half pounds. Bloomsbury, which will be profoundly altered by this fact, seems to be very sad about the change. It had for nearly two hundred years taken to its heart the foundlings, to whom Handel gave performances of "The Messiah," Hogarth and Gainsborough pictures, and of whom authors like Blake and Dickens wrote in such glowing terms. And not only the Foundling Hospital, but old Bloomsbury places like Brunswick Square and Mecklenburgh Square are included in the transaction.

The Portland Estate Sale.

Another large region of London which is to change hands, and, eventually, no doubt, to change its character also, is that part of the Portland Estate which lies east of Regent Street. Lord Howard de Walden is selling to the Audley Trust Company, which, I believe, is mainly concerned with business property, forty acres that lie between Oxford Street and Euston Road. It is an odd, unfashionable part of London that abounds in little markets and curiosity shops, and of recent years it has been invaded by the motoring industry. Architecturally, the fine St. Margaret's Church is the only building which one can think of as having become part of London. The possibilities of its "development," as the tendency to commercialise land is nowadays called, are to be gauged from the fact that the sum given for the property is twice as much as that for the Foundling Estate.

The Fruit Crop.

A few weeks ago I noted here that the heat-wave—how long ago it all seems!—had severely prejudiced the prospects of the fruit crop. Since that time, we have had the copious rains of August, which, at any rate for apples, have improved matters. Still, the estimate even for them is 15 per cent. below the average. Of dessert varieties the most successful are Worcester Pearmain, James Grieve, Blenheim orange, and, of course, Cox's pippin. But as for such inferior things as plums and pears and damsons, the crops are very poor.

From the fructual point of view, the pomologist is easily the happiest man of the year.

Barnet Fair.

Barnet Fair, the creation of the Plantagenets, and once the chief horse fair in England, to which dealers from the Continent and even more distant countries eagerly came, is now but a shadow of its historical self. This year, it is true, there were plenty of horses and cattle and ponies and sheep, from all over the country, and from Wales and Ireland, but its chief potential attraction lay in the pleasure fair, which is still, I believe, the most considerable in England. Even this, however, failed to attract the numbers who before the War used sparkingly to throng there, and the explanation would seem to be that fair are an anachronism in our age.

But they have always been dying out, ever since we started talking of "progress." Change how they will—and they are fundamentally changed, from what is bought and sold to what is eaten and drunk—there is some inexplicable element of life in the old fairs. In a subtle (and wholly regrettable) way they appear to change with the age: Barnet this year even suffered the reproach of being respectable. Possible this was the result of the growth of the suburbs, but more probably of the dying out, since 1914, of that strange medley of contortionists, sword-swallowers, jugglers, pugilists, and so on who used to practise their art upon a world not yet disillusioned.

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Indian Affairs.

THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

Lord Reading, in his speech at the opening of the Legislative Assembly, when pointing out that recruitment for various Indian services by the Secretary of State had already ceased, so that Indian Ministers would now be able to start building up their own Provincial Services by new recruitment that would be in their own hands, said that the principle of establishing Provincial Medical Services had been accepted, subject to certain conditions that were still under consideration. It appears to be thought, in some quarters, that he meant by this that the Indian Medical Service is to be Provincialised; but this, of course, is not the case. The Lee Commission recommended the absorption of the Indian Medical Service by the Royal Army Medical Corps, but this proposal has not been accepted; it has been decided that the Indian Medical Service shall continue to exist as a military service, some of whose members will be lent to the civil administration: the officers so lent forming a reserve for the military service. That is to say, the civil medical service in India will be Provincial, and recruited in India, but will continue to include a number of military medical officers recruited by the Secretary of State. In his statement in the House of Lords, Lord Birkenhead explained that these officers would usually be employed in posts dealing with research and teaching; while special arrangements would be made to ensure that European civilian residents in India, and their families, received medical attendance from European medical officers. For many years past, Indians have been admitted into the Indian Medical Service and have served in it on the same terms as their British confrères: a fact which, until quite recently, produced a curious anomaly—in that the bluest blooded and most important Indian Prince could only be an honorary officer in the Army, while any Indian who could pass the necessary examinationn, no matter what his birth or breeding, could obtain a permanent commission in it by membership of the Indian Medical Service. The Indian Army List, for instance, showed all officers of and above the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, combatant and non-combatant alike, in separate lists: and the names of a number of Indian medical officers appeared in those lists; while the names of the Princes and noblemen who held honorary rank appeared separately, in a special list of their own. Until the recent admission of Indians to combatant commissions on the same footing as British officers, this was a cause of considerable heart-burning.

When Mr. Montagu was in India, he referred, in one of his speeches, to the fact that the Indian Medical Service was a key service in India: and extremist Indian politicians were quick to realise the truth of this description. They interpreted it to mean that, if the European medical official could be got rid of, all the other European officials would disappear also: since the European felt the need of medical attendance by men of his own race, not so much for himself as for his wife and daughters: and, if he felt that he could not get it, would refuse to bring his family to India, which would mean that, in most cases, he would refuse to stay there himself. In the case of large non-official communities, such as commercial men in the large towns, or planters, the disability would not be felt, since they could afford to maintain European doctors of their own—in the great days of indigo, the Behar planters had their own medical men, and no doubt have them still: but the European officials, who, except in a few large centres, are a scattered community, would be unable to provide themselves with European doctors. Having once realised the position, extremist Indian politicians set themselves to make the most of it: they concentrated their attack on the Indian Medical Service and tried all means to get the number of Indians in it increased, in hopes that, as the percentage of Indians grew larger, European medical students would feel less and less inclined to submit themselves to the chances of an Indian career. The campaign has been largely successful: and at present very great difficulty is experienced in finding the requisite number of British medical officers to keep the European complement of the Service filled. A recent issue of the *British Medical Journal* says that the Secretary of State has only made thirteen appointments to the Indian Medical Service during the past year, and these all on a five years' contract system—a system which, in the opinion of the journal, is open to many objections. It says, indeed, that, until the facts are known and completely discussed, it will be inadvisable for a British-born medical man to become a candidate for the Indian Medical Service otherwise than on a short contract, if the objections to that system can be prudently set aside. The *Lancet*, on the other hand, is less pessimistic: it says that India definitely requires European medical assistance, not only for the care of the European population, but for the maintenance in the country of the spirit of modern medicine: and holds that there is still a fine future before the Indian Medical Service—"those who enter the Service now, no less than the pioneers of medicine in India a century and more ago, will have before them a great constructive task. The early energies of the Indian Medical Service of the future may have to be devoted, apart from their definitely official duties, to the education of the community through qualified Indian doctors."

The Legislative Assembly has just carried, against Government opposition and by a substantial majority, a resolution recommending that from 1926 all recruitment for the Indian Medical Service should be by open competitive examinations held simultaneously in England and India. At first sight, this resolution looks harmless enough, since it merely extends, to the Indian Medical Service, a principle that has already been accepted in the case of the Indian Civil Service; but the conditions are, in fact, quite different. Recruitment in England by the ordinary methods, for the Indian Civil Service, is certainly not brisk, but it has never ceased entirely and has lately shown a decided improvement; but it would appear, from the figures given by the *British Medical Journal*, to be non-existent in the case of the Indian Medical Service; so that, if effect were given to the Assembly's resolution, it seems likely that the result would be that the candidates offering themselves for examination would be exclusively Indian. This would lead to a state of affairs that, though it would doubtless be welcomed by the extremist Indian politicians who have grasped the meaning of Mr. Montagu's remarks about a key service, cannot possibly be faced, as it would be disastrous to the true interests of India. The outlook at present is not encouraging; but it is certain that means must be found—and it is equally certain that they will be found—to remove the atmosphere of suspicion that is now, in England, enveloping the Indian Medical Service. It may well be hoped that the appointment of the Indian Public Services Commission, which has for some time past been announced as imminent, will engender the confidence that is now so conspicuously lacking. It is to be hoped, in addition, that the conditions, stated by Lord Reading to be still under consideration, will not long remain so: and that the publication of the full official proposals of the Government of India will reveal a future for the Indian Medical Service that will justify the Council of the British Medical Association in revising their present attitude of disapproval and in once again advising young medical men in England to offer themselves for what is, perhaps, the most important of the Indian services: if only for the reason that it is the key service on which depends the continued existence of all the other European services in India. If, as is greatly to be hoped, such advice is then given, it will, of course, only be given on the recommendation of the men on the spot—the British members of the Indian Medical Service now serving in India; who, as a whole, are inclined to take a gloomy view of the prospects of their Service. A recently published letter from a distinguished ex-member of the I.M.S. who, since his retirement some years ago, has lately become a regular Indian

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"globe-trotter," said that his experience, in what he rather quaintly described as his last "tour" in India, does not support this view; but it is, none the less, unfortunately only too certain that it exists. The authorities, both at the India Office and in India, are fully alive to the imperative necessity for its removal: so that it may confidently be expected that their decision, when it is announced—and the earlier the better—will be a source of satisfaction to those now serving, and of incentive to others to follow in their footsteps.

CURRENT TOPICS.

The Steel Industry.

The Indian Tariff Board's report regarding the grant of supplementary protection for the Indian steel industry recommends a bounty of eighteen rupees (twenty-seven shillings) per ton on seventy per cent. of the total weight of steel ingots manufactured each month, subject to a maximum of ninety lakhs of rupees (£675,000), during the eighteen months from October 1, 1925, to March 31, 1927. The Board expresses the opinion that the increase in Customs revenue due to the existing Steel Protection Act is likely to have exceeded the bounty payments by 24 lakhs of rupees (£180,000) by the time the latter would cease, under its recommendations: so that it does not recommend any increase in the present Customs duties on steel.

The Government have notified their intention of moving a resolution in the Legislative Assembly on September 10, in reference to the Tariff Board's recommendations; the resolution reduces the amounts recommended to a bounty of twelve rupees and a maximum of sixty lakhs for the eighteen months. In the meantime, the Indian iron firms have entered a protest against alleged "dumping" of pig iron on the part of the Tata Steel Company; who, they assert, have made use of their favoured position in the matter of steel to undersell their Indian competitors in the matter of pig iron by quoting it for export at a price that would otherwise be actually below cost. Advanced Indian political opinion is, in general, in favour of high protective tariffs: but this "by-product" of the Steel Protection Act has somewhat shaken the belief in the general efficacy of protection.

The Government also intend, on the same day, to move a resolution imposing a protective import duty of one anna (a trifle more than one penny) per pound on printing paper containing less than 61 per cent. of mechanical wood pulp, and on all writing paper. This is in accordance with the recommendation of the Tariff Board, except that the latter also recommended a loan, or guarantee of debentures to the extent of ten lakhs, towards the purchase of machinery for the Bamboo Pulp Company: as to which the Government resolution is silent.

Power Driven Plant for India.

Sir Alfred Chatterton, late Director of Industries, Madras, draws attention, in a letter to *The Times*, to the belief (mentioned in Lord Reading's speech at the opening of the Legislative Assembly, and already noticed in THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA in its comments on that speech) that Indian agriculture must continue to depend on cattle for its motive power. He points out that larger units of power, than it is possible to obtain from the use of cattle, are essential to the efficient conduct of a number of agricultural operations, such as the lifting of water for irrigation, draining of waterlogged land, deep ploughing, and the preparation of crops for the market, the most important of which is the crushing of sugar cane. As regards the first of these, he states that there are in India sixteen million acres irrigated by wells, but that there has been no increase in wells since the beginning of the century, not because of any lack of water, but because of the increased effective cost of cattle power. Many new wells have been sunk, but at least an equal number have been abandoned where the conditions rendered water lifting by cattle an uneconomic undertaking. As regards the last, he repeats the constantly emphasised fact that India grows, but—owing to wasteful methods of extraction with cattle-driven mills—does not produce enough sugar for her own needs, and imports from half to three-quarters of a million tons yearly. The recently created Departments of Industries have done a great deal to encourage the use of power-driven plant, and India now imports thousands of oil engines and hundreds of suction gas plants every year; but the cost of such machinery is a charge that only a few landowners can meet. A rapid increase in the wealth of India will simplify many of its political problems, and this, in Sir Alfred Chatterton's opinion, can only be brought about by a more extensive use of power and power-driven machinery; for which the most practical solution would be the standardisation of plant. The motor trade has shown what can be done by mass production and the establishment of "service" stations: if the Indian authorities would prepare standard specifications, on which manufacturers could undertake mass production, there is little doubt that the result would be a remarkable increase in the use of mechanical appliances in India, with a corresponding increase in her wealth.

There have been several indications that firms in the United States are alive to the great possibilities of India as a customer for machinery: and, as the United States have been the pioneer of mass production, it is not unlikely that American manufacturers will turn their attention to the problem, especially now that it has been stated by one who speaks with authority. Co-operation between the various Indian Governments and British manufacturers, and between the latter *inter se*, ought not to be impossible: and should result in retaining for Great Britain the very great field for the provision of agricultural machinery that undoubtedly exists in India.

Illicit Firearms.

The amazing outrage on the East Indian Railway, in which an armed gang held up a train, shooting one of the passengers dead and wounding two others while they robbed the guard's van, has drawn attention to the ease with which firearms can be obtained for illicit purposes in India. The provisions of the Indian Arms Act are, on paper, reasonably stringent; but those who suffer from them are, in the great majority of cases, respectable persons, chiefly Europeans, who have contravened them from ignorance or carelessness; the illicit possessor of firearms never seems to find any difficulty in arming himself. The number of shops in India that are licensed to sell arms and ammunition is legion, and their methods in the sale, and more particularly in the storage, of firearms are certainly very casual; but it is not, as a rule, directly from them that armed desperadoes equip themselves. Such gangs seldom use rifles, their weapons usually consisting of shotguns and revolvers or pistols. Supervision over all except the latter is reasonably complete, since the smuggling of so large an object as a rifle or shotgun is not an easy matter: it is not by any means an uncommon thing to find that a shotgun, captured by the police in the course of illicit use, is a properly licensed weapon, though the licensee is a different person from the actual wielder. Sometimes the latter has obtained it by theft, the real licensee having omitted to report the loss, generally in the hope of avoiding trouble: but cases are not unknown in which it has been found that the licensee had lent his gun to a bad character, doubtless with perfect knowledge of what the latter wanted it for: sometimes out of an easy-going kind of good nature, sometimes for fear of the consequence to himself that a refusal might entail, sometimes even on the promise of a share in the resulting loot.

In the matter of revolvers and pistols, however, the case is very different. Licences for these are sparingly granted, and only on payment of a considerably higher fee than in the case of shotguns, while the successful applicant for a licence has to satisfy the authorities that he has good reason for the application. It is therefore much more difficult for the desperado to obtain a pistol or revolver by theft or on loan and he has, as a rule, to rely on the smuggler. It is not difficult to smuggle a small object like an automatic pistol, and there is plenty of evidence of the existence of an extensive trade in smuggled pistols

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and revolvers. It is a trade that offers large profits, and one that it is extraordinarily difficult to put a stop to: it is not too much to say that practically every vessel arriving in India from Continental and Far Eastern ports is suspect, and isolated seizures are frequently made; but there is every reason to suppose that these represent but a small portion of the illicit weapons actually introduced. The debased currency of so many Continental countries renders the game a very paying one, especially in view of the fancy prices that are obtainable in the event of a successful coup; while a vessel offers endless facilities for the concealment of small objects such as pistols. It is obviously impossible to make a thorough search of every foreign vessel entering an Indian port: and, in practice, the Customs officials have to depend almost entirely on special "information received." A more prevalent, and even more lucrative, smuggling trade is that in illicit drugs; but, in that case, "information" is more freely given, owing to the high rewards that follow detection, based as they are on the value of the commodity. The actual value of a pistol is small, and the reward for discovery is therefore necessarily small also; but the serious possibilities of the traffic are fully recognised, and arrangements have recently been made to increase the rewards for successful attempts to frustrate it. As regards the difficulty of the actual discovery, it is enough to quote a case that occurred a year or two ago, when the Customs officials, on receipt of what they considered certain information of the presence of illicit cocaine on a foreign vessel, had to shift 400 tons of bunker coal before they found it. It is obvious that a search of this kind can only be undertaken on a certainty: and the probability of being presented with such a certainty varies directly with the value of the consignment and the consequent amount of the reward for successful detection.

Compulsory Military Training.

A Committee, appointed last year by the Calcutta University Senate, having reported in favour of some form of physical exercise being made compulsory in all schools affiliated to the University, the Senate has passed a resolution to that effect, and has requested Government to make arrangements for the inclusion of compulsory military training in their curriculum. The demand for physical training was based on a realisation of the poor physique of the average Bengali student: and that for military training on the widely held view that the future of India as a self-governing State demands ability on the part of Indians to provide for their own defence. The resolution was not adopted without opposition: one speaker pointing out that the demand for military training, which would certainly be distasteful to many parents and students, was likely to prejudice acceptance of the idea of physical culture.

It is not to be wondered at that this movement should have originated in Bengal; for, of all the peoples of India, Bengalis are those who have been most often twitted with cowardice, an aspersion that they deeply resent. The hero worship of Bengali revolutionaries, in which even Mr. C. R. Das joined, is due to this feeling: Mr. Das' public approval of the "patriotism" of the murderer of Mr. Day was a popular move that earned for him a great deal of admiration, even though some of the more sober Bengali politicians found it necessary to express their disapproval of it. About a year ago, there was an epidemic of laudatory articles in the Bengali Press in honour of a revolutionary named Jotin Mukerji who, after committing several murders, was rounded up by the police and shot dead, after a stout defence, during the revolutionary troubles of seven or eight years ago. These articles specially acclaimed Jotin as one who had disproved the charge of cowardice that had been brought against Bengalis as a race: and, though they distinctly suggested that it was up to the present representatives of young Bengal to follow in his footsteps and thus to show that his courageous example had not been wasted, it is permissible to believe that, apart from the desire for revolutionary incitement that was so prominent in Bengal a year ago, the articles were largely inspired by a genuine feeling of pride that the "cowardly" Province could have produced so noted and so desperate a ruffian.

In the War, Bengali politicians were insistent in declaring that Bengal only awaited a word from Government to produce a legion of warriors who would sweep the Turks and Germans from the field. When it was decided to raise a Bengali regiment for service in Mesopotamia, the poor response by the youth of Bengal was explained to be due to the failure of Government to make the right sort of appeal—among other demands, it was urged that the Regiment should receive special treatment in the matter of pay and prestige, and should be regarded as a corps of gentlemen volunteers instead of ordinary enlisted men. But the small number of men who did enlist were extolled in the most extravagant manner: even so ordinarily level headed a man as the late Sir Surendranath Banerjea permitted himself to declare publicly that, after three months' training, the Bengal battalion had proved itself superior to regular British troops. However, the complete and hopeless failure of the battalion in Mesopotamia, though of course never admitted by the politicians, in reality made a deep impression on them; they realised that the military spirit was entirely wanting in the average young Bengali, and the present resolution of the Calcutta Senate is certainly due to that realisation: they recognise that, if that spirit is to be inculcated, it can only be done by catching its object young.

The Bengali prides himself on being the intellectual leader of India; but it is now beginning to occur to him that, in the self-governing United States of India whose advent he envisages, the intellectual leader will stand but a poor chance of surviving unless he has something more tangible than his intellect to fall back upon. In this particular instance, then, though the proposal for the military training of young Bengal is part of the general desire of Indian politicians to see India able to provide for her own defence, the immediate objective is less that Bengal should be able to take her part in the general defence of the country than that she should be able to provide for her own defence against more virile neighbours within the confederacy. It is not only the extremist Indian politician of to-day who professes to look forward to the early disappearance of the British soldier and the British officer from India: "the Commonwealth of India Bill," in its provision for an Indian Defence Committee who shall notify the British Government of the moment when the Indian Cabinet will be prepared to take over all the machinery of the defence of India, shows that politicians of more moderate views are of the same way of thinking; but neither of them are blind to the fact that Indian Defence includes defence against internal as well as external aggression: and the Senate's resolution shows that Bengal has grasped its full implication. In their heart of hearts, the Bengal politicians know quite well that the ideas of the Government of India about the defence of the country are quite different from theirs, and that there is no chance of Government's agreeing to the proposal for compulsory military training in the schools; not only are they well aware of this fact, but in truth they are glad of it—the resolution is only a political manœuvre, to show the other races of India how terrible the Bengali might be if he really set his mind to it: and it will doubtless end, as so many resolutions in India do, in the solemn denunciation of Government for its refusal to give effect to a legitimate national aspiration.

Swarajist Demands.

A telegram from Simla says that the Swarajists and Independents have agreed on the form to be taken by the non-official amendment to the Government resolution on the report of the Reforms Committee in the Legislative Assembly. The official resolution recommends the adoption of the Majority report, with some modifications in detail; that is, the maintenance of the existing constitution together with such amendments as may be necessary to remove defects in its working. The following is the summary, as telegraphed by Reuter, of the terms in which it is expected that the amendment will be presented:

That his Majesty's Government shall make a declaration that the Governor-General in Council shall be responsible to the Indian Legislature and have power to appropriate money for Indian expenditure, extraordinary power being vested for a limited time in the Secretary of State to appropriate money for military, foreign, and political

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expenditure and for meeting debts and liabilities.

That the Council of the Secretary of State be abolished, the Secretary of State to occupy a position like that of the Colonial Secretary of State.

That there be no nominated members in either the Central or Provincial Legislatures, members to be elected on a wider franchise.

That the principle of responsibility should be introduced in the Central Legislature in regard to all subjects, except military, foreign, and political, for a fixed number of years, and that the dyarchy be replaced by a unitary form of responsible government, subject to residuary control by the Government of India with reference to inter-provincial and All-India matters.

The motion also urges steps for the nationalisation of the army within a reasonable and definite short time, and adds that after a fixed number of years the Indian Legislature should have power to amend the Constitution.

The resolution will urge that steps be taken to constitute a convention or round-table conference representative of all interests, and place a scheme for consideration before the Assembly and then submit it to the British Parliament to be passed in the form of an Act.

Ibn Saud and Medina.

The reports that have reached India of the bombardment of Medina by Ibn Saud have caused great excitement among the Mohammedans: and the Khilafat leaders, particularly Shaukat Ali, are in a difficult position. At the time when Indian pilgrims were preparing to leave for the Haj, Shaukat Ali was a declared partisan of Ibn Saud, in whose services to Islam he expressed unbounded confidence. The returned pilgrims spoke with no certain voice; some declared that Ibn Saud's arrangements for the pilgrimage had been excellent, while others asserted the reverse. The statements of the latter were brushed aside on the ground that they were "agents" of King Ali, Ibn Saud's rival; but the circumstantial reports of the bombardment of Medina are discounting the attempt to make out that all is well in the Hedjaz. On receipt of the news in Bombay, Shaukat Ali was the object of an angry demonstration and only escaped assault owing to the intervention of the police. He is now advising his excited co-religionists to "await authoritative news from Jeddah" —a rather curious suggestion since, before the departure of the pilgrims for the Haj, he refused to accept the Jeddah reports (which advised its postponement) on the ground that they emanated from tainted sources. Shaukat Ali, and his brother Mahomed Ali, have announced their readiness, if the report of the bombardment is proved to be true, to take the first available steamer to the Hedjaz in order to fight against Ibn Saud—a promise that almost makes one hope that the news is true. A local representative of Ibn Saud declared, at Bombay, that the report of the bombardment of the prophet's tomb was entirely untrue and that the bombardment had been solely directed against King Ali's troops on the outskirts of Medina. In this connection, it is worth remembering that, in the War, excitement was raised in India by a report of the bombardment of Nejef, in Mesopotamia, by British troops. It was proved that the only foundation for this report was the fact that, in the course of an engagement in the neighbourhood, a single shell had hit the wall of the town at a place far removed from the shrine itself; but this was declared to be no answer to the charge, since the whole vicinity was sacred, and damage to any part of it was constructively damage to the whole. The followers of Ibn Saud are of the Wahabi sect—a sect of reformers who carry their antagonism to idolatry to the pitch of declaring the veneration of any object—even so sacred an edifice as the tomb of the Prophet—to be idolatrous; so that Indian Mohammedans may be forgiven if they fear that the news is not only true, but something less than the real truth.

The Calcutta "Saint's" Burial.

The dispute about the burial of the "saint" in the New Market at Calcutta has advanced one more stage towards solution. It will be remembered that the man, who was a professional beggar, claimed by the Mohammedan butchers as a co-religionist, but apparently really a Christian, died in the Market precincts and was buried on the spot where he died: the Mohammedans claiming that this was a religious necessity—it was also asserted that he had exerted such miraculous powers that it was found to be a physical impossibility to move his body. An official of the Calcutta Corporation permitted the burial to take place under *force majeure*—to quote his own words, his "attitude became one of convenience." As the grave was in one of the passages of the market, and obstructed traffic, it was decided to wall up both ends of the passage: and this was done, at a cost of Rs. 1,250. The Calcutta Corporation, in passing the bill for this expenditure, explained that the rate was three times the usual charge, but that they could get no contractor to undertake it for less, in view of the probability of his men being assaulted by the butchers. The Corporation have now decided that, if the Mohammedans do not, in the meantime, themselves exhume and remove the body, the Corporation will do so on the expiry of two months—exactly a year since the burial took place: with the result that the Mohammedan Councillors quited the chamber in a body. It looks as if the contract for unwalling the passage and exhuming the body is likely to be a more dangerous, and therefore more expensive, job than that for walling it up.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, August 20.

The Turn of the Tide.

The Autumn Session of the Legislative Council opened unauspiciously for the Swaraj Party in the defeat of their nominee for the chair, and the business which has been transacted under Mr. S. Roy, who was approved as President by Lord Lytton, has given indications of a break-up in the Extremist ranks. The first item of business was the Dacca University Bill, and Hindu opposition to the measure took the form of amendments calculated to delay the passage of the Bill. On being put to the vote, however, these were lost and the original Bill was passed without a division. The Council then conceded a number of supplementary demands by Government under the heads of Forests, Registration, Irrigation, General Administration of Justice and Jails, involving a little more than a lakh of rupees. Divisions were forced in several of the issues, but Government carried the majority throughout. The subsequent proceedings were much of the same nature, and in no major point has Government sustained a defeat. The atmosphere has cleared considerably, and divisions indicate an impartiality hitherto unknown in the political history of the Reforms in Bengal. The turn of the tide is of more than usual significance, and is mainly due to the tension which exists in the Swaraj Party between the Hindus and Mohammedans, which has made the latter to throw in their cause with Government in divisions. This has been expected for a long time; the Hindu-Moslem Pact was a flimsy and artificial bond and it was realised by all that there could never be real unity between parties of so widely divergent views. The rupture dates from the time when Gandhi interfered in the politics of Bengal after the death of C. R. Das; his tactless public references to his fruitless search for a worthy Mohammedan to fill the Mayoral chair wounded the feelings of the entire Mohammedan community. The Moslems received a further insult at the hands of Sen Gupta when he broadcasted his reasons for the desirability of electing a Musalman to the chair of the Council, and it is not surprising that the Mohammedans lost faith in the party whose leader had demonstrated his total lack of understanding and general incapacity as evidenced in his advocacy of a reversion to anarchical methods.

The New Market Burial.

Whatever hopes there may have been of a reconciliation between the two parties were shattered when the Corporation decided to exhume the body of the so-called

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saint, referred to in the last issue. This was brought about by Swaraj votes, and, as the *Statesman* says, "It is the nemesis of a political aggregation such as was the Swaraj Party that it should have shattered itself in dealing with a matter regarding which it has taken a proper, if somewhat timid, course." It has been apparent from the beginning that the Corporation would ultimately be forced to remove the body, and it has been equally well known that this decision would cause the collapse of the Hindu-Moslem Pact; the late Mr. Das realised this and used every artifice to delay action or if possible evade the issue, and in doing so earned the criticism of the European community and, after his death, the indirect censure of his own party. The attitude of the Mohammedans is an unreasonable one; it has been proved that the beggar was not a co-religionist, and even had he been, the Koran gives no justification for his being worshipped or treated as a saint, and yet the Mohammedan Councillors, who are of the more educated class, have sided with their fanatical brethren of the New Market, one of them going so far as to state that the resolution amounted to "Zulum" (tyranny). It is difficult to forecast what this will lead to, but it is safe to say that, if the uneducated butchers, who demanded the burial in the first instance, oppose the removal of the body in a fit of fanaticism, the Swaraj Corporation alone are to blame in allowing the scandal to have gone so far. Prompt action at the outset would have obviated all difficulties.

The Liberals.

A meeting of the Council of the Liberal Federation of India, held last Sunday, deliberated for more than two hours on Lord Birkenhead's speech and, after passing an elaborate resolution expressing grave dissatisfaction at the pronouncement, recommended that the advice offered by the minority of the Muddiman Committee should be accepted and steps taken to place the constitution of India on a permanent basis. They further agreed that the Reforms, despite any imperfections there might be, should be worked to the best advantage of the country and they deprecated the policy of indiscriminate obstruction. It would appear that at least one section of public opinion in India is approaching the great political problem from the correct angle; but, while the Liberal Party are to be congratulated upon the piety of their aspirations, if they desire to take the fullest advantage of the unique opportunities presented by the political situation of to-day, they must not be content with mere resolutions; a policy of action is required, and the Liberals could not do better than to take a leaf out of the book of their Swaraj friends. Whatever faults the Extremists may have, it would be impossible for their sternest critic to lay a charge of slacking at their doors. Not content with a programme designed to appeal to the masses, they have diffused an energy into the dissemination of their doctrines which has proved infectious, and to this as much as anything is due the degree of popularity they have attained. The seed they have sown has taken deep root and the task confronting the Liberals will be no sinecure, for in spreading their creed they have first to undo the mischief which the Swaraj Party has made. The time is ripe for action, and it is hoped that the Liberal Party, who can do so much for India, will not shirk its responsibility. Although a break has appeared in the ranks of the Swarajists, it must not be assumed that the movement will fade away; there are too many interested parties behind its workings to permit of this.

Markets.

The jute maket closes quiet, with a certain amount of forced selling at rates below last week's levels; neither jute nor gunnies show signs of any appreciable drop owing to the sound position still reported from up country, where the rates quoted are one rupee per maund in excess of those obtaining here. This week's tea sales have been satisfactory with regard to the good qualities, which have fetched normal prices for this period of the season, but the general tone has been weak in sympathy with the London market. Piece-goods remain dull and show no signs of any revival in interest, which should set in at the end of the month in anticipations of the Poojahs.

The general trend of the share market at the close is downward, jutes being most affected in this respect; holders have shown no actual keenness to dispose of their shares but selling orders are hard to place, with a resultant lowering of prices. Coal shares have attracted a little more attention and close steady; slightly more interest has been displayed in cotton shares, but the weakness of the commodity has had a depressing effect upon tea shares. Gilt-edged stocks show no tendency to depart from the general feeling and are on offer at lower levels without attracting buyers.

Money continues easy, and even the demand from the jute-growing districts does not appear to have affected the position up to the present. Exchange has remained at the previous level throughout the week.

CORRESPONDENCE.

PROVINCIAL AUTONOMY IN INDIA.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—Nobody has yet succeeded in telling us what is the exact meaning of Provincial Autonomy in India. To take any continuous geographical area, to partition it off by arbitrary boundaries into sub-divisions, and then to give the sub-divisions autonomy in such matters as customs, through railway lines, control of the great rivers, post and telegraph facilities, diplomatic relations with and defence against the outer world—this is of course unthinkable. Municipal autonomy, however, extended in every practicable way, is a perfectly legitimate and attainable ideal.

Drafting a federal constitution is rarely a useful exercise, until the country is ripe for federation. This cannot be said of India at the moment; and I do not therefore propose to follow Coles Pasha and Mr. Capper in their most interesting forecasts of India's composition in the days when provincial autonomy becomes a practical proposition. They have done valuable service, however, if they will allow me to say so, in drawing attention to the unsuitability of the present provincial system in British India as a training ground for Dominion status in the country. Our provinces have grown up in the same haphazard fashion, and for much the same reasons, as the growth of British rule. They do not represent homogeneous racial, linguistic or cultural areas; but merely combinations of districts which were made for administrative convenience, and which in several cases have now lost even that attribute.

They are also far too large. One of the complaints most often heard against the new electoral system is that the people show little interest in the elections. How that interest is to be evoked is another quesion; but at any rate it cannot be expected to be an interest in a provincial sense. The Uriya cares nothing about the domestic affairs of the Behari; nor the Canarese of the Sindhi; nor the Jat of the Purbya; and yet each of these pairs is unequally yoked under one provincial government, and is invited to vote on its combined problems. Vitality in popular government cannot, in the present position of the Indian masses, be looked for unless the unit of government is an area which posseses the maximum of common interests and, if possible, a common language. The linguistic bond is not everything, as we see in some of the states in Europe to-day; but on the whole it seems more likely than any other connexion to be the cement of India's future administrative units.

The development of the political talent of India points in the same direction. A certain number of its leading men show themselves capable of the wider imperial outlook, and would naturally attach themselves to the questions which must, for a very long time to come, be the care of some sort of a central government in the country.

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The others, and the vast majority, have a habit of mind which will best be utilised by applying it to local affairs. One of the issues therefore to which the Parliamentary commission of 1929 will certainly have to address itself will be the propriety of fixing smaller areas of legislative and administrative activity than those now operative. The cost will, as Mr. Capper points out, be greater than that of the old autocratic régime, which after all was one of the cheapest things of its kind in the world. But political development is not to be had for nothing; and it is always well to remember the fact, for example, that Oudh is as big as Switzerland and three times as populous, or that Bihar is bigger than Portugal and four times as populous.

Whatever therefore may be the ultimate constitutional form of the provinces, and whatever may be their relation with the monarchical Indian states which lie imbedded among them, my conviction has always been that the future constituent parts of a federated India will be different from the present provinces, and in most cases smaller. Our administrative arrangements are such that sub-division will never offer difficulties of the first magnitude; re-grouping after that will be a process of natural evolution. And in the process there may come a settlement, with a fuller knowledge than we now possess, of the deeper question whether our parliamentary and electoral models are those which India can best employ in working out her own political future.—I am, etc.,

MESTON.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—The suggestion of Mr. C. Capper in your issue of September 3 regarding provincial autonomy in India naturally provokes speculation as to the future political map of India. He advocates an extension of the principle of semi-autonomous sub-provinces on the analogy of the position of Sind within the Bombay Presidency. Now one of the results of the 1919 Reforms seems to have been the promotion of a provincial patriotism, though this at times has taken a parochial turn. It would appear that the tendency of those classes which form the great majority of the existing legislative bodies in India is to make the existing administrative areas fissile; but the factors which tend to cohesion must not be overlooked. For example, there is the common use of the English language in the exchange of ideas; then there are the increased facilities for communication, and the increase in the number of All-India gatherings for political, economic and social objects; and there is the aspiration to convert the geographical entity of India into a real national unity.

It may be of service to examine the map of India at three outstanding periods in its history: at the end of the fourth century during the golden age of the Hindu dynasty of the Guptas: at the beginning of the seventeenth century when the Moghul Empire had been divided into fifteen provinces; and at the beginning of the twentieth century under the British. An examination and a comparison reveal the areas of administration which are common to all three periods. Such areas should for ethnic and linguistic reasons have some chance of permanence. We find that Sind is a unit in each case; likewise, Berar, the Gangetic Delta and the country of the Five Rivers (the Punjab). Thereafter, comparison breaks down.

It is not an unreasonable expectation that, when responsible self-government is extended, there will be a regrouping of provinces on the basis of race and language. When that time comes, it is possible that the present somewhat unnatural combination of Bihar with Orissa may be broken; that the North-West Frontier Province may not be inviolate; and that the Madras Presidency, which labours under distinct linguistic disabilities, may have to submit to partitions similar to those of the thirteenth and sixteenth centuries. But, whatever the future may have in store in the way of redistribution, I venture to doubt whether any unit, when constructed, will be content with anything less than full provincial autonomy.—I am, etc.,

VOYAGEUR.

London, September 7, 1925.

INDIAN EXCHANGE.

London, September 7.

In our review of the rupee market last week, we raised the question as to whether the Indian Government could be relied upon to meet market requirements there, and thereby check any tendency for the Rupee to rise beyond a reasonable figure. We were not aware at the time that the matter had been receiving the attention of the Government, and it is rumoured that they have intimated unofficially that they are prepared to make purchases of sterling to a fairly large extent, and expect to be in a position to meet any demands which may be made upon them.

This may be accepted as a very satisfactory pronouncement from the mercantile point of view, but it would appear that the markets in Calcutta and Bombay are not without their doubts, as business has been done during the past week for delivery December-February at 1s. 6¼d.

The London market has been quiet but steady, round about 1s. 6 3-16d. to 1s. 6 7-32d. and business has been done off and on during the week at the higher rate. We heard of a few offerings of rupees at 11-64ths, but they found ready takers and the volume of business which has passed at this level has been trifling.

A moderate amount has been done for forward at 1s. 6 7-32d. for November in this market, and we learn that some business has been done in Calcutta early this week at 1s. 6 9-32d. for delivery December-January.

Inquiries are again being made with regard to bullion, and in view of the good crop prospects, consequent on the satisfactory monsoon, there can be little doubt that India will again be in the market for both gold and silver, later on, probably to a fair extent. Much of course, depends upon the rainfall during the next ten days, and cable advices to hand indicate that it has been very scanty. This may account for a quieter feeling here on Monday, with exchange inclined to be on the easy side, although there was very little doing.

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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

170, Strand, London, W.C.2.
Tuesday Morning.

The General Outlook.

The various amalgamations which have materially widened the scope of Barclays Bank, which will henceforth be identified, under one and the same Chairman, Mr. F. C. Goodenough, with Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial, and Overseas), in which the Colonial Bank, the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, and the National Bank of South Africa have been or are about to be embodied, have not depressed its outlook on British trade conditions. In its Monthly Review for September there is indeed a splendid and convincing note of challenge to the pessimists, which deserves to be widely studied. Although the general trading situation is still far from satisfactory and although definite signs of a revival are disappointingly delayed, the outlook, it states, is not without some hopeful features. Conditions on the Continent, in spite of inevitable vicissitudes, are becoming more stable, and the evident determination to effect a settlement of the difficult problem of inter-Allied debts should result in the removal of one of the principal uncertainties in Continental Budgets. In addition, the greater stability in foreign exchanges, the distinctly more favourable harvest prospects throughout the greater part of the Continent, and the satisfactory progress of the monsoon in India are encouraging factors.

British Trade Aspects.

The writer of the Monthly Review of Barclays Bank complains of the tendency to concentrate on the adverse conditions affecting British trade, rather than to view the position as a whole. In consequence, the outlook is often regarded with an unjustifiable degree of pessimism, and it is even suggested that Great Britain has lost her ability to compete in world markets. Great Britain, being more dependent upon external trade than any other country, is to a greater extent affected by the temporary disorganisation of overseas markets and, therefore, has felt the effect of the War with particular severity. Another factor detrimental to British trade and directly connected with the War is the competition resulting from the depreciated foreign exchanges and the artificially low costs of production of certain competitive countries, who, in one form or another, are still having recourse to inflation, a wastage of capital resources, the evil effects of which will inevitably recoil upon the heads of those who have recourse to it. Sooner or later, the purchasing power of the world will be restored, and currency and exchanges will be stabilised. In the meantime, British trade suffers, but the real reason for surprise is that it has not suffered a great deal worse. There seems no reason, continues the writer in the "Monthly Review," for the assumption that Great Britain has lost its reputation for the quality of its products, or that with the gradual return to normal conditions throughout the world and the consequent increase in international trade as a whole, British manufacturers will not obtain their proportionate share of such increase.

The Only Sound Policy.

If the optimism of the writer quoted above is shared by British manufacturers, it follows as a natural corollary that special attention ought to be paid by them to keeping a footing in markets where for the moment they cannot hope to do any large amount of business, but of whose potentialities there can be no doubt. Optimism in regard to the Near and Middle East is certainly justified by all the signs of the moment. Relative stability of exchange in contrast to previous fluctuations has been attained in a marked degree in South-Eastern Europe; harvest conditions are good, and there is a steady improvement in purchasing power which is reflected in the selection of goods of better quality. A sentence in a letter published last week from our Teheran correspondent was instructive: "The German bicycle had a meteoric career to begin with, but is rapidly giving way to dearer but safer machines." The same story comes from the Balkans in the case of textiles and other goods, and often the difficulty of obtaining British goods is lamented. It is a healthy sign, too, that attention is beginning to be paid to the payment of War debts. There will, no doubt, be much protestation and bargaining; but it matters not how small a payment is fixed. The thing that counts is that a start should be made, and it will be found a wonderful stimulus to the self-respect of the nation concerned. To revert to the necessity of keeping these markets "warm" for British goods; various methods offer themselves:—

Make sure that samples or catalogues are available in each country.

Advertise, at least to the extent of saying where these samples or catalogues are to be found.

Make use of Exhibitions and Samples Fairs.

The British Industries Fair.

It is good news that the Government is according a special grant to the British Industries Fair for the purpose of making the Fair's usefulness more widely known. Now, if ever, is the time for a special effort to attract the foreigner to the Fair; even if he cannot do much yet in the way of buying, let him come over to see for himself of what British industry is capable. I am thinking, naturally, of the more distant parts with which this journal is identified. It ought to be possible under the ægis of Commercial Secretaries in the Balkans to have meetings of those in their respective countries interested in the main industries represented at the Fair and to invite them to select one of their number to pay a visit on their behalf to the Fair, in part or wholly as the guest of the British Government. The intention would be that these delegates, even if they were not empowered to give orders for individual firms, should see the Fair and report to the different trades in their own country their impressions of British goods. It can hardly be doubted that orders will follow either at the next Fair or during the course of the year. A start might be made with one or two industries. For an outlay of from five to six hundred pounds it should

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be possible to arrange for the visit of eight or more representatives from the Balkans.

Aviation in the East: A Suggestion.

Air-Marshal Sir Sefton Brancker, Director of Civil Aviation, and representatives of Imperial Airways, Ltd., have arrived in Egypt, where preparations will be made for the inauguration next year of an air service between Kantara, on the Suez Canal, and Karachi. This route, it is to be expected, will form the trunk line of a network of air services throughout the Middle East, for the greater the number of feeder-lines, the better the commercial prospects of all the services. There seems no reason, therefore, why steps should not be taken simultaneously to form aviation centres both in Palestine and Iraq. At first there may not be much scope for regular services, although it would be thought that a service from Beyrout or Damascus could be run to link up with the Kantara-Karachi service at whatever spot in Palestine or Transjordan will be selected for a halting ground. The time, however, is surely approaching when in countries of slow or difficult communications there will be a demand for aeroplane flights, as there is now for motor services. There must be many visitors to Palestine who would avail themselves of air trips to Damascus, Palmyra, Petra, and other places, if the charges were not prohibitive. It should, therefore, be a commercial proposition for a company to maintain air services between Syria and Palestine, in connexion with the Egypt-India route, and to keep a small "fleet" of aeroplanes available for special trips as required. The scheme at least is worth investigation. In conjunction with it could be run a local aero club, on the model of the new clubs in England, where instruction in flying can be given to members. Similarly in Iraq a commercial aerodrome in Baghdad would maintain services with Persia and keep aeroplanes for special journeys to Ur, Mosul, and other centres.

Smyrna Rediviva.

Smyrna, we know, is by no means as dead as fire and fate at one time seemed to intend that it should be. Trade has steadily improved, but it has remained somewhat of a mystery why, in spite of much talk, nothing should have been done for the rebuilding of the city. The explanation is given in the Report on the Economic and Commercial Conditions in Turkey by Colonel H. Woods, British Commercial Secretary in Constantinople. Quoting the British Consul-General at Smyrna, he points out that, after the work entailed in the new planning scheme had been entrusted to a French engineer, who was responsible for most of the town planning in the French zone in Morocco, numerous difficulties had been raised in connexion with the adoption and application of the scheme. It appears that before the fire the unbuilt area, comprising street, public squares and gardens, amounted to barely 14 per cent. of the total area of the town, whereas the new plan proposes to increase it to 55 per cent. The authorities, in order to cope with the expenses of the application of the plan, are anxious to increase to 34 or 35 per cent. the levy now fixed at 25 per cent. that they are entitled to make on all real property destroyed by the fire. It is mainly this question and the modification to the original plan that it entails which has delayed rebuilding operations. As soon as the plan, as finally modified, is approved, building operations will be taken in hand.

Iraq Railways.

Iraq has been penalised by the uncertainty ruling over her northern frontier, even if no doubt regarding the Iraq-Britain relationship exists outside the British penny Press. In the meantime, however, while discussions run their course at Geneva, it is satisfactory to know that the Iraq railway system is gradually being overhauled and placed on a sounder footing. South of Baghdad the railway was essentially a military line, paying little or no attention to commercial requirements; to the north it had followed the Tigris through sparsely populated land to Samarra to form part of the German Baghdad Railway. The task before the Railway Administration in civilian hands was to bring the railway system into closer touch with traffic routes and the country's needs. In the case of the stretch between Baghdad and Mosul it was decided to scrap the line that had been laid as far as Samarra (or Shergat) and to build the Mosul line by way of Kifri and Kirkuk, where it would tap rich agricultural land. The new railway, branching off from the Khanikin line, was opened for passenger traffic to Kirkuk on August 31. Work on the section bzetween Mosul and Kirkuk has been in progress for some time, with a view to providing employment for tribesmen whose crops had been ruined by drought and locusts. With the completion of the line to Mosul that vilayet will be more closely linked than ever with Baghdad.

Turkey's Budget.

In the matter of fulness of detail the preparation of Turkey's Budget leaves nothing to be desired. The one anomaly is the way in which it is left, so to speak, in the air, without any attempt being made to balance revenue and expenditure. Thus last year expenditure was estimated at £T140,433,369, and revenue at £T129,214,610; but no statement, apparently, has been forthcoming to explain the position with regard to actual receipts and expenditure. This year the draft Budget showed expenditure estimated at £T162,288,942, and revenue at £T145,306,978. The Assembly set to work on these figures and modified them, so that expenditure was estimated at £T183,932,727 and revenue at £T153,046,854, but followed this up by passing two laws which provided that economies to the extent of £T16,980,000 should be effected, and that the increases in the salaries of State officials should not come into force until the month of June. Even so, there will remain an unmet deficit of £T13,000,000, which appears the more incongruous when the Budget Commission in its Report calls attention to the quota of taxes per inhabitant in Turkey as compared with other countries. If the figure of 12,500,000 inhabitants, it states, is accepted as the population of the Turkish Republic (the estimate would seem to be very much in excess of the actual total), duties and taxes collected in 1924 would represent but one gold Turkish pound plus a small fraction. When adding to the general revenue of the State the revenues collected by vilayets and for municipal taxes the annual quota does not exceed £T1.50 (gold) per inhabitant. Similar quotas in other countries are given as follow:—Great Britain, about £T16 (gold); France, about £T7; Austria, about £T8; Germany, about £T4; Italy, about £T3.50; Balkan States, about £T3.

A Futures Market for Empire Cotton.

The opening, last week, of a futures market for Empire cotton on the Liverpool Cotton Exchange is a distinct landmark in the history of Empire-grown cotton. Apart from the Sudan, several of our African Colonies are paying special attention to cotton, but their efforts have been handicapped by the lack of a regular market, such as has existed for the American and Egyptian product. Empire cotton-growers will now have the advantage of knowing beforehand what prices they can count upon for their produce, and the grades of cotton will be standardised for the protection of buyers and as an incentive to the growing of the best cotton for the British market. A futures market will inevitably act as a great stimulus to the trade in Empire-grown cotton.

Land Registration.

I would call attention to the series of articles on Land Registration in Egypt, which is concluded in this week's issue. It is hoped that the practical experience of Egypt in this matter will be of help to other Governments confronted with similar problems. Throughout the Near and Middle East much is waiting to be done in the matter of registration and in the overhauling of methods of keeping accounts and statistics. Let those responsible see to it that a start is made on sound lines, and that the system adopted is accurate, simple and, as far as possible, foolproof.

COMMENTATOR.

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TRADE AND CONDITIONS IN SMYRNA.

A report from the Acting British Consul-General at Smyrna, quoted in the *Board of Trade Journal*, on economic conditions in the Vilayet for 1924-25, states that:—

Atmospheric conditions were unfavourable during last winter, as a severe and prolonged drought prevailed from October to March. The rainfall averaged four to five inches, as opposed to 20 inches recorded in normal seasons. Rain fell during the spring, but in insufficient quantities. Some damage was caused in June by heavy rains, and hot north winds in July forced the fruit and at the same time withered the protecting leaves. Estimates of the crops have in consequence been continually lowered.

Sultanas.—Although the actual acreage of fruit-bearing vines is larger than in 1924, the most recent official forecasts published by the Agricultural Department assess the production of vineyards this year at 29,000 tons, as against 48,000 tons in 1924 and 38,000 tons in 1923. Last year's crop was, however, abnormal. The smaller yield is due to the atmospheric conditions mentioned above and to the lack of proper attention to the vines, there being no specialists to supervise cultivators. The quality of the fruit this year promises to be good. Last year the United Kingdom received 13,000 tons; 30,000 tons went to the Continent, mostly to Germany.

Figs.—The yield of figs for the past two years was above the average, which fact may have affected the yielding capacity of the trees. A shortage of male figs in the Balajik and other of the principal fig-producing districts, which was only in part remedied, caused early estimates of the crop to be below the average. The worst fears have been realised, as many of the male figs dried up owing to the unusually small rainfall and the hot north wind of July, thus preventing the transfer of pollen. The actual crop to be anticipated is not yet known, but the Agricultural Department estimate placed it at 17,000 tons, as against 25,500 tons in 1924 and 23,000 tons in 1923.

Cereal Crops.—The prospects for the cereal crops are good. There is a large increase in the acreage actually sown, and crops are strong, healthy, and abundant. The most reliable estimates obtainable give the expected barley crop as follows:—Menemen district, 2,000 tons; Magnesia district, 1,000-1,500 tons; Alashehr district, 3,000-4,000 tons; Panderma and Pergama, 3,000-4,000 tons; Meander Valley, 2,000-3,000 tons; and Highland plateaux, 20,000-30,000 tons. This latter figure is estimated by some at 50,000 tons, and a recent tour of inspection by officials of the Aidin Railway Company tends to confirm this, as the actual harvest waiting for transport facilities is said to exceed pre-War dimensions. Even in the event of this crop not being brought into Smyrna at once, the total yield will not be under 30,000 tons, of which 25,000 tons should be available for export.

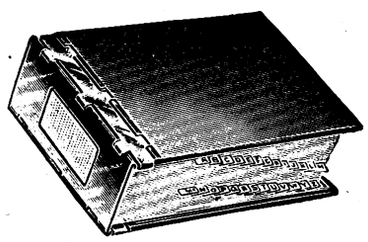
The crops of wheat are reported to be in excess of those of barley. Approximately 45,000 tons are said to be available, which represents a ten months' supply for the town of Smyrna. This leaves a deficit of 10,000 tons, which will have to be obtained from abroad.

The horsebean crop is officially estimated at 10,000 tons, but the quality is very poor, owing to the drought, and it is anticipated that only 2,000 sacks will be available for export. The white maize crop is stated to be barely sufficient for local needs, while the yellow maize crop is estimated at 15,000 tons, leaving 5,000 tons available for export. It is not expected that there will be any oats available for export, although more was sown this year than in previous years. The rye and millet crops are small, while as regards chickpeas between 5,000-6,000 sacks are expected to be available for export. The haricot beans produced are insufficient for local needs.

Industrial Products.

Cotton.—The crops in this district for the past two years amounted in 1923 to 11,500 bales (2,100 tons), as compared with 32,000 bales (nearly 6,000 tons) in 1924. The high prices ruling in 1923-24 encouraged sowing on a large scale, the more so as the tobacco crop of 1924 yielded very unremunerative results to farmers. The absence of skilled labour and the smaller outlay of capital needed have further caused cultivators to turn their attention from tobacco to cotton. In the Smyrna district, according to the Agricultural Department, 40,730 dunums (=9,239 acres) are under cultivation. The prospects of the crop for 1925 are therefore put down as at least 50,000 bales (8,500-9,000 tons). The weather has been favourable, and the quality promises to be good. Cotton seed is dependent on the amount of cotton grown. Local industries are capable of absorbing 10,000 bales, and it is anticipated that 35,000-40,000 bales will be available for export.

Valonea.—The supply of valonea gathered depends on the demand. There was a heavy carry-over of the 1922-23 crops of about 15,000 tons, which remained up-country and came into Smyrna mixed with the crop of 1923-24. Some 35,000 tons were collected from the 1924-25 crop, all of which have been disposed of, leaving stocks prac-



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tically depleted. There are 1,000 tons left in stock in Smyrna and 5,000 tons in the interior. The valonea crop is apt to be neglected owing to the higher wages offered by tobacco and cotton cultivators. The new crop, not available until October, is estimated to-day at about 40,000 tons. The total amount of valonea shipped from Smyrna this year was 44,000 tons.

Olives and Olive Oil.—This year a very small olive crop is expected, and it is not expected that there will be a surplus available for export. The oil crop for 1924 amounted to about 30,000 tons, a quantity considerably short of the estimates, due to lack of labour, delay in gathering the olives, and the destruction of most of the oil refineries by the retreating Greeks in 1922.

Tobacco.—The tobacco crop for this year is not yet entirely harvested. It is expected to produce less than last year, possibly about 17,000 tons, but the quality is said to be superior. The 1923 crop amounted to approximately 12,000 tons and the 1924-25 to 20,000. Last year's crop has almost all been purchased; export begins about the middle of September. America and Germany are expected to be the chief purchasers, the latter paying much higher prices for low grade qualities and demanding in return long terms of credit.

PROGRESS IN THE SUDAN.

Special interest attaches to the Report of the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government for 1924-5, which has just been issued, inasmuch as the period which it covers has been marked by rapid progress with important projects for developing the country. The year in question, in fact, saw the Sudan on the verge of rapid economic development; and the glimpse that the report gives of a country enjoying considerable prosperity, with trade returns gradually improving, enables one to obtain a clear idea of what the position of the country is likely to be now that the Makwar Dam is in operation, and now that it will be possible to increase cotton production out of all proportion to what it has been in the past. Viewed in this light, the Report, which takes us down to May of this year, is, in a sense, a landmark between the old Sudan and the new that promises to become, under the judicious guidance of the British Administration which has already achieved such great things for the country, one of the most prosperous regions in an Empire which can show many such tributes to its beneficent rule.

The most important events of the year are summarised in the opening chapter of the Report. First mention must be given to the progress made with the Makwar Dam and the Gezireh Canalisation Scheme, enabling the cultivation of 100,000 acres annually with cotton. Another event of outstanding importance was the completion of the railway to Kassala in the spring of 1924. The line, which has been constructed primarily to enable cotton-growing in the Gash Delta, will, it is believed, have a most satisfactory influence on the production of other commodities besides cotton. It is contemplated ultimately to link up the line at Kassala with the main line over the Makwar Dam, which will give a shorter way to the sea from the central and western Sudan. Reference is also made to the extremely satisfactory results of the campaign for the increase of the cultivation of rain-grown cotton, and it is stated that it was largely owing to the increase in the production of this kind of cotton that the export of cotton rose from 28,056 bales in 1923 to 46,074 bales in 1924. Another notable development mentioned is the formation of a company by the Sudan Government to carry out the necessary extensions at Port Sudan to cope with the continual increase in traffic. How the shipping has grown in recent years can be seen from the following table:—

	British.		Foreign.		Total
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vesssels.	Tonnage.	Tonnage.
1913	—	527,845	—	194,025	721,870
1923	456	1,768,603	153	496,772	2,265,375
1924	513	1,940,266	186	582,963	2,523,229

The figures for last year were a record for the port both as regards the number of vessels and the tonnage, and it is obvious that the progress of the country will find a reflex in future years in the rapid growth of the shipping using the port. Finally, reference is made to one more event of particular significance, the formation of a company for the construction and management of works of public utility at Khartoum, Omdurman, and Khartoum North. The development of cotton production in the Sudan has drawn attention to the country as a field for investment, and it is to be anticipated that this company will prove the forerunner of a number of other notable enterprises.

The figures for the external trade of the Sudan given in the Report are for 1924 and for the first quarter of 1925, and these have been supplemented in the monthly reports of the Central Economic Board. The trade statistics of the Sudan up to the end of May have already been dealt with in detail in these columns, and it is only proposed to refer them briefly now. The value of the total trade in 1924 was £E9,562,000, as compared with £E7,790,000 for 1923, and was, in fact, the highest recorded except in the boom year, when the total was £E12,657,000, which can be ruled out for purposes of comparison, owing to the inflated prices of commodities. 1924 saw a marked increase in the value of public imports, which rose from £E2,974,000 to £E3,655,000, and of exports, which rose from £E2,562,000 to £E3,542,000. The figures for the first five months of 1925 show that this process has continued, that the value of the exports is increasing at a far more rapid rate than that of the imports, that in all probability the value of the external trade this year will easily exceed £E10,000,000 and that there will be a trade balance in favour of the Sudan. All of which is exceedingly satisfactory, the more so when it is borne in mind that only next year will the great schemes of development begin to exercise a really important influence on the situation. It is equally gratifying that Great Britain has the chief place both as regards the Sudan's imports and exports, the percentages of the total trade for the first five months of this year being 37.4 and 64.5, respectively; but one would like to see the percentage of the import trade larger than it is.

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Reserve Fund - - £10,000,000
Deposits, &c. - - £338,371,355

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EGYPT.—ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, TANTA, BENHA, MEHALLA KEBIR, BENI SUEF, FAYOUM, MINEH.

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ROUMANIAN EXCHANGE.

It is announced from Roumania that, as from January 1, 1926, one-third of the receipts from the Luxury and Turnover taxes and from the State's participation in the profits from petroleum production and the earnings of the National Bank will be set aside for the gradual cancellation of the note issue with a view to assisting the stabilisation of the leu. This decision marks a further step in the realisation of the Bratianu Government's programme for the general improvement of Roumania's economic position. An agreement was recently arrived at between the Government and the National Bank by which the former undertook to establish a sinking fund for the note issue made by the Government, and from this fund the Bank was to be repaid within a period of from fifteen to twenty years.

EUROPEAN SUGAR.

A record sugar production is anticipated this year in Europe. The area under beet cultivation is returned at 5,201,000 acres, an increase of 63,000 acres over the 1924 area, and the harvest is estimated at 7,395,000 short tons as compared with 7,149,000 in the previous year. In this connexion, however, it may be noted that in certain countries the sugar content of the beet shows a diminution of 2 per cent. over last year's figure. Russia is mainly responsible for the increase, with 1,185,000 acres under cultivation—an increase of 338,000. The next largest producers are Germany (907,000 acres), Czecho-Slovakia (751,000), France (511,000), and Poland (437,000). It is noticeable that Great Britain figures on the list with 59,000 acres as compared with 22,000 acres in 1924 and an estimated production of 70,000 short tons as compared with 27,000 in 1924. Italy, Yugoslavia, and Spain are the only countries showing any considerable decreases in the area under beet, the three countries having this year between them 442,000 acres instead of 701,000 last year. From another source it is learned that a serious crisis has overtaken the Italian sugar industry, eighteen factories out of 53 being idle, owing to the inability of Italian sugar to compete with the imported product. Between August 1, 1924, and June 30, 1925, over a million hundredweight of foreign sugar was imported into Italy.

ROUMANIAN LOAN OF 1922.

The British Overseas Bank announce that funds for the payment of the coupon due October 1, 1925, on the bonds of the Roumanian Four per Cent. Consolidation Loan, 1922, have been duly lodged with them by the Roumanian Governmnt.

PORT FUAD.

Details are now published of the agreement between the Egyptian Government and the Suez Canal Company for the construction of Port Fuad, east of the Canal opposite Port Said, on the site of the depôts and workshops erected during the War and now the centre of new salt works. Port Fuad will cover an area of 300 acres, of which the Egyptian Government reserves to itself 15,000 square metres for State buildings, and administration will devolve on the Suez Canal Company until such time as the extension of the city allows a special institution similar to the administrations of Ismailieh and Port Tewfik. The Suez Canal Company undertakes to advance, without interest, all the necessary funds for the construction of roads, drainage, etc., the outlay to be recovered from the sale of grounds and buildings, and by letting.

The net tonnage of traffic passing through the Suez Canal during the first six months of 1925 was 14,127,000 tons. This constitutes a record, showing an increase of 1,080,000 tons over the corresponding period of last year, and is only 400,000 tons lower than the whole tonnage of traffic for 1924. The postal navigation is the largest ever seen during six months, the increase being chiefly in English, Dutch, and German mails.

GREEK COMPENSATION TO ALLIED NATIONALS.

Under the heading "Convention regarding compensation payable by Greece to Allied nationals in respect of action by Greek authorities in Turkish territory while under Greek military occupation," the following official notice has been published:—

The collection and investigation of British claims falling under this Convention is now nearing completion, and his Majesty's Government hope to be able to present the claims to the Greek Government in the near future.

It is desirable that the whole of the claims should be submitted together to the Greek Government, and British claimants who have not yet submitted details of their claims under this Convention are therefore warned that it is essential that full particulars of such claims should be in the possession of his Majesty's Government before October 31, 1925. Any claims which have not yet been sent in should be sent forthwith to the Reparation Claims Section, Finance Department, Board of Trade, Great George Street, London, S.W. In the case of claims not lodged with the Reparation Claims Section before October 31, 1925, it will be necessary for claimants to approach the Greek Government directly.

Only claims put forward by persons able to establish their British nationality will be considered by his Majesty's Government, and claimants are reminded that the only claims to which the Convention applies are those in respect of losses and damage suffered after June 1, 1921, as a result of Greek action, as defined in the Convention, in Turkish territory under Greek military occupation.

ALBANIA'S NATIONAL BANK.

The Albanian National Bank was founded in Rome on September 2 in accordance with an arrangement reached under the auspices of the League of Nations. The capital stands at 12,500,000 gold francs, of which 2,600,000 has now been paid up. Of the total share capital a foreign group, comprising mainly of Italian, Belgian and Swiss financiers is responsible for 51 per cent.; the remainder it is hoped to raise in Albania. The new bank will issue notes and coins, and will act as the Government Treasury.

FOUADY.

On September 4 the Egyptian Minister of Agriculture presided at a meeting of notables at Kafr-es-Zaiyat at which Mr. Parachimonas's new variety of cotton was formally named "Fouady," after King Fuad.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS

DRIED FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., of Liverpool, in their report dated September 1, state:—

Currants.—The uncertain tendency which characterised the markets was due in a large measure to the prevailing cheap c.i.f. quotations for new crop fruit, which awakened a natural desire on the part of holders to liquidate their remaining stocks before shipments of the 1925 crop arrived, and this was scarcely calculated to stimulate buying activity. We have to record a most disappointing month's trading, with a distinctly bearish sentiment, which has certainly restrained operations, and a policy of extreme caution has reigned. The principal business centred round Pyrgos, 29s. to 30s.; cleaned varieties, 34s. to 36s.; Gulf, 35s. to 38s.; Vostizza, 42s. to 43s.; fine shade dried, 47s. to 52s. Quotations:—Pyrgos, 29s.; Amalias and Patras, 32s. to 36s.; Gulf and Panariti, 35s. to 40s.; Vostizza, 42s. to 50s.

New crop.—A little business is reported in cleaned Amalias and Patras 34s. to 35s. 6d. c.i.f., and in shade dried Vostizza 53s. to 57s. quay terms. Cables received from Greece announce that the Government has fixed the retention act in kind, and that the export tax continues as during the past season.

Australian.—With the realisation that prices demanded for this growth did not bear relation to those asked for Greek fruit, business became very difficult. A re-appraisement was decided upon, and at the reduced figures a slightly better trade was possible at 35s. to 42s. for parcels of attractive appearance, but those of inferior grade and poor colour are difficult of sale.

Sultanas.—Smyrna are practically cleared, few ordinary sold at 60s.; fair to good, 66s. to 70s.; fine, 76s.

Owing to the drought the estimates of the 1925 crop are being constantly reduced, and the latest forecasts give the yield as 25,000 tons, against 52,000 last season. Reports of the high prices paid in Smyrna for the first arrivals, viz., 65s. to 80s. c.i.f. presage a season of high figures.

The strong news from Smyrna has had a very stimulating effect on the Australian growths, and with practically no other stock here, these have met with an active inquiry at advancing prices, the latest sales at 70s. showing an advance of 4s. per cwt. Fine coloury grades are scarce, and were keenly competed for up to 75s., one exceptional lot realising 85s.

Figs.—Reports of a short crop in Smyrna have resulted in raising the values of genuine naturals to 27s. c.i.f.

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CALIFORNIA, Oct. 14.	*MASSILIA, Dec. 11.
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SPECIAL NOTICE.

NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA, 17,000 TONS, carrying 1st, 2nd and 3rd class passengers, sails from LIVERPOOL Oct. 14. MARSEILLES Oct. 20. All 1st and 2nd class state rooms are fitted with Punkah Louvres and with Fans. This vessel has exceptionally fine 3rd class accommodation.

ANCHOR LINE,
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SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report as follows for the week ending August 29:—

The arrival of sultanas on the Smyrna market since the opening of the season are estimated 2,060 tons as compared with 8,000 tons for the corresponding period in 1924. Estimated sales are put at 1,930 tons, as compared with 7,000 for 1924. The closing prices are:—Types 12, 59s.; 13, 62s.; 14, 65s.; 15, 68s.; 16, 73s.; 17, 80s. per cwt. c.i.f. London/Liverpool, the corresponding prices per 100 kgs. c.i.f. Hamburg/Amsterdam/Trieste being 69, 72, 75, 78, 82, 88 florins respectively.

The market is steady, with firm undertone. Shippers have been operating with reserve. There appears to be little desire on the part of consumers to pay the present level of prices. Dealers, however, are resisting decline. Small arrivals give strength to the position.

CYCLE AND MOTOR CYCLE SHOW, 1925.

The opening ceremony in connection with the Eleventh Cycle and Motor Cycle Show, organised by the British Cycle and Motor Cycle Manufacturers' and Traders' Union, Ltd., at Olympia, on September 21 next, will be performed by the Rt. Hon. L. C. M. S. Amery, P.C., M.P., Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs and Secretary of State for the Colonies.

COMPANY REPORT.

DIALA COTTON.

The statutory report of Diala Cotton Plantations states that the number of shares allotted is 400,000, all of which are allotted for cash, and 10s. has already been called up on each share. Cash received in respect of 400,000 shares issued wholly for cash is £198,655. Preliminary expenses have absorbed £40,739, payment on application for 50,000 shares of £1 each—Eastern Irrigations, Ltd., £2,500, purchase consideration paid to Eastern Irrigations £25,000, plant and machinery £2,056, office furniture and fixtures £5, and payments less receipts on revenue account £9,517, leaving cash at bank £118,837. Preliminary expenses, including underwriting and overriding commission, are estimated as follows:—Capital duty and registration fees, £5,400; underwriting and overriding commission and brokerage, £16,587; advertising and printing prospectus, fees, legal charges, postage, etc., £19,919; total, £41,906.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Circassia for Bombay (Liverpool, September 25). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—M.v. Malia for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 19).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Warwickshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, September 23).

British India Line.—S.s. Domala for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 26); s.s. Merkara for Bombay and Karachi (London, September 25).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Phrygia for Gibraltar, Oran, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, October 10).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Hong Kong for Calcutta (Birkhenhead, October 1).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 12); s.s. Vedamore for Galatz and Braila only (Liverpool, September 30); s.s. Dromore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 17).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Rawalpindi for Bombay (London, September 18); s.s. Novara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 19).

Prince Line.—S.s. Burmese Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa and Haifa (London, September 12); s.s. Egyptian Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, and Haifa (London, October 3).

The Bibby Steamship Company, it is announced, have placed on order with the Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering Company, Glasgow, for a second motor passenger and cargo vessel of about 10,000 tons register and of 8,000 horse power.

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NEWS IN BRIEF.

The King and Queen of Roumania arrived at their summer residence at Sinaia last Thursday.

Boy Scout organisations in Bulgaria, which have been in existence for scarcely a year, have been holding their first "jamboree" in Sofia.

It is reported from Sofia that the Bulgarian Government is contemplating the early concellation of all import prohibitions at present in force.

Sir Thomas Ward, Chief Consultant to the Diala Cotton Plantations, formerly Inspector-General of Irrigation in India, arrived in Baghdad last week.

The Crown Prince of Roumania is to preside at the conference of the International Aeronautical Federation, which meets in Prague on September 19.

The convoys of the Nairn Transport Company between Beyrout and Baghdad are now running as usual, escorted over part of the distance by the French Camel Corps.

A serious explosion occurred on September 2 at the State Powder Factory at Dudesti, Roumania, in which one man was killed. Part of the works were blown up, but the machinery was undamaged.

The Greek Government has instructed M. Caclamanos, Greek Minister in London, to proceed to Paris to negotiate with a French financial group regarding the buying back of the shares in the Salonika-Ghevgheli Railway.

Information was last week received at the Board of Trade from the British Minister at Sofia that quarantine has been imposed on ships arriving from Constantinople on account of an outbreak of plague at that port.

The new P. and O. mail steamer, Rawalpindi (17,000 tons), after a series of successful trials in Belfast Lough on September 3, left for Tilbury. She is due to start on her maiden voyage to India on September 18.

During the three months ending June 30, Bulgaria exported 10,500,000 kilograms of cigar and cigarette tobacco, valued at 670,000,000 leva (about £1,000,000), as compared with 3,300,000 kilograms, valued at 160,000,000 leva in the same period last year.

The correspondent of the *Pioneer* at Meshed in Persia reports the observance last Saturday as a day of mourning because of the bombardment of Medina by the Wahabis. The great mosque was draped in black and the people, numbering 7,000, who were present at the Mosque, were clothed in black. The bazaars and offices were closed.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria	Piastre to £	97½	97⅜—9/16
Athens	Drachmæ to £	25 22½	326-330
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	270—273
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.35—20.39
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.11-25.15
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 3/16—18 7/32
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	108 80—109.15
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	970—990
Budapest	Kronen to £	24 02	345-347,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 3/16—18 7/32
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	830—845
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.84⅞—4.85 1/16
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	103.35—103.55
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	163¾
Rome	Lire to £	25 22½	121
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	670
Teheran	Krans to £	50	44
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	34.30-34 43
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	27—28

EXHIBITIONS IN THE NEAR EAST.

PALESTINE AND NEAR EAST EXHIBITION.

In connexion with the "Palestine and Near East Exhibition and Fair" to be held at Tel-Aviv from October 4 to November 7, British manufacturers of machinery, agricultural implements and producers of chemical fertilisers and raw materials are invited to avail themselves of an excellent opportunity for bringing their goods to the notice of Palestinian traders.

AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION AT CAIRO.

In the Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition to be held in Cairo from February 20 to March 6, 1926, under the patronage of King Fuad and under the auspices of the Royal Agricultural Society of Egypt, the Agricultural Section will include all branches, and the groups in the Industrial Section will comprise engines and motors, agricultural implements and machinery, transport for agricultural produce, and modern types of farm buildings and methods of construction suitable for use in Egypt.

Intending exhibitors should make application before October 15, to the Director, Royal Agricultural Society, P.O.B. No. 63, Cairo. A copy of the Regulations and further particulars regarding both the Tel-Aviv and Cairo Exhibitions may be consulted at the Department of Overseas Trade (Exhibitions and Fairs Division), 35, Old Queen Street, London, S.W.1.

OTHER EXHIBITIONS.

Belgrade.—Second International Sample Fair (Sept. 15-30).

Gorna-Orechovitza (Bulgaria).—Samples Fair (Sept. 17-27).

Bucharest.—Oil Well Equipment Exhibition (Sept. 21-Oct. 21).

Salonika.—International Fair (October).

IMPORTS & EXPORTS

The financing of the world's commerce has become one of the most intricate of machines ever constructed, and under the banker's hands lie all the cogs and controls necessary for its efficient running. It is of the utmost importance that the merchant should clearly understand the working of its mechanism in order that he may make the fullest use of the bank's facilities, not only for his personal benefit, but also for the increased commercial prosperity of the country. To assist its customers, the Westminster Bank has now prepared a booklet explaining the many ways in which the commercial man may use the bank for the furtherance of his business, and how he should proceed so as to take the utmost advantage of interest, rebate, discount, rates of exchange, etc., and combine with progress and enterprise the necessary security and caution.

Copies will be issued on application to the Secretary, Head Office, Westminster Bank Limited

41 LOTHBURY, LONDON, E.C.2

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ending August 27, state:—

Since our last report the Futures market has been fairly active prices being somewhat easier; the net changes on the week are the following: Sakellaridis, 1.20 dollars down for November, 1.24 dollars down for January, 1.20 dollars down for March; Ashmouni, 0.45 dollars down for October, 0.28 dollars down for December. The week opened with rather weak sessions, but, on rumours that the Government may enter the market, if prices were pushed lower, short covering ensued causing part of the drop to be recouped. There is nothing concrete about the Government intentions; however, if ever the Government decides to support the market, we do not think it will be justified to commence purchasing on the basis of the present level of prices. We consider the position judged on its present data somewhat bearish; the demand from abroad is small and the growing crop is doing well and promising a production larger than last year, the same forecast applying to American long staples and other competing growths. Despite the continued decline of New York, Ashmounis have been rather steady; the market is at present somewhat narrow and as the Continent has been buying some new crop cotton, this has sufficed to hold up prices.

On the 24th inst. the following figures on the American crop were published by the American Bureau: Condition 62.00, estimated yield 13,990,000 B/s against 65.6 and 13,566,000 B/s a fortnight ago. These figures although considered as bearish have not had any effect on our market.

The week's receipts amount to Crs. 22,614 against exports Crs. 22,308; the stock stands at Crs. 294,552.

Spot: Minet el Bassal has been a quiet market this week and sales amount to about 3,850 B/s of which we estimate 300 B/s Sakel, 3,500 B/s Uppers and 50 B/s of other varieties.

Sakellarides: has been in very poor request. Such little business as there is has been mostly for medium and low grades. A few bales of high grades have changed hands, but the demand at present is at its lowest point. Spot parities are much cheaper for Fully Good Fair and better, unchanged for Good Fair and somewhat firmer for Fully Fair and below. Quotations are, however, nominal.

Ashmouni and Zagora: have been in good demand and all styles have been dealt in Except for Fully Fair and below, which are rather dearer, spot differences are without much change.

Brown and Pilion: A few bales of Pilion have been done, but quotations are entirely nominal as supplies of these growths are practically exhausted.

White: is neglected and only a few bales have been been done. Quotations are nominal and generally easier.

Crop 1925: Reports from the Interior are satisfactory. A distinct improvement is apparent in the Northern districts of the Delta. Some fogs have been reported, but the damage has not yet been ascertained; we do not think it is serious.

The Ministry of Agriculture has published the following figures relative to the acreage of the different varieties of cotton planted during the current and preceding seasons.

	1924/25. Feddans.	1923/24. Feddans.
Sakellarides	1.128,946 ...	872,624
Ashmouni	270,842 ...	796,362
Zagora	338,578 ...	
Pilion	72,799 ...	49,960
Afifi and Assili	8,384 ...	22,271
Other varieties	54,833 ...	46,626
Total	1,924,382 ...	1,787,843

In our opinion the above figures are short of the reality especially as regards Ashmouni and Zagora: we estimate the acreage of the latter at about 600,000 feddans and the total acreage for Egypt at about 2 million feddans.

MANCHESTER COTTON MARKET.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, for the week ended September 5, states:—

There has been little change in the position of this market during the past week. Inquiry has been on a somewhat more extensive scale, but actual business still lags far behind it. Nevertheless, there is still a strong feeling that this inquiry is the expression of a real commercial demand, which is only waiting for the moment when there appears to be a prospect of stability in prices.

The weakness in raw cotton continued during the early part of the week; but this was partially recovered before the close, and confidence that an even lower range of values will shortly be reached, although still the predominant feeling, is not so strong as it was recently.

Yarn.—A more cheerful tone has prevailed in this section. The Oldham holidays have led to considerable reductions in stocks, and naturally spinners are trying to make the most of the fact. Inquiry has been on a fairly good scale and, in the early days of the week at any rate, some of the benefit of cheaper raw cotton was again retained.

In Egyptian Spinnings there is nothing of interest to report. The cheaper qualities move off fairly well, but for the finest counts demand is very poor.

Cloth.—Here also there has been a broadening of inquiry, but actual transactions are still by no means satisfactory.

Business for India has not attained large proportions, and China has not operated to the same extent as recently, although a few transactions have been put through. Demand from the Near East has not expanded but, in view of the good accounts from these regions regarding their crops, developments are expected.

In one or two localities Manufacturers' Associations have been discussing the question of organised short time for the weaving mills; but no decisions have yet been come to, although it is understood that the subject is to be further considered.

Raw Cotton.—Actual business in Liverpool continues to be of small dimensions. The week has been chiefly interesting by reason of the inauguration on September 1 of the new "futures" contract for "Empire and Miscellaneous Growths" of cotton, under which virtually all classes of cotton except certain qualities of Egyptian can be hedged. To be tenderable under this Contract cotton must be equal to Strict Low Middling American. A number of operations have taken place at prices approximately ½d. per lb. below American.

The reports from the United States regarding the growing crop have not been quite so favourable as recently, but on the other hand, it is maturing early and the beginning of its movement in bulk is undoubtedly weighing upon prices. A further official Bureau Report is due for publication on Tuesday next.

The news from Egypt continues satisfactory and prices in this section are again reduced. Fluctuations have not been so wide as last week. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows:- American Middling, 12.51: Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 27.95; the corresponding figures for last week being 12.60 and 28.65.

EGYPTIAN TRIBUTE LOANS.

The Egyptian Tribute Loans have recently been quoted at 76 for the 4 per cent. and 68 for the 3½ per cent., a higher figure than they have reached for two years. Last June, it will be remembered, the Mixed Tribunals gave judgment against the Egyptian Government's contention that it was no longer bound to pay interest on the bonds: but an appeal was lodged by the Government and the case is expected to come before the higher Court in October.

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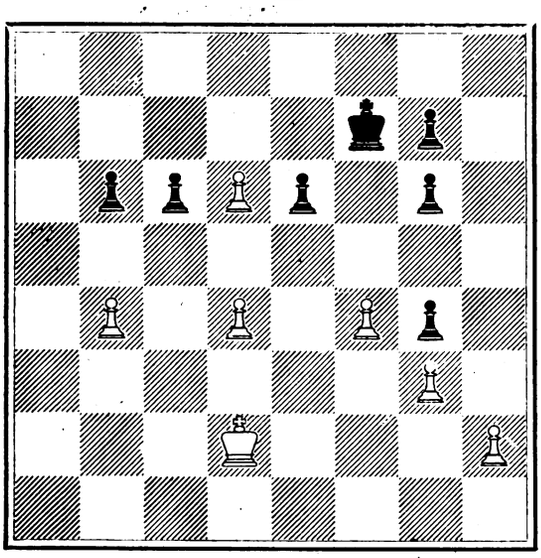
CHESS.

By "CARO-KANN."



PROBLEM No. 13.

White to play. What result?

Solution to Problem No. 12:—1, K—K3, K—Q2; 2, K—B4, K—K3; 3, K—K4, K—B2; 4, K—B5, K—Q2; 5, K—K5, K—B2; 6, P—Q5, PxP; 7, KxB, P—Kt3; 8, PxP, KxP; 9, K—Q6, K—R3; 10, K—B5, K—R2; 11, KxP, K—Kt2; 12, K—B5, K—B2; 13, P—Kt5 and wins, for White now has the opposition. If 1, . . . P—Kt3; 2, PxP, KxP; 3, K—K4 and again wins by virtue of the opposition, taking it direct by K—K5 if Black plays K—B2 and indirectly by K—B5 if Black plays K—Kt2.

I see that the suggestion is made in a contemporary that the British Championship Tournament should be thrown open to foreign competitors with a view to strengthening British chess. It is suggested that six of the twelve players should be foreign masters, the highest British representative to hold the British championship. While it is quite possible to make out a good case for the idea from some points of view, I am quite sure that it would never obtain general acceptance, and personally I should regret such an innovation. After all, it is not as though there were no opportunities for meeting foreign masters in this country. It is usually the case that one or two play at the minor congresses that are held each year. And it may well be asked whether the brief practice obtained is so beneficial as to justify altering the British Championship. What has happened with regard to other games hardly suggests that it would be.

STEAUA ROMANA.

Information has been received by the Steaua Romana (British) from the Steaua Romana Company of Bucharest that Well No. 4 at Ceptura has come into bearing with a production, under control, of about ten tons an hour. The bringing in of this well is said to be of the greatest importance, as it proves a large proportion of the extensive block of 1,500 acres held by the company on the Ceptura anticline. Steaua Romana production during August amounted to 26,380 tons.

The Board of Trade announces that information has been received from the British Minister at Sofia that quarantine has been imposed on ships arriving from Constantinople on account of an outbreak of plague at that port.

It is stated the "Société Francaise de T.S.F." has been granted a concession for wireless telegraphy in Turkey. The contract provides for the erection, within twelve months, of a station at Angora as well as repairs to the existing station in Constantinople.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

GREECE.

The Nauplia Harbour Committee invites international tenders for the reconstruction work to be carried out in the harbour, which consists of:—(1) The deepening by seven metres of the greater part and by four metres of the other part of the harbour. (2) Restoration and extension of the existing pier. 3) Restoration of the mole. The cost of the work is estimated at approximately 8,000,000 drachmæ. Tenders should be submitted under sealed envelopes to the above committee by November 1. Any further particulars and plans are obtainable at the offices of the committee at Nauplia.

EGYPT.

Linen, Etc.—The Egyptian Quarantine Board, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of various goods required for the equipment of the Tor reception station, including bed, table and toilet linen, woollen coverlets, mosquito nets, bentwood coatstands, chairs (Vienna type), mirrors, hospital screens, iron bedsteads and crockery. September 30. (D.O.T.)

Machinery.—The Controller, Technical, Industrial and Commercial Education, Sharia Qasr el Aini, Cairo, invites tenders for machinery required for the Engineering and Carpentry Sections of Cairo Model Workshops, Boulaq, Cairo. October 10.

Motor Boats.—The Egyptian Quarantine Board invites tenders for (a) two motor-boats (petrol driven), (b) two petrol-driven ocean patrol motor-boats (vedettes automobile). October 30. (D.O.T.).

Lorries.—The Director General, State Domains Administration, Savoy House, Sharia Qasr el Nil, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of two lorries. October 5.

Electrical Installation.—The Ministry of the Interior, Savoy House, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and installation of an electric power station and distributing system for the town of Minieh. The contract comprises the supply and installation of diesel-driven generator sets and cables, etc. October 1. (D.O.T.)

Sewage Pumping Machinery.—The Director-General, Main Drainage Department, No. 2, Sharia Abbas, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply, erection and delivery of sewage pumping machinery, comprising 3 large and 1 small Diesel engines and 3 large and 1 small centrifugal pumps, complete with auxiliary plant. November 2.

ROUMANIA.

Railway Crossings.—The Roumanian Railway Administration (Economat) invites tenders for the supply of railway crossings. September 22. (D.O.T.)

Surgical and Medical Instruments and Appliances.—The Prisons Department of the Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, are inviting tenders, to be received up to noon on November 3, for the supply of surgical and medical instruments and appliances. Firms interested in the supply of instruments and appliances manufactured in the United Kingdom can obtain particulars upon application to the Department of Overseas Trade (Room 53), 35, Old Queen Street, London, S.W.1.

THE SUDAN.

Dynamo, etc.—The Inspector General of Irrigation, Sudan, Khartoum, invites tenders for the supply and erection of a dynamo, wiring and fittings for an installation of electric light and fans at Gebel Aulia in the Sudan. October 1.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The National Bank of India has declared an ad interim dividend for the half-year ended June 30, 1925, at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, payable September 16, free of tax.

The Ottoman (Smyrna-Aidin) Railway Company has placed an order, says *Modern Transport*, with Messrs. Beyer, Peacock and Co., Ltd., for a locomotive of the Garrett patent articulated type, which will be the heaviest and most powerful ever built for the Near East.

The Commercial Bank of the Near East has declared an interim dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less tax, in respect of the half-year ended June 30 last on all shares issued on or before that date. The directors have decided not to issue half-yearly balance-sheets, but only to issue an annual balance-sheet. The dividend a year ago was at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, less tax.

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Established 1839.

Capital Authorised - - - £600,000
Capital Paid up - - - £485,580
Reserve Fund - - - - £190,000
Total Assets- - - - £6,536,314

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RESERVE FUNDS - Drs. 38,150,045.40

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Reserve Fund - - £360,000

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CHINA	8,000	—	Sept. 11	Bombay and Karachi
§COMORIN	15,000	Sept. 11	—	Colombo and Australia
*MANTUA	11,000	Sept. 11	Sept. 18	Straits, China, Japan
RAWALPINDI	16,600	Sept. 18	Sept. 25	Bombay and Karachi
†NOVARA	7,000	Sept. 19	—	Colombo and Calcutta
KALYAN	9,000	Sept. 25	—	Straits, China, Japan
*NALDERA	10,000	Sept. 25	Oct. 2	Colombo and Australia
RANCHI	16,600	Oct. 2	Oct. 9	Bombay and Karachi

* Taking passengers for Bombay via Aden. † Calling Malta.
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‡MANDALA	8,246	—	Sept. 12	Madras and Calcutta
MERKARA	8,235	Sept. 19	Sept. 25	Bombay and Karachi
DOMALA	8,441	Sept. 19	Sept. 26	Madras and Calcutta
*MANTOLA	8,963	Sept. 19	Oct. 2	East African Ports
‡MADURA	8,975	Oct. 3	Oct. 9	Bombay and Karachi
MANELA	8,303	Oct. 3	Oct. 10	Madras and Calcutta
MARGHA	8,258	Oct. 17	Oct. 23	Bombay and Karachi

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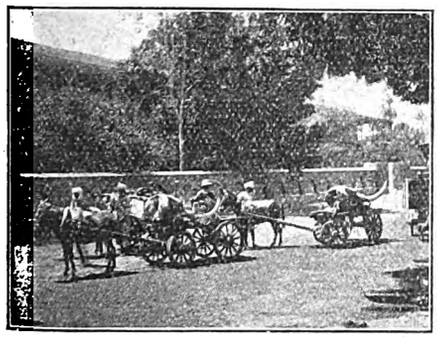

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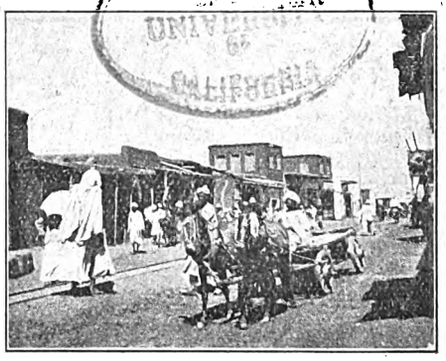

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No. 749.—VOL. XXVIII. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1925.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	Page
NOTES OF THE WEEK	331
SPECIAL LETTERS—	
Egypt	334
Albania	334
Roumania	334
Turkey	336
Persia	336
SPECIAL ARTICLE—	
The Julian Alps...	337
LEADING ARTICLE—	
The Role of the Danube ...	333
CORRESPONDENCE	338
PERSONAL AND GENERAL ...	343
THE WEEK AT HOME	339
INDIAN AFFAIRS—	
Congress Provinces	344
Indian Reforms	345
Current Topics	345
Special Letters : Calcutta ...	347
Bombay ...	348
Indian Exchange	350
COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
Notes and News	351
The Liubliana Samples Fair ...	353
Roumanian Notes	353
British Commercial Report: Egypt	355
Near East Markets	357
Shipping Intelligence	357
The Egyptian Cotton Market ...	358
Company Report : Diala Cotton Plantations	359

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

Geneva at Work.

The Sub-Committee appointed by the Council of the League of Nations to consider further the question of the Mosul frontier in the light of the Commission's Report has been hard at work, and, it is anticipated, may be in a position to report to the Council at the end of this week. In the meantime Turkey and her organs in the British Press have been equally hard at work. The Turkish Government, however, while obviously grateful for the support accorded to it from unexpected quarters, appears to be sufficiently well informed regarding British politics not to place too much reliance on anti-Cabinet propaganda in English newspapers. Since the Sub-Committee started its deliberations, the Turkish Delegation in Geneva has made a fresh bid for a plebiscite in the Mosul vilayet. The suggestion, it will be recalled, was carefully considered by the Mosul Commission, which stated in its Report that it approached the subject with a strong bias in favour of it. Investigation on the spot, however, speedily convinced the Commission that a plebiscite was entirely out of the question, and it is unlikely that the League of Nations will be inclined to reopen the subject in Geneva, even on the strength of the picturesque suggestion that the plebiscite should take the form of a flag day. The Turkish Government does not appear to have pinned much faith in this move, as almost immediately after the suggestion was put forward, it occupied itself with a scheme of reform for the Eastern vilayets of the Republic, clearly intended to meet possible misgivings at Geneva regarding Turkish treatment of the Kurds. These and later manœuvres, designed to whittle down the extent of the Turkish territorial claim, can hardly avail to distract the Sub-Committee from a judicial inquiry into the real merits of the case.

Turkey and Mosul.

In a matter of this sort there is a great deal of common sense in Turkey, which would have had an opportunity of manifesting itself, if the Turks had been left to themselves; but in view of the attitude of certain London newspapers it is difficult to see how the Turks, labouring under obvious limitations, could act otherwise than they are doing. Anyone with knowledge of modern Turkey knows that it is an axiom of Turkish republican policy that the Turks are well rid of the Arabs. This fact in itself conditions Turkey's real attitude on the Mosul question, although it will not affect the natural desire not to have the firm hold on the Kurds weakened by the existence of Kurds across the border more favourably placed than those in Turkish territory. There is also an equally natural longing to benefit financially from any oil to be discovered in the Mosul vilayet. On the other hand the bed-rock foundation of the new order in Turkey is a sincere desire to make good, to avoid international complications, and to have time to show the world what the Turks can do for themselves and by themselves. In these circumstances there was ample room for an understanding between Turkey and Great Britain on the Mosul question; but time was wanted, because Angora was distinctly "*difficile*," it had an uneasy conscience in any dealings with Great Britain, and there was a certain amount of international intrigue from quarters that ought to have acted more loyally to Great Britain. Things, accordingly, drifted, until it was a question of Turkey's having to make the best of her case *vis-à-vis* the League of Nations. At this stage, fresh help was forthcoming from two quarters, from Communist Moscow and from a section of the British Press. Turkey is nothing if not game for a diplomatic fight.

Turkey's Backers in Britain.

The support given in this country to Turkey in her controversy with Great Britain is of two kinds: there is the anti-Government Press, whose attitude on any given subject need be no more than the personal attitude of two

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individuals, and there is a small body of opinion which on this particular subject is able to collect under one pro-Turk umbrella pacifists and die-hards *et hoc genus omne*. Unfortunately this small body imagines that it is rendering a service to both parties to the controversy by advocating a complete surrender to Turkey's claims. On this point they ignore the fact that Turkey's first instinct was sound, and that, if she is to make good, she must confine her efforts strictly to Turkish territory and not weaken herself by trying to rule subject populations, whether Arabs or Kurds, to any greater extent than may be absolutely inevitable. The value of the attitude of the anti-Government Press may be gauged from its tactics, than which nothing could be less British; for this reason, as Turkey will find, its support means nothing to her, beyond additional discomfiture. After discovering that the invention of an alleged British pledge, that was never given, has misfired, the anti-Government Press has fallen back on the dignified task of frightening the British people into submission by the threat of Turkey's overwhelming military strength and will to war. There must be smiles in Angora, where something is known about military matters. Turkey, we are asked to believe, is preparing for war against Great Britain for the possession of the Mosul vilayet. It took her two or three months to prepare, within her own frontiers, an expedition to round up a few rebellious Kurds; but for the conquest of the vilayet two or three weeks, and half the number of men required to dispose of Sheikh Said, will suffice. An eager scribe makes the Turks a present of the very best newspaper strategy. They must cross the Brussels Line at once, in flagrant violation of their undertaking to the League of Nations, and for fear of being seen by inconvenient British airmen they must travel by night and hide by day. Most unkindly, no advice is given them as to what to do with their transport when the passes are blocked with snow for five months, or what to do when the night-travelling twos and threes collect in large numbers on the plains below and are exposed to British aircraft. Moreover, unless the Kurds are constant readers of the anti-Government British Press, the Turks may want to know to what extent the ordered progress of new Turkey is likely to be interrupted by its having to keep Kurds and Arabs in submission. Panama hats, not steel helmets, are the order of the day in Turkey, for all the egging-on of the Bolshevists and their *pro hac vice* allies in the British Press.

The Financial Aspect of Mosul.

There remains the financial side of the arguments brought to bear on the British association with Iraq. Any slogan that holds out "relief of the burdens of the British taxpayer" cannot fail to appeal to many people at this time, and if all the misstatements regarding the expense of Iraq to the British exchequer were true, there would be much to say for any policy that would have the effect of doing away with that particular expenditure. But what are the facts? Iraq, in regard to civil administration, is self-supporting. British expenditure on the country has been reduced to four million sterling annually; but half that amount is in connexion with Air and other services, which would have been incurred elsewhere in any case. The real cost to the British taxpayer, therefore, at the present time is two millions sterling a year, with every prospect of a steady reduction, if Iraq can continue to rely upon the British connexion. An attempt has been made to make capital out of the Hilton Young report, on the ground that it showed Iraq's finances in a parlous condition and advocated increased taxation. Iraq's difficulties, however, are common to most countries as a result of post-War conditions. The time has come, or rather the present moment has been fixed as the time, for coping with her War indebtedness; simultaneously she is in urgent need of a loan to enable her to develop her resources. The Financial Mission adopted the sound view, from the point of the British taxpayer, that it will be far more profitable to help Iraq to lay the foundation of substantial surpluses in the future than to try to-day to snatch small contributions towards the liquidation of her indebtedness at the expense of keeping her permanently beggared. Naturally this aspect of the question is one that calls for wise heads and long views; the lucubrations of the propaganda Press are as useful as their incursions into the military sphere. They also overlook, among many others, two important facts: first, that Iraq in a few years' time will be playing to our Air communications the same vital part as Egypt plays to our sea communications; and secondly, that already, before the development of Iraq has been taken seriously in hand, British trade with the country amounts to three-quarters of our trade with Turkey.

A Ministerial Crisis in Egypt.

Divergences of opinion have manifested themselves in the Egyptian Cabinet over the case of Sheikh Ali Abdel Razek, whose recent "excommunication" by Al Azhar for spreading heretical doctrines carried with it dismissal from Government service. The Minister of Justice, Aziz Pasha Fahmy, refused to give effect to the ban on the outspoken alim, and was summarily dismissed from his office by the Prime Minister. Thereupon two other Ministers, members of the Liberal Constitutionalist Party, handed in their resignations, and they have now been followed by Ismail Pasha Sidky, Minister of the Interior, who has telegraphed from Paris his resignation from the Cabinet. Here are, accordingly, all the elements of a first-class Ministerial crisis, which is much to be deprecated at the present time. The contention of the Liberal Constitutionalists, who form with the Ittehadists, or Unionists, the Coalition Government, is that they have been continually subjected to cavalier treatment in the Cabinet, and that the abrupt dismissal of one of their number, the Minister for Justice, without the reference of the matter to the Cabinet as a whole, was irregular and an intolerable slight on their party. Sidky Pasha, who is regarded as one of the ablest men in the Cabinet, does not belong to the Liberal Constitutionalists, but ranks as an Independent; his defection must prove far more awkward to Ziwar Pasha than that of the Ministers of Justice, Agriculture, and Wakfs. Unfortunately a split between the Unionists and the Liberals, if persisted in, can hardly fail to open the door to the Zaghloulists, and the return of the latter to power would threaten far more complications in Egypt than Great Britain is anxious to contemplate at the present time. One can only hope that the good sense of the two parties will avail them to heal the breach before it becomes too wide. The Prime Minister has filled up the gaps in his Cabinet, but it remains to be seen whether the Liberals will side with the Zaghloulist Opposition, and bring about the fall of the Ministry.

The Syrian Desert Motor Service.

Misfortune has again overtaken the plucky Nairn Transport Company, which refused to be put out of its stride by the fatal attack on a convoy not far from Damascus on August 26. On September 8 a convoy of four cars without passengers, which had left Baghdad the previous day were attacked by raiders, eighty miles from Damascus. The leading car managed to escape, and on its arrival in Damascus the French authorities sent out an aeroplane and troops in motors to the assistance of the remaining cars. The drivers of the latter, however, reached Damascus in one of their own cars,

(*Continued on page* 342.)

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1925.

THE ROLE OF THE DANUBE.

Europe has no more prominent highway than the Danube River, navigable for sixteen hundred miles, and capable with the completion of the hundred-mile long Rhine-Main-Danube canal—a project first mooted by Charlemagne—of providing a smooth-water passage from the North Sea to the Black Sea. The rôle of a highway is to promote trade and not to hinder it; but the Danube is not fulfilling its function these days. Trade on its broad waters is languishing; it has not yet reached half the pre-War average, and there are heart-burnings among the riparian States. Yet these conditions can hardly give cause for surprise. Before the War there were six reparian States, three of whom were Great Powers; the European Commission of the Danube exercised authority below Galatz, and Austria-Hungary, under a mandate of the Berlin Conference, had charge of the conservancy of the Iron Gates. More important still, the whole of the middle Danube basin was united under the Dual Monarchy in a single customs area, which had its outlet to the Adriatic Sea through the ports of Trieste and Fiume. The Peace Conference broke up Austria-Hungary into seven different States and brought about a general economic dislocation of the Danube area. There are now three Customs barriers, where none existed before, between Czecho-Slovakia and the Adriatic. Until recently the situation created by the political redistribution has tended to occupy the attention of the new States to the exclusion of economic considerations; but, as the novelty of the former wears off, the economic aspect of the new order begins to assert itself. For administrative purposes the Versailles Treaty revived the European Commission of the Danube, with membership restricted to Great Britain, France, Italy, and Roumania, for the section below Galatz, and for the river above Galatz to the head of the navigable waters at Ulm provided for an International Commission composed of two representatives of German riparian States, one representative each of other riparian States and one of each of non-riparian State represented in the future on the European Commission of the Danube. The definitive statute of the Danube was drawn up in July 1921, and there is no reason to suppose that the International Commission will not be ultimately as successful as the European Commission has been in the past; but the improvement of trade conditions in the Danube does not come within its sphere.

Four years ago the League of Nations appointed an American shipping authority, Mr. W. D. Hines, to apportion Austria-Hungary's Danube fleet among the Successor States. In response to the general misgivings over the economic outlook the League recently invited Mr. Hines to examine conditions on the Danube and to report to it on the subject. Although the official text of his report has not been made public, there appears to be no uncertainty as to the general trend of Mr. Hines's findings. Naturally he calls attention to the universal stagnation of trade, and in particular to the reduced export of grain from Yugoslavia and Roumania; but there are other conditions militating against trade on the Danube. As Mr. Hines euphemistically expresses it, most of the Danubian States have not yet overcome the difficulties of the early stages of State organisation. He received numerous complaints about injustices connected with frontier examinations. Among the technical obstacles to river traffic is the lack of suitable accommodation in the Danubian harbours for foreign ships; at many places, too, the river is full of sandbanks and is not fit for navigation. The latter point suggests that the International Commission has not yet advanced very far in its labours. It is one of its duties to draw up a general programme of public works for the improvements of the waterway on the basis of proposals submitted by the riparians, and also to control, and, if necessary, to modify the annual programmes of the riparian States for current works of maintenance in their respective sections. The basic trouble, however, must be the splitting up of an area meant to be a single economic unit, or at most two or three, into no less than seven Customs-guarded States, and, at the same time, the creation of an equal number of competing steamship companies, in the place of the one or two that existed before. So seriously does Mr. Hines regard this latter factor that he is credited with the proposal that the different companies should merge themselves into a single organisation under foreign control, pooling the fleet which he himself partitioned among the several claimants four years ago.

The creation of a single Danube navigation company, we fear, must remain for the present a counsel of perfection, which an imperfect world is not likely to see materialize. The most than can be hoped for is that the riparian States will realize that their joint and individual interests call for an immediate cessation of the petty jealousies and restrictions which are no less a hindrance to trade because one at a time they may not loom large enough to form the subject of official complaint. It would be well, if the experience of Austria-Hungary, who exploited to such good purpose the Danube trade with an outlet on the Adriatic, could be taken to heart by the Balkan States and become an additional incentive to an economic alliance, with Salonika as its port on the Ægean Sea. In this matter political and economic considerations so overlap one another that there may be some doubt as to whether it will be simpler for an economic understanding to precede a political *rapprochement* or whether the latter is an essential preliminary. For our own part we should prefer to see the different countries devote their attention to an economic pact first. Political agreement calls for hard and fast phrases embodied in documents, the drafting of which presents occasion for interminable wrangling. An economic pact is a matter of business; it can, if discreetly drafted, avoid political pitfalls and allow the signatories to concentrate their whole attention on their material prosperity. The objections to the Greek proposal for a Balkan Arbitration Pact could hardly have been levelled against a scheme for an economic agreement, based on an offer to make Salonika serve the interests of the four contracting parties. The proposal would have been a definite step in promoting the prosperity of the Peninsula, whereas the suggested Arbitration Pact has been rejected by Yugoslavia as a device to thwart her urgent requirements. Some of the difficulties against which the trade of the Danube is now struggling will pass, but the advantages to be derived from an economic understanding between the Balkan States, with or without the other riparians, will be all the greater when the trade of the Continent as a whole improves. Both British and French capital is interested in the Danube trade, and it would be a welcome service to South-Eastern Europe, if these "foreign" interests undertook the task of bringing the different States together, with a view to joint action for coping with an unsatisfactory condition of affairs. Several economic treaties *à deux* have been made between certain of the States, but the time has come for substituting a project on a large scale for the limited objective which these smaller pacts had in view.

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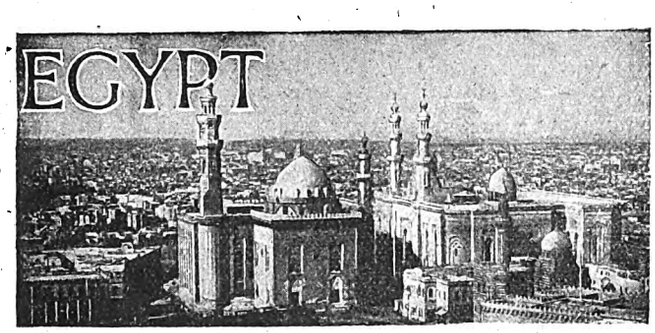

Cairo, September 9.

A Minister's Dismissal.

The long-gathering political storm has burst, and if there is little surprise at that event among those who know what has been going on behind the scenes during recent months, there is none the less general astonishment at the manner in which the break has come. For it is long since a Minister was dismissed from office, and never, I believe, has that step been taken in normal circumstances. Ismail Pasha rid himself of members of the famous Mixed Ministry to which he had taken so strong a dislike by the simple expedient of appointing successors and bidding them go betimes next morning to their Ministries and there take possession of the Ministerial chairs before the arrival of their occupants of the previous evening. The Khedive Tewfik ejected a Minister of War judged guilty of corruption, but these are the only instances recorded of Egyptian use of the Sovereign's powers of dismissing his Ministers. In Abdel Aziz Pasha Fahmy's case, so little surprise is there at his going that wonder is rather expressed that he has remained for so long. A man of personality, not to say obstinacy, and uncompromising opinions, he made himself so prominent, in the spring of 1923, as a defender of constitutional liberties, that it has been considered astonishing that he could have subscribed to so many of the present Government's actions so clearly opposed to both Abdel Aziz Pasha's own former pronouncements and to the policy of the Liberal Constitutional Party, of which he is the President. Members of that Party, now that the die has been cast, explain the apparent inconsistency of their principles with the actions of the three Liberal Constitutional Ministers, Fahmy Pasha, Mohammed Ali Pasha, and Tewfik Doss Pasha, by saying that, hitherto, these Ministers have deemed it better to sink their own opinions and personalities rather than, by an open breach with their Ittehad allies, give encouragement to the common enemy in the Zaghloulist camp.

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Zaghloulist Benefit.

The explanation is plausible enough, and it is certain that the latest development must have made the old Wafd leader, patiently and silently awaiting a turn of fortune's wheel, smile quietly to himself. For if anyone is to benefit from a split in the Government's forces, it will surely be Zaghloul Pasha. Nobody else seems likely to gain much—certainly not the Ittehad Party which, despite its recent efforts and the progress which it has undeniably made, is yet far from strong enough to stand alone. The breach was bound to come sooner or later, for between the Ittehadists, who, at heart, are not enthusiasts for Parliamentary government, and the Liberal Constitutionals, who, despite their acquiescence, for the sake of "downing" their old enemy, Zaghloul Pasha, in the very questionably constitutional second dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies and in various other experimental policies of an undemocratic nature, are essentially pro-parliamentarians, there are fundamental differences, which were sooner or later bound to cause a split. But the split, if Tuesday's meeting of the Liberal Constitutional Party confirms it by insisting upon the resignation of Doss and Mohammed Ali Pashas, will seem to have come a good deal too soon. Hassan Pasha Nashaat, the all-powerful scene-shifter of Egyptian politics, without whose knowledge very little happens these days, has been so remarkably successful in his often very daring policy hitherto, that one hesitates to predict that he has this time made a mistake. But if the surprising latest development may acurately be attributed to his influence, it would seem—although nothing more than a very logical completion of his recent policy—to have arrived much before its time.

Aerial Activities.

The opening up of the Syrian Desert to motor transport seemed to have sounded the death-knell of the aerial mail service maintained by the Royal Air Force between Cairo and Baghdad, though that service was never intended to compete with the Nairn venture, being primarily a pilot-training affair. In any case, the present trouble in Syria has emphasised the value of the R.A.F. service, for the suspension of the trans-desert motor services has meant that a large amount of mail normally carried by motor-car has now been dispatched by aerial courier. An extra aeroplane had to be dispatched this last week, and it is probable that the service will have to be doubled until the restoration of normal conditions in Syria makes it possible for the Nairn company to resume operations.

Apart from the mail, the Cairo-Baghdad route has been in the news much during the last few days. The Imperial Airways Survey party, including Colonel Birchall and Lieut.-Colonel Minchin, has been here, and has now gone on to Palestine, while General Brancker has flown direct to Baghdad also, in connection with the Kantara-Karachi service. Other flying developments in the near future will be the setting-off of Squadron-Leader Conyngham and his companions on their flight to Kano and back, on D.H.9 machines, a flight which, if successful, should do something to give British aviation a share in the long-distance flying honours which have lately gone chiefly to pilots of other nationalities.

ALBANIA.

Tirana, September 10.

The Murder of Gurakuqi.

The only recent events concerning Albania that seem worthy of chronicling this week have both occurred in Italy.

*Und-r this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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First, the trial took place at Bari last week of Ubaldo Stamola, the murderer of Louis Gurakuqi, the Catholic leader opposed to the present régime, who was shot outside a café in Bari shortly after his flight to Italy. It should be remembered that Gurakuqi was the outstanding presonality of the Opposition, a much abler politician than the ex-Premier Fan Noli, and one who possessed a much more intimate knowledge of his countrymen. Hence grave suspicion was entertained that his assassination had been directly inspired by the authors of the recent *coup d'état* in Albania with the object of removing their only really effectual opponent. In Latin countries it is difficult to get a jury to convict an assassin who is a foreigner, whose victim is a foreigner of the same nationality, and against whom no evidence is forthcoming that his motives were either personal or selfish. Ubaldo Stamola's acquittal therefore can hardly cause much surprise. No evidence, indeed, was forthcoming that the assassin was an agent of the present Albanian Government. The defence consisted in evidence to the effect that the assassin was a degenerate though not insane; that the crime was altogether unpremeditated, and that the shots that killed the ex-Minister of Finance were due to uncontrolled spontaneous resentment, when, after obtaining an interview with him with a view to procuring some means of livelihood, Stamola was offered help only on condition of his returning to Albania to act there as a political agent or spy on behalf of the Opposition against the present régime. There being no evidence sufficient to undermine this line of defence, an acquittal was inevitable, however strange this may seem to those used only to British methods of justice.

Great resentment is felt at the result of the trial among the colony of exiled politicians in Italy, who are trying to make out that the acquittal is due to instructions of the Italian Government, desirous of avoiding anything which might injure the good relations existing between Italy and the President of Albania. Such speculation, however, may be regarded as entirely unjustified and unjustifiable. The accused was acquitted by an independent jury in accordance with the usual practice in similar cases—and, it should be added, the Italian Judiciary has a very high reputation for independence and incorruptibility. Whether or not it may be true that as a matter of fact the assassination was indeed ordered by superior authority is another matter. Those who know the Balkans are at liberty to draw their own conclusions. It should be noted, however, that not one shred of evidence was forthcoming to this effect.

The National Bank of Albania.

The other event of importance, is the formal constitution of the new National Bank of Albania in Rome in the presence, among eminent personages, of Senator Volpi, Italian Minister of Finance; of M. Lipohova, Albanian Minister; of M. Antonevitch, Yugoslav Minister; and of Signor Alberti, of the Credito Italiano, the principal foreign shareholder.

Forty-nine per cent. of the capital is Albanian, as already announced in these columns. The remainder of the shares are, in the final result, divided between the Credito Italiano, the Banca Commerciale Italiana, the Serbo-Albanian Bank and a Swiss and a Belgian group. The first managing director is to be Signor Raimondo de Liguoro of the Banca d' Italia. The control of the bank's policy will in effect remain for the first few years at any rate largely in the hands of the Credito Italiana, who are responsible for the scheme materialising. The new institution will act as the Albanian Government's Bank and will have the monopoly of the note issue. Its headquarters will be at Tirana.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, September, 1.

The Agricultural Chambers.

The chief event of recent occurrence which bears a certain political significance, though in reality it is not a political event at all, has been the election of members of the Agricultural Chambers, the creation of which bodies was reported upon in a recent letter.

The elections proved a signal success for the united Opposition, who obtained 43 votes as against 26 for the Liberals. This has caused great public excitement, and it is predicted with more conviction than ever that the present Government cannot last much longer.

It is interesting to note that it was in the Old Kingdom that the majority of the Opposition was the highest, i.e., 20 to 11, whilst in Transylvania, the home of the National Party led by M. Maniu, the figures were only 11 to 10; in the Bukovina they were 6 to 4, and in Bessarabia 6 to ?. General Averescu's party only had five votes altogether—which does not augur well for the fulfilment of the hopes of General Averescu that he will be chosen successor to the Liberals, although no doubt he would be the one preferred by them.

The Chambers' Functions.

The Chambers of Agriculture are to be organised on lines similar to the Chambers of Commerce and are to act as advisory bodies to the Government on matters appertaining to agricultural legislation. Ultimately there is to be one Chamber for each rural district, but in the meantime a smaller number will be founded. Each will have on its Board the Agronomical adviser of the district, certain of the local Government officials, and a certain number of the agriculturalists of the district.

Liberals and the Peasants.

The election results are commented upon by the Press as indicating the feeling of the peasants, who formed the majority of the electors, that the economic policy of the Liberal Government is unfavourable to agricultural interests. Nothing, they consider, has been done to encourage agricultural production; rather, on the contrary, agriculturalists have constantly had to struggle against all kinds of vexatious restrictions, low maximum prices and excessive export taxes, etc., both for grain and cattle.

One of the chief obsessions of the Liberals is that Roumania must be made self-supporting, and to this end they have concentrated rather on the development of her industries, most of which have their centres in Transylvania and the Bukovina. This in itself would be a good thing, but it is a pity that so large a party element enters into all their activities in this direction, and if industries are to be nurtured at the expense of agriculture, which after all, must always be the main source of Roumania's wealth.

The Liberals' term of office expires in February next, and the prophecies of their fall from power, which have been repeatedly made during the last two years, are now being freely indulged in. Many seem to think, indeed, that the Government will fall before the end of the year.

General News.

A much needed reform has been introduced by M. Tancred Constantinescu by his decision prohibiting the employment of women and children for underground work at the mines.

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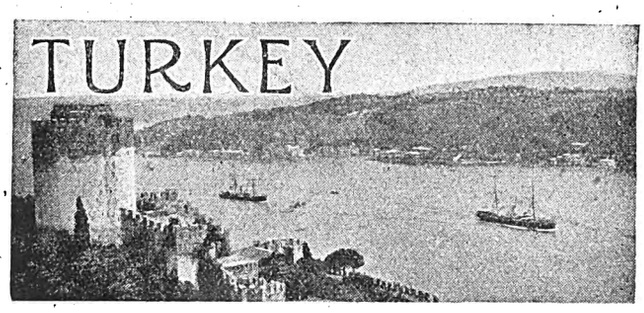
At the end of August a meeting was held in Bucharest and Sinaia of representatives of the Little Entente Press with a view to fostering friendly relations between the countries belonging to the Little Entente.

A terrible gale visited certain districts of Roumania last week. In Brasov it attained such a violence that whole roofs of houses were blown off and the air was full of fragments of tiles, branches of trees, and so on, being hurled along with such speed as to render the streets quite dangerous for traffic or pedestrians during more than a hour. The gale continued the whole night through with somewhat abated violence.

The deaths were announced last week of M. Matthew Cantucuzene, Professor of Political Economy at Jassy University, and of Prince Edward Ghika, of Vas Lui, formerly Prefect of Bucharest.



Constantinople, September 8.

Turkey and Mosul.

Since the commencement of the Geneva discussions regarding Mosul there has, up to the present, been comparatively little Press comment here. Yesterday and to-day, however, the *Jumhouriet* has, apparently because of the question regarding the giving of undertakings by the two interested countries to abide by the League's decision having been referred to, devoted leaders to the Mosul question, entitled "Will Turkey make war?" and "Turkey-England." The first-mentioned article is at some pains to explain the perfect pacific intentions of Turkey and that war will not be of her making. It is made clear, however, that in the event of the League of Nations—who, it is believed, is well aware of the vital importance of the point at issue and that the decision directly concerns Turkey's existence—considering its authority and glory of primary importance, Turkey will be constrained to work out her own salvation. The second leader, encouraged by certain British Press publications advocating the non-insistence upon Mosul, refers to the grave consequences in the event of Anglo-Turkish hostilities, and states that should war ensue Turkey would, by no means, neglect to seek all possible aid and alliances. Opinions expressed in certain British newspapers deprecating the acceptance of the mandatory proposition and counselling the renouncing of Mosul are stated to be making a good impression here, and it is declared that should such opinions become general, a very favourable ground for future Anglo-Turkish relations would be prepared.

Social Reforms.

The Turkish Government is devoting itself to a rapid and radical social reform of the country and the closing of *tekkés*, or houses appropriated to Sheikhs and chiefs of tribes and sects, and the future mode of dress to be adopted by religious and Government officials was the subject of a meeting held and a decision taken by the Council of Ministers on Wednesday last. These *tekkés*, which have served as meeting places for political intriguers, and which have been proved to have played an important part in the recent Kurdish uprising, have now, without exception, been suppressed. Their exploiters are no longer able to exercise their influence over their previous followers, nor are they permitted to assume the eccentric form of dress which was previously peculiar to them. Only authentic ulema are privileged to wear the white turban and black cloth of office. Whilst the closing of all *tekkés* and the suppression of the Dervishes will doubtless constitute a great disappointment to visitors and be yet another deprivation of the picturesque, this consideration can have no comparison with the consequent good which the country will derive from the abolition of these longstanding obstacles to civilisation and national tranquillity. Government officials are also obliged, from now onwards, to adopt the international style of dress and wear clothes as occasion demands. The Authorities are making facilities for officials by advancing sums sufficient to enable them to acquire the necessary articles of clothing, and steps have been taken to prevent profiteering by outfitters. The exceptional demand for hats in Constantinople has resulted in a stall being opened on Galata Bridge, where Homburgs, trilbys, and every other kind made during the past ten years can be had for fifty piastres each.

The Journalists' Trial.

The trial of the Constantinople journalists arrested as a result of evidence given in the El Aziz Tribunal of Independence proceedings, commenced about fifteen days ago and still continues. Columns upon columns appear daily, recording in every detail the present proceedings. Ahmed Emine Bey, editor of the *Vatan*, is being submitted, among others, to an exceedingly extensive interrogation, the import and relevancy of the detailed questions of which rest, as yet, somewhat vague and incomprehensible to the outside observer. In view of the extreme punishment dealt out to Hussein Jahid Bey, the editor of *Tanin*, the result of the journalists' trial at El Aziz is being awaited with great interest and by some with anxiety.

PERSIA.

Teheran, August 28.

Parliament Re-opened.

The re-opening of Parliament on August 21, marked the termination of a period of stagnation caused by the Moharram holidays. Previously to the re-opening, the appointments of Prince Firooz and Qawam ed Dowleh as Ministers of Justice and Interior respectively, had been announced. This recognition of the Right Group's majority, marks an increasing gap between the Prime Minister and the Left Group which has in the past supported him strongly. The Leader of the Left (Suliman Mirza) had announced his intention of challenging the appointment of Prince Firooz on grounds of alleged irregularities when Governor of Kerman and previously in the negotiations relative to the Anglo-Persian Agreement and the St. Germains Treaty.

In a crowded House Suliman Mirza commenced a grossly personal attack on the new Minister instead of moving the usual vote for lack of confidence. The Prime Minister and Ministers walked out in protest and after a stormy scene the Speaker adjourned the sitting. On resumption it was decided by vote that the business of the day be proceeded with. Suliman Mirza the next day resumed his address, but was kept to a point of order, and not allowed to speak for long before a vote was taken to prevent his wasting the time of the House. The House was obviously hostile to him on account of his past record, and the incident is now considered closed. The result is regarded as a personal victory for the Prime Minister. Much admiration is shown for the firmness and dignity of the Speaker, Pirniva, whose personality is such a feature at all times in the Mejliss.

Only a few weeks now remain to the present Mejliss to finish off routine business. A series of Amendments to the Electorial Law is now under debate, but many other important Bills await attention which can scarcely be completed in the short time available.

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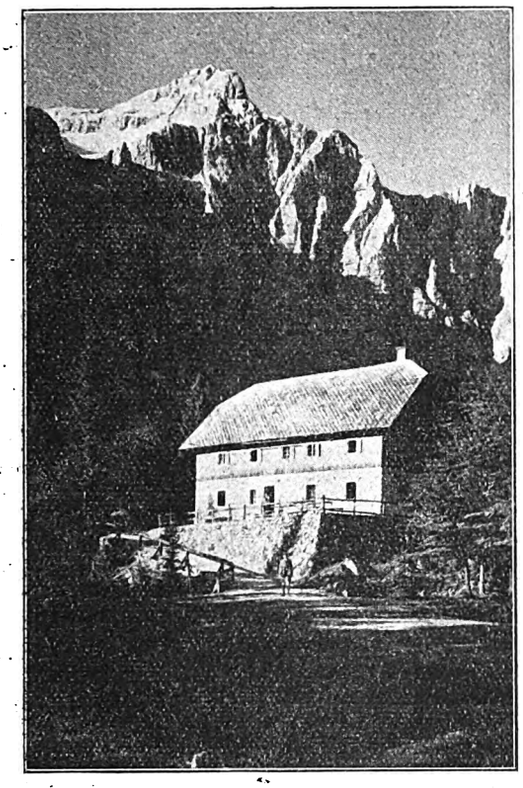
THE JULIAN ALPS: AN ANNIVERSARY.

A year ago the Slovene mountaineering world sustained its heaviest loss hitherto by the death of Dr. Klement Jug, who lost his life in an attempt to break fresh trail across the North Wall of Triglav, as the immense and all but sheer crag is called which forms the north aspect of the highest mountain in the Julian Alps. Dr. Jug was still a young man, but of great promise as a philo-



Aljaz House in Vratu.
In the background the Triglav Wall.

sopher, a man of science, and a friend of sport. A Slovene of Trieste in whom the typical—shall I say, static?—Slav temperament was strangely blended with the pioneer spirit, engendered, perhaps, by the lure of the sea, which is to the son of the Littoral as much as to any of our own coast-dwellers, he was brought inland by the political changes wrought by the War. Here, among the Slovene Alps, his natural love of the open developed into a veritable passion for the mountains and mountaineering. He was one of the original members of the Tourist Club Skala, the one club in Slovenia—or even Yugoslavia, for that matter—which devotes itself seriously to mountaineering and does excellent work for the promotion of that grand and manly sport among the younger generation in this country, credit for which is generally declared to be due largely to the example and influence of Dr. Jug. It was probably the complexity in Klement Jug's nature which made him remarkable as a mountaineer and makes his notes upon his climbing expeditions such attractive reading. He not only dared as an athlete, but discovered wherever he went; the scientific interest and beauty of the mountains appealed to him as much as the sport of climbing. Yet in that sport it was the very element of danger in which he found an outlet for the restless pioneering side of him, and a constant problem in ever-changing form,—a strange and paradoxical fascination which was bound to prove fatal in the end. It was in the sad stormy treacherous month of August of last year (1924) that he met his death—alone.

For days his young friends of the Skala sought for his body. One of them told me that his first intimation of having found it was that, on sliding down a face of rock, his hand landed in something wet and soft—the scattered brains of a dearest friend—"I was never nearer falling myself—" said the young man quite simply . . . .

A year has passed and on this brilliant Sunday in August 1925 the Club Skala has just unveiled a modest tablet put up to the memory of Dr. Klement Jug at the foot of the Triglav wall, not far from the place where his body was found. The official way to the tablet starts from the Alpine Hotel in the Vrata (Gates) Valley, the comfortable Aljazev Dom (named after the Rev. Dr. Aljaz—priest, composer and veteran mountaineer, whose parish is at the foot of Triglav), and it leads some three hundred metres upwards over a great moraine of rubble and scree, heart-breaking stuff to traverse at all times and distinctly trying in the broiling weather we have been enjoying of late. So, although the hut was packed with tourists, few but actual members of the Skala made their way up the steep and wearisome slope to the tragic spot. Once there, however, we sat in the grateful shadow of the great Wall itself on a sort of ledge amply large enough to accommodate our little crowd of a hundred or so. Near us stretched a long "snow," indeed, a true glacier, travelling down to the edge of the forest and there giving birth to one of the innumerable Bistricas, or Clearstreams, of this land,—a lovely water that flashes down the Vrata Valley, plays hide and seek with the sun as it vanishes and reappears in its bed of shining white limestone, provides the power for the big cement factory at Moistrana, and then joins the young Sava. Characteristically enough, not all of us by any means had come straight from the Hotel. Many (myself included) had roamed the mountains since long before daybreak, and from the heights we had come down to give greeting to a mountaineer's soul. I think we were all haunted by the feeling that this was only meet and in keeping with our duty there that day. And of course we were all in mountaineering kit, ice axes to hand, women and men alike sun-bronzed and glistening with the heat, a rough-looking company, perhaps, in the eyes of a city-bred chance-comer. Even the priest who read the memorial service was in tweeds with his band thrown over the collar of his Norfolk jacket.

Suddenly there rose upon the still hot noon air a dirge, half folk-song, half-hymn, tender and wistful, in all the beauty of the famous Slav unaccompanied singing. Then followed the short service. The pregnant words in the familiar Latin (oh, but one is thankful for something like a universal tongue on occasions like these!) sounded more full of meaning, nearer to the heart of things, in these simple, wild and unadorned surroundings, as we remembered in our prayers the bold climber whose memory we

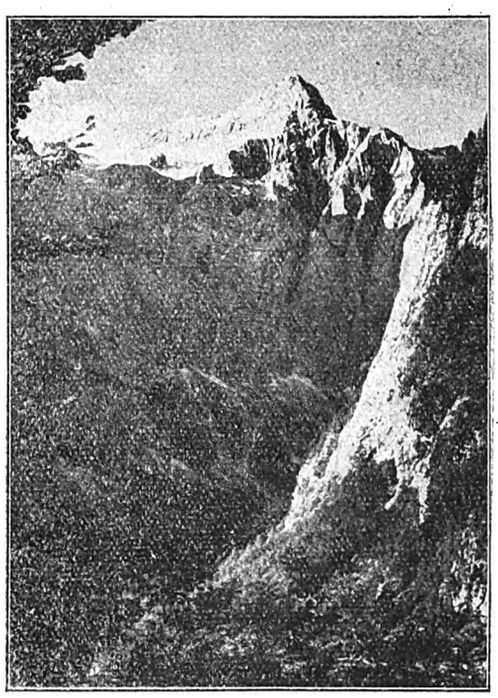


Photo by I. Skerlep.
Triglav from the direction of the Razor.

had come to honour—and young Vladimir, who followed him so closely and sleeps in the very bosom of the Crag, out of reach of mortal hands,—and all those others who, for love of the great mountain, had lost their lives in learning the secrets of his ways. Then followed more singing. Yanko Ravnik, musician and mountaineer and President of the Skala, spoke a few words in which he dwelt

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upon the high educational value of mountaineering, the sport that teaches mutual helpfulness and good fellowship, and love of nature, no less than self-reliance and coolness in face of danger and even death. ("That's the right stuff," said a young climber to me on one occasion. "Break your neck if you must; but don't get scared." And the strange thing is—that one just doesn't.) One last song, one last prayer, and the little ceremony was over. The crowd broke up and we strolled down from the waste of rock and stone and snow, a thousand feet to sweet green beside the young river, and into the woods of pine and beech in the heart of which nestles "Father Aljaz's House."

Nothwithstanding their previous exertions, the singers, who had come down with the rest of us, delighted the company at tea-time with more exquisite songs,—wailing Serbian ditties, tricksy Croatian love-songs, and, last of all, songs of the sorrows of Slovenia, of lost Carinthia and of the Isonzo front where so many brave Slovene lads lie—"*Oj Doberdob, slovenski grob!*" Then they, too, hurried off to catch their train at Moistrana, leaving us to watch the shadows creep upward on the Wall, and the far peak flame gold and pink in the sunset ere it faded to ashen grey as the moonless night closed in.

F. S. C.

THE STUDY OF ENGLISH IN LIUBLIANA.

(From Our Liubliana Correspondent.)

This year the study of English at Liubliana University received considerable encouragement through the offer of three prizes for the three best papers worked out by students of English at the University classes. The generous givers of the prizes were Lady Dunedin, Lord Strathclyde, and Professor Sarolea, all well-known for their knowledge of international and national questions. Dr. Lloyd Storr-Best, who has, among other distinctions, that of being Examiner to the University of Manchester, is just now spending his holiday in Yugoslavia and incidentally representing the Board of Education at the International Educational Congress at the end of August in Belgrade. As Dr. Storr-Best is sincerely interested in the progress of a knowledge of English in this country, he very kindly undertook to correct and judge the candidates' papers. The winners of the three first prizes offered for English at the University of Liubliana are, in order of merit, M. H. Baerent, M. Zdenko Shvigelj (better known, perhaps, in some quarters, as the best ski-runner Yugoslavia has yet produced), and Mlle. M. Tsop. All three are members of the Yugoslav Society for the Study of English, which was founded at Liubliana a little over four years ago, and is still carrying on its useful and uphill work. The Society by now disposes of a really excellent, if small, library, which it owes entirely to the generosity of British and American friends. The main object of the Society is still to place English tuition and the means for study of the language within reach of everybody at the lowest possible cost.

CORRESPONDENCE

The columns of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA *are open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA

THE FUTURE OF MOSUL.

We have received from the Near and Middle East Association the following copy of a letter addressed by them to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs:—

Sir,—We, the undersigned members of the Near and Middle East Association, beg respectively to submit to your notice the following consideration in connection with the settlement of the Mosul-Iraq question.

In a letter published in the *Morning Post*, December 14, 1922, Haddad Pasha, the Iraq Minister, declared that "the two races (Arabs and Turks) have every interest and should have every wish to live on close terms of friendship."

About the same time the Angora Government issued a Manifesto in which they promised to respect the integrity and independence of all the Arab States including Iraq, provided that the question of the possession of the Mosul vilayet was settled in accordance with Turkish sentiment and aspirations.

We venture to suggest that these two declarations form a basis for a solution of the Mosul problem which would at once satisfy the legitimate aspirations of the Turkish people, secure the safety of Iraq, and relieve the burdens of the British taxpayer.

The suggestion is that the League of Nations should invite Turkey to become a member of the League, and as a member to renew solemnly her pledge to respect the integrity and independence of Iraq in return for the acceptance by the League of the line of demarcation proposed by the League's Commissioners, or, failing that, the line of Jebel Sinjar-Jebel Hamrin.

We believe that in the friendlier atmosphere created by such a settlement there would be little difficulty, on behalf of the British and foreign interests involved, in arriving at an equitable arrangement with Turkey in connection with the Mosul oil field. Turkey has already offered to allow the British pipe line to run along the Baghdad railway line to the sea instead of through French Syria.

In any case the oil field itself would be far safer in Turkish hands than if left to the possession of a Baghdad Government faced by Turkish resentment and hostility and exposed to raids by hostile Kurds.

We are convinced that the alternative solution put forward by the Commissioners, that Great Britain should maintain the Mandate over Iraq, including the Mosul vilayet, for 25 years would result in no permanent or satisfactory settlement, but would throughout the suggested period of years involve the Mandatory Power in serious responsibility and formidable risks, both military and economic.—Signatories: Rt. Hon. F. D. Acland, M. E. N. Bennett (Chairman of Committee), Lt.-Col. Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck, M.P., Sir Graham Bower, K.C.M.G., The Dowager Lady Boyle, Sir Henry Parsall Burt, K.C.I.E., Sir William Ovens Clark, Mrs. Cobham, The Earl of Derby, Captain C. F. Dixon-Johnson, Sir John Foster Fraser, Admiral Hon. Sir Edmund Fremantle, Sir Park Goff, M.P., Dr. E. H. Griffin, D.S.O., Lord Headley, Sir John Prescott Hewett, G.C.S.I., Gen. Sir Archibald Hunter, G.C.B., Rt. Hon. Lord Islington, Lt.-Commander Hon. J. M. Kenworthy, M.P., Lord Lamington, Lt.-Col. D. C. Phillott, Rt. Hon. T. Shaw, M.P., Rt. Hon. B. C. Spoor, M.P., Colonel Sir Alexander Sprot, Bt., Brig.-Gen. Conyers Surtees, C.B., Sir George Sutherland, Brig.-General Sir George Macauley, K.C.M.G., Sir Charles Campbell McLeod, and Sir Armine Dew, K.C.I.E.

[The Near and Middle East Association suggest that the best settlement of the Mosul problem is to give Turkey all that she asks for. With that proposal the Turks will agree. Against it must be set the arguments carefully and convincingly elaborated by Mr. Amery at Geneva, which neither the Turks nor the Association show any inclination to answer.—ED.]

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Mr. Luke, with his 20 years of experience of the East, has contrived to give an excellent sketch of Mosul, the subject of the discussions of the League of Nations, and its people. The book deals largely with the many religions which still remain in or near Mosul, such as the Nestorians and Jacobites and their offspring, and the Yezidis or Devil Worshippers. A study of a town and of peoples who are of great political importance at the present time.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Trade Union Congress.

The Trade Union Congress at Scarborough has, without question (except from the omniscient journalist), been a success for what is called "the Left"—"the Right" of the Trade Unionists being those whom the capitalists know how to manage! For the Congress passed not only resolutions which showed sympathy rather with the Communist than the Socialist associations in Europe (in the abbreviated language of the day, rather with Moscow than with Amsterdam), but also a resolution which criticised even the Labour Party's interpretation of Imperialism. These things are, I think, significant, for they show that the English working-man is not only ignorant, but quite content in his ignorance. But to suggest that they are of permanent significance, as some journals have done, is going much too far; for there is no one more sensible, on contact with actualities, than the English working-man. It is one thing to sympathise, from a safe distance, with Moscow; it is quite another to convince oneself that our middle and upper classes are the very replica of the Tsarist society. And it is one thing to pretend that Palestine and Kenya and Egypt are merely breeding-grounds of the capitalist, but it is quite another thing actually to hand them over to foreign competitors.

The point on which most attention has been focussed, however, is precisely the one that seems to me least novel; namely, the resolution which approved of the unceasing efforts to overthrow the capitalist system, of the refusal to entertain the scheme of co-partnership, and of the necessity for retaining shop-committees "to force the capitalists to relinquish their grip on industry." Now it has been curiously represented that the delegates did not know what they were doing when they passed these resolutions, that it was only Soviet or Oriental methods which prevented their being defeated; or, alternatively, that the importance of these resolutions is but superficial, drawing no real distinction between the revolutionaries and the constitutionalists. But is it not all evidence of that love of talk of the class-war which is seldom absent from the trade unionist's breast, a pouring off of annual steam which has but a negative significance? If this rendering be right, it was foolish of people like Mr. Cramp to inquire precisely what was meant by the resolution, for the whole point of congresses like this is to express unbounded sympathy or reprobation. All conferences desire the illimitable, and it is well to note that only when the delegates discussed the eminently practical question or whether a General Council should be endowed with General Strike powers did they unhesitatingly refuse to countenance the purveyors of the large, revolutionary talk.

The Successor of Capitalism.

One thing is quite certain. Despite the pusillanimity of the "Moderates" at the Congress, despite all the talking of the vileness of the Capitalist system, the English working-man will never set the present system of industrial society in ruins before knowing much more exactly than he knows now what he is going to super-impose upon them. He may even enthusiastically tolerate the presence of M. Tomsky at his gathering, and take to his bosom the various reports of working-people upon present conditions in Russia, but he will never seek to make flow the blood of the Guelphs as the Bolshevist made flow the blood of the Romanoffs in order that London may become a second Moscow. For Bolshevism is of the East (b—easily!), and not even the appalling influx of aliens will ever make an adequate minority of Englishmen forget their Western heritage.

At the same time, the lesson unmistakably to be learned from the first week of this Congress is that the patriot's duty is, not blindly to defend the present system of Capitalism against all who talk of the desirability of its destruction, but to examine it in so critical a light and consequently to act in such a way that the ills at present resulting from it may disappear. Whether such a process would involve the changing of its character in so fundamental a way that the system could no longer retain its present name, is a matter of not the slightest importance, for it is not any particular system in England, but Englishmen working that system, that must be saved.

The Coal Commission.

The Coal Commission had an informal meeting yesterday, to settle questions of procedure, and in about a fortnight's time evidence will be held. It has not yet been decided whether their meetings are to be open to the public, but the public will very surely scrutinise the behaviour of the Commission. There has grown a certain uneasiness at the very "financial" character of those composing the Commission; it is being said that the financial angle may not be a bad point of view for such things as Palestine or Cotton, but to restrict the mining industry to this point of view may inhibit the finding of any very useful decisions.

Meanwhile, eighty pits have been re-opened as a result of the granting of the coal subsidy.

Cottage Holdings.

The Prime Minister, despite a certain haziness of idea about the industrial system in this country, is still a man of the land, who knows that agriculture is the finest and yet the least regarded of our industries. It is good, therefore, to know that his sound ideas upon the agricultural position here are finding shape in a Bill which the Ministry of Agriculture is introducing to provide cottage holdings. The proposal is to enable agricultural labourers to own or to rent a quarter of an acre of garden; or enough grass-land, in the stock-raising districts, to maintain a cow. Everyone must know the conditions of farm cottages at the moment: often they are in such disrepair or scant numbers that the labourers have to live a long way from their work.

This proposal appears to be identical with the excellent one that, I believe, George Wyndham introduced, with such beneficial results, into Ireland. If the re-establishment of a peasant propriety in England could be associated with the name of Baldwin, the Prime Minister might surely rest content, for, despite what the industrialists at the Scarborough Congress may say, there is no tyranny worse than the tyranny of the countryside.

The Communist Accompanist.

A very natural fuss is being raised by the determination by Mr. Saklatvala, the Member of Parliament for Battersea, to accompany the inter-Parliamentarians on their tour to the United States. This rather raucous Communist is sadly out of tune and time with the other Members who have chosen to go on this trip; so egotistical, indeed, are his opinions that three Unionist Members have refused to be accompanied by him. And with the dictates of their hearts, at any rate, one cannot fail to sympathise.

Whether any good will come from their particular form of protest, however, it is difficult to see. After all, Mr. Saklatvala has been constitutionally elected to Westminster, and manifestly has every kind of right to accompany Westminster's representatives on the tour. If the three gallant gentlemen who say, point-blank, that they will not go to another country with one whose confessed aim is the disruption of the British Empire, were wholly consistent, they would have, presumably, to resign their seats in the House of Commons.

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The Destruction of Limehouse.

It has been proposed by certain official apostles of progress that an area in Limehoues Fields, being alleged to be insanitary, be cleared, to make way for modern flats. To the ordinary observer, ignorant of how often officialdom tramples ruthlessly on local tradition, it might seem that the tenants and owners of Limehouse who are strenuously opposing this suggestion of "improvement" were actuated by factiousness, but he would little understand the old, not yet dead, tradition of the Englishman's love for his castle were he to judge like this. There is the evidence of the man in Limehouse who two years ago paid £140 for his house, and to whom it had since become "a little palace."

There is no question that this philosophy of the poor—pride in his meagre poverty—is one to which the intellects of our academic and busy-bodying reformers cannot aspire. And even from their own point of view our reformers are short-sighted in wanting to destroy these ancient dwellings. For who ever heard of a society living in flats being satisfied? Such people are always discontented, from the time that they roll up to see "The Green Hat" to the time that, with the rising of the sun, they go to bed. Whereas the inhabitant of the true Cockney home does his honest day's work, revels in his sixpennyworth of Betty Balfour or Charlie Chaplin, and then has golden slumbers. He is, in fact, one of the most steadfast pillars of the State.

The Covered Omnibus.

The limitation by the Ministry of Transport of "strap-hanging" in motor-omnibuses to the "rush-hours" has led to the adoption by the London General Omnibus Company of a monstrosity on the streets—the covered 'bus. So many people are now being excluded from a place inside the 'bus that the Company have thought it best to provide rather for rainy than for wet days; and so they are trying the covered top.

Whether it will be popular or not it is difficult, in this effeminate age, to guess. Personally, I find riding on the open tops of 'buses one of the few joys of London, and the thought that the 'bus may follow the tramcar in covering its head to the glories of man and of Nature fills me with horror. However, it is only an experiment, and if the public do not like it, the remedy is in their own hands.

Petty Paternalism.

And as if this were not sufficient molly-coddling of our generation, the Government has suddenly become alarmed at the alleged violation of D.O.R.A. through the means of automatic cigarette machines. It sounds incredible, but it is still the law of our free country that tobacco may not be sold after 8 p.m. Now automatic cigarette machines were ingeniously invented to circumvent this curtailment, justified only by the circumstances of War, of our liberty. So far as one knows, no outcry has yet been made against them. But the Government apparently thinks that boys under sixteen may by means of them unlawfully procure for themselves cigarettes—as if boys of all generations had not always got anything they wanted!

It is all the most pathetic nonsense, this making servile of the State in the smallest things of life: perhaps it is our so-called Nordic blood or sense of discipline that inhibits our re-asserting our freedom. But there is no need for a Conservative Government, of all things, so to emphasise and trade upon our little weaknesses.

Nonconformity and Catholicism.

A curious commentary on the relations between Nonconformity and Catholicism in this country is now being shown in a Congregational chapel in Grosvenor Square. The church, called King's Weigh House, celebrates "Mass" every morning at 7.30, for its minister, Dr. W. E. Orchard, seems to accept the doctrine of Transubstantiation. He has, in fact, just published a little book upon the Eucharist, in which he says: "We may well hope that the Mass will one day be discerned by all Christians to be the one thing that matters, the Catholic celebration the point at which unity will be found, and the doctrine of transubstantiation, the basis of a sacramental philosophy which illumines many mysteries, the sure foundation on which a truly corporate life can be built, the centre from which all our efforts at reconstruction will be truly inspired." Further, Dr. Orchard practises what he preaches; at some of his services the rite of "benediction" is celebrated, and incense used.

What such Churchmen—let alone the rest of the Nonconformists—as the Bishop of Birmingham will have to say upon this indulgence in what he would probably call "magic" is best left to the imagination. But it is certain that, if such ideas are entertained by the Free Church to any considerable extent, the Church of England will with difficulty strengthen its position against Rome by simply calling in the aid of the Nonconformists. For this move of Dr. Orchard is the most spectacular exposition of the traditional approximation of Catholic and Nonconformist points of view that I can remember.

"Tess" Dramatised.

The production in town of a dramatised "Tess of the D'Urbervilles" was regarded with a certain misgiving, even though Hardy himself made the version for the stage. For "Tess" of the novel had become so admired a character in the discerning reader's imagination that her material representation was inevitably to shatter many individual conceptions. Even the more omnivorous of Hardy's followers had been staggered by a preposterous film version of the story, so that the first night at Barnes Theatre last week was a really great ordeal.

However, everything passed off well. Hardy's reputation has in no way suffered, and that of practically every actress and actor taking part in the production has increased. For Tess no one was less suited by nature than Miss Gwen Ffrangcon Davies (in the physical sense, at least, Miss Sybil Thorndyke, who was at first chosen to play the part, would have been better), but in actual performance she proved that no one was better suited in sympathetic understanding. The very frailty and ethereal delicacy of her conception brought to one, as poles meet, the strength and pagan earthiness of Tess's own character: it was deep calling to, though not portraying, deep. Nor was hers the only part to have been studied with a care merited of Hardy's characters, of all of whom it may be said that what of the book could come through them came through. Of course, the dramatic version is not one-tenth part of the novel; its great rhythmical impulse, its terrible increase, are impossible of reproduction. Above all, no theatre could contain, could even suggest, the President of the Immortals. ALTER EGO.

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Book Reviews and Notes.

METAMORPHOSES IN ISLAM.

"THE MOSLEM WORLD IN REVOLUTION." By W. Wilson Cash. (London: The Edinburgh Press.)

Nothing has been so remarkable in the post-War world as the increasing accessibility of Islam to Europeans; it is a fact, indeed, which has led to wide hopes of a fusion of East and West. At the Jerusalem Conference last year it was estimated that at least four-fifths of the Moslem world are now open to every method of Christian missionary approach. Apart from the fact that the two Holy Cities, Mecca and Medina, are yet forbidden to all but the Faithful, it would appear that Islam has opened its long-shut gates, or, as the evangelist of Christendom chooses to put it, its age-long barriers have been broken down. And the question everywhere being asked is: *Cui bono?* It is the conviction of Mr. Wilson Cash, once Assistant Principal Chaplain to the E.E.F., and the author of this little book, that this loosening of the bonds of Islam is the opportunity of the Church, an opportunity which, if Great Britain and America would but seize it, could ensure the triumphing of the Cross over the Crescent.

Now Mr. Cash's account of the revolution now in process in the Moslem world is done with much lucidity and point. After tracing—in the traditional missionary's way—the story of Islam down to 1914, he shows how Moslems became profoundly modified in their outlook on life during and after the War years. New contacts were made through travel and education, the various nationalist movements had a dichotomic tendency in Islam, the abolition of the Ottoman Caliphate threatened to rend the Moslem world in twain, the Mohammedan became more and more to rely on the Press and on the power of the Press, the Moslem woman began to emancipate herself, Moslems, under stress of fear of the foreigner, brought themselves to unite with such people as Hindus and Copts, Islam became divided into orthodox and advanced camps—these, and many such, are the steps which the author thinks Islam has taken, apparently, towards its own end. But, one must ask, and omitting to question the accuracy of all these points: is it Christianity or is it merely Western civilisation that has so quickly broken down the reserve of Moslems before the West? And if it is merely materialism that has loosened the walls of Islam, why should it be Christianity that is to be the composing agent? Is it, for instance, a fact that since the Syrian Desert motor service was commenced (it is a slip of the author to say that a "wiry American" had anything to do with its inception, by the way), Iraq has shown any tendency of becoming more Christian? Less fanatically Moslem, possibly; but is not the proclivity of the "advanced" Moslem rather towards the material than towards the spiritual affairs of a new world? Again, if the bonds of Islam are really snapping, how does the author account for its success in proselytising, a success surely far exceeding anything that Christian missionaries can show in the backward parts of Asia and of Africa?

We would not have it understood that we are lacking in a certain sympathy with the author's ideal, but we do feel, despite the Bishop of Khartoum's justified encomium upon Mr. Cash's knowledge of the actual Moslem world, that he has not accurately envisaged either the world of Islam that he is seeking to destroy or the world of Christendom that he is seeking to impose upon it. For of the former he appears to accept the view, fashionable in students of masters like Servier and of sensationalists like Stoddard, that Islam was but a projection upon the desert of the bedouin mind; and of the latter, that Great Britain and American alone comprise it. In all his pages we have discovered no sign that he recognises the possibility of universal spiritual power in the Prophet Mohammed, nor that Christendom itself is grievously rent into Roman and Eastern Catholicism and Protestantism.

Especially do we regret his omission to examine the nature of the Christianity which might be inculcated into the modern Mohammedan, because this question of the possibility of a fusion between the enlightened sections of Christendom and of Islam is occupying considerable minds in three Continents. It is not impossible, though our author does not mention any partial prospects, that Western Christianity may find reconciliation with Islam sooner than Eastern Christianity, with its subtle intellectualisms; but to suggest that an imposition, or a substitution, of Anglo-Saxon Protestanism is, given the workers and the energy, a probability, seems to us to take far too narrow a view of the potentialities of the situation. Is it unfair, also, to suggest that we might at least attempt to settle our own differences in Christendom before seeking to seal them upon a distant people? K. W.

We have received from Messrs. W. and G. Foyle, Ltd., Charing Cross Road, the catalogue of their second-hand and new French books.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Mosul and its Minorities." By Harry Charles Luke. Illustrated. (London: Martin Hopkinson and Co., Ltd. 10s. 6d. net.)

"The Shining Traffic." By Kennedy Williamson. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 6s. net.)

"The Wise Old Elephant." Forty story Talks to Boys and Girls." By E. L. Coulter. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 3s. 6d. net.)

"Snow Rubies." By "Ganpat." (London: William Blackwood and Sons. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Six Prisons and Two Revolutions: Adventures in Trans-Caucasia and Anatolia, 1920-1921." By Oliver Baldwin, sometime Lieut.-Colonel in the Armenian Army. (London: Hodder and Stoughton, Ltd. 12s. 6d. net. With Illustrations and Map.)

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AVIATION IN PERSIA.

After negotiations extending over two years, the Junkers Company of Germany has concluded a five years' agreement with the Persian Government for the establishment of air services in Persia, which will serve ultimately to link up the Company's Russian line with that country.

The following is the text of the Bill, No. 1610, dated July 5, 1925, submitted by the Government to the Mejliss, embodying the terms of the contract:—

Air Services.

Whereas the establishment of aerial postal services in Persia would immensely facilitate communications and traffic with other countries and in the interior of Persia and would surely lead to the increase and prosperity of trade, and having regard to the fact that such rapid means of communication can be utilised on many occasions by various departments for the discharge of their urgent work, the following clauses are being submitted to Parliament for early consideration and sanction.

Clause 1.—As the German company, Junkers, represented by M. Edmond Jerolinsk, an Austrian subject, undertakes to perform one weekly flight by aeroplane from Teheran to each of the towns Bahlavi (Enzeli), Bushire and Quraitu (Qasr-i-Shirin), and one weekly flight from these towns to Teheran, the monopoly of aviation on the above-mentioned routes is hereby granted to that Company for a period of five years, beginning from the date of enactment of this law.

Clause. 2—From the date of establishment of the aerial service for a period of eighteen months, the Imperial Government will pay to Junkers a subsidy of three krans for each kilometre flown in accordance with the terms of Clause 1.

Clause 3.—At the end of the eighteen months mentioned in Clause 2 of this Bill, the Imperial Government will have the right to stop payment of the allowance mentioned in the same clause.

Clause 4.—The Junkers Company agrees to convey a weekly postal despatch with a weight of not less than 75 kilograms to and from each of the towns mentioned in Clause 1.

Clause 5.—During the period of concession, which is five years, the whole revenue accruing from the surtax collected by the Government from the aerial posts will be paid to the Junkers company after deduction therefrom of the expenditure of the Department. But when this revenue exceeds the sum of tomans four thousand, the surplus will not be paid to the Company. When the revenue in question is less than Tomans four thousand, the Company may not demand the balance. In view of the Treasury Law concerning the centralisation of revenues, a credit of tomans thirty-two thousand is hereby sanctioned to be paid to the Company out of the revenues accruing from the surtax of the air mail.

Clause 6.—Parliament hereby decrees that out of the saving of the credits already passed and sanctioned for the year 1304, a credit of tomans seventy-two thousand should remain at the disposal of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs in order that it may pay to the Junkers Company the amounts mentioned in Clauses 2 and 5. No payments are allowed to be made out of the above-mentioned credits before the amounts in question are duly secured therefrom.

Clause 7.—The aeroplanes will land in such towns situated on the lines of flight as the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs may designate.

Clause 8.—The charges and the conditions of passenger and freight traffic will be fixed with the approval of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs.

Clause 9.—The rate of the surtax for the air mail will be decided by the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs.

Clause 10.—The Ministries of War, of Posts and Telegraphs, the Interior and of Foreign Affairs are charged with the drafting and ratification of the contract for aerial service with the Junkers Company.

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NEWS IN BRIEF.

The total number of Jews in Palestine is now estimated authoritatively to be over 120,000.

The extraordinary session of the Bulgarian Sobranye has come to an end. The ordinary session will open on October 28.

M. Zankoff, the Bulgarian Prime Minister, has left Sofia for Switzerland, where he intends to take a holiday. He will, however, take advantage of this opportunity to meet certain foreign statesmen.

Sir Sefton Brancker, Director of Civil Aviation, and of the Imperial Airways, Limited, arrived in Baghdad on September 9, having completed the flight across the desert from Cairo to survey the proposed air mail route to India.

The trial by Court-martial at Salonika of the accused officials of the Greek Refugee Settlement Commission has been adjourned *sine die*. It is generally believed that they will be rearraigned before the Common Penal Courts, according to the recently signed decree.

The Government of India announces the withdrawal of the general restrictions on the entry of ex-enemy aliens into India. The decision is the result of the Anglo-German treaty and the withdrawal of all restrictions against the entry of ex-enemy aliens into the United Kingdom.

In the revised table of rates of station pay granted under the Pay Warrant the Military Attaché at Teheran receives £4 per diem, and at Belgrade (with Athens) £3 per diem, and the Military Attaché, graded as General Staff Officer (2nd grade), receives at Constantinople (with Sofia) £3 per diem, and at Bucharest £2 10s. per diem.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

(Continued from page 332.)

which had been left serviceable. The men had been stripped of their clothing by the raiders, but were unhurt, and they were able to arrange later to tow the abandoned cars to Damascus. A far more serious incident occurred last Saturday, when a convoy of eleven cars escorted by French cars carrying Arab soldiers and machine guns, was ambushed ninety miles from Damascus on its way to Baghdad. A running fight took place over twenty miles before the convoy threw off the attackers and made its way back to Damascus. The French Commandant died of his wounds and others of the escort were wounded. The sixty passengers, among them Dr. Millspaugh, the American Financial Adviser in Persia, and Mr. Keeling, of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, are reported to be proceeding to Baghdad *via* Amman. These outrages, following hard one upon the other, raise a serious question in regard to this Desert Mail Service from Damascus to Baghdad. There can be no doubt now that they are connected with the Druse insurrection and are symptomatic of the general unrest in French mandated territory. The Desert service, however, is a British organisation and, as there will be no desire to increase France's difficulties, a good case would seem to be made out for transferring the service, until the French authorities can announce that Syria has been pacified, to the safer route that offers from Jerusalem, *via* Amman, to Baghdad. From what is known of the Nairn Transport Company all its members may be expected to run cheerfully the risk attaching to the service to and from Damascus, but their passengers, while admiring their pluck and optimism, may not feel called upon to share them.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY

September 17, 1925 (New Style).
September 4, 1925 (Old Style).
Sapharr 1344 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Ellul 28, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

The ex-King George, of Greece, has arrived in London from France.

The Dowager Lady Boyle has returned to London from Switzerland.

Sir Henry and Lady Bax-Ironside are staying at the Hotel Royal, Dieppe.

M. Mishu, Secretary at the Roumanian Legation, has returned to London from Paris.

Shevky Pasha, Secretary at the Turkish Embassy, left London on September 8 for Geneva.

The Yugoslav Minister, M. Jouritch, left London last Sunday for Geneva and Belgrade, on leave.

Crown Prince Peter of Yugoslavia celebrated his second birthday on September 7 at Selce in Dalmatia.

Sir Ernest Budge had the honour of dining with the King and Queen at Balmoral Castle last Friday.

The Roumanian Minister and Mme. Titulesco, who are at present in Geneva, will return to London on September 25.

Brigadier-General and Mrs. L. C. Koe have left Hove and will sail in the s.s. Naldera on September 25 for a tour in the East.

The marriage of Mr. Percy Ball, Sudan Political Service, and Miss Maraquita Laura (Tiny) Phipps took place last Thursday at Bromham Church.

The Bishop of Calcutta travelled by the P. and O. boat express from Victoria last Thursday to join the steamship China at Marseilles for Bombay.

Air Marshal Sir John Salmond is attending the conference of the League of Nations, and he and the Hon. Lady Salmond are staying at the Hotel Richemond, Geneva.

M. Grégoire Michaesco, Commercial Attaché at the Roumanian Legation, left 78, Carlton Hill, St. John's Wood, last Thursday for Vichy, and will be absent a few weeks.

M. Tzokoff, who was Bulgarian Minister to the Court of St. James before the War, arrived in London last week from Paris, and is staying at 15 Aldford Street, Park Lane, W.1.

Princess Ileana, daughter of the Queen of Roumania, who is staying at the residence of the Roumanian Minister in London, is not expected to leave Grosvenor Street until September 25.

Dr. Constantine Sarafoff, the Bulgarian Chargé d'Affaires in Brussels, with Mme. Sarafoff, who have been the guests of the Bulgarian Minister in London, left last Thursday for Belgium.

Sir Malcolm Stevenson, Governor of Cyprus, who has been home on leave, accompanied by the Hon. Lady Stevenson and family, left last Friday for Tilbury to embark in the steamship Comorin for Port Said.

The engagement is announced of M. George V. Mélas, C.V.O., Secretary to the Greek Legation in London, and at present Chargé d'Affaires, son of Mme. Nadine Victor Mélas, of Athèns, and Mlle. Julia Salvago, daughter of M. and Mme. Michel C. Salvago, of Alexandria.

Sir Kay and Lady Muir have been entertaining a house-party at Blair Drummond, Perthshire, for the shooting. Their guests included the Marquess and Marchioness Douro, Lord and Lady Manton, Captain the Hon. Henry and Mrs. Howard, Sir Montague Barlow, Mrs. Ivan Stancioff, Lady Boyle, Count Rovasenda, and Miss Moyra Ponsonby.

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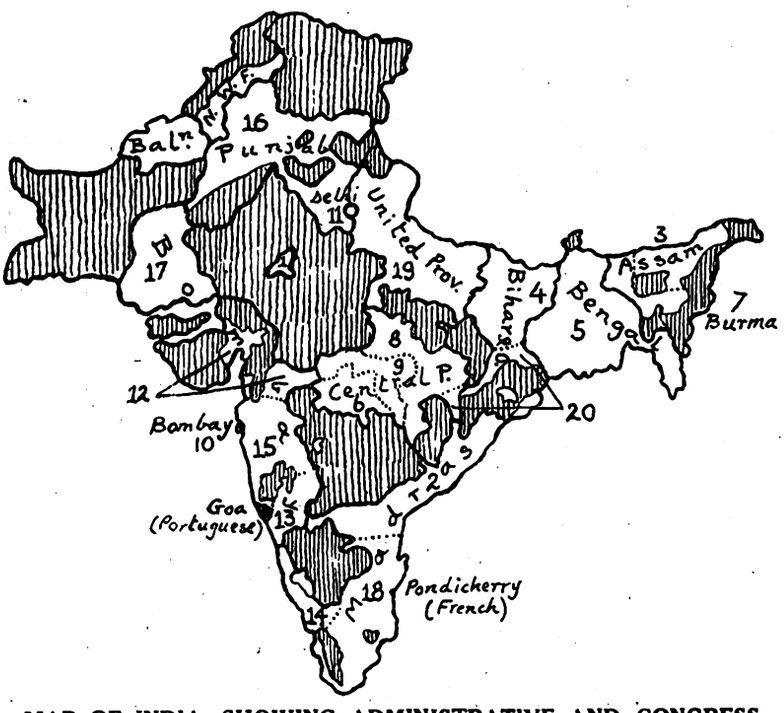
Indian Affairs.

"CONGRESS PROVINCES."

In view of the recent correspondence on Provincial Autonomy in India, an account of the unofficial redistribution of Provinces, made by the Indian National Congress to form the electoral units for delegates to the Congress, will perhaps be of interest. In the accompanying map, the continuous lines show the boundaries of the official administrative Provinces, and the dotted lines those of the Congress Provinces where they differ from the former. The selection was primarily made on a linguistic basis, though this has not, in all cases, been accurately followed. The most notable instance of linguistic readjustment is to be found in the Congress Province of Bengal, which includes the Bengali speaking part of the administrative Province of Assam: and the most noticeable instance of disregard of linguistic unity is to be found in the inclusion of the North-West Frontier Province, which speaks Pashtu, a totally distinct language, in the Congress Province of the Punjab. The Congress Provinces of the Punjab and Bengal are larger than their administrative originals: the United Provinces are practically the same: in all other cases, the Congress Provinces are smaller. Thus Bombay is divided into four: Sind, Gujarat, Maharashtra—speaking Sindhi, Gujarathi and Marathi respectively—and the City of Bombay, where Gujarati and Marathi are spoken in such equal proportions that it was considered impossible to subdivide it between Gujarat and Maharashtra. Madras is also divided into four "Provinces"—Karnatak (Canarese), Kerala (Malayalam), Tamil Nadu (Tamil) and Andhra (Telugu). The Central Provinces are divided into three "Provinces"—Berar (the Ceded Districts of Hyderabad, where Marathi is spoken) and the Hindi and Marathi speaking portions of the Provinces proper. Behar and Orissa are divided into their component parts, the latter, which speaks Uriya, being called Utkal. Baluchistan is ignored altogether, possibly because it speaks two quite distinct languages—Baluchi and Brahui—added to the fact that its political consciousness, so far as the Congress is concerned, is non-existent. Ajmer, which speaks the language of the Rajputs—Rajasthani—is reckoned as a separate Province; as is also Delhi, with the addition of a small part of the United Provinces—Meerut, Muttra and Muzaffarnagar—whose language is the Persianised form of Hindi known as Urdu.

The framers of the Congress constitution made no attempt at equalising the sizes or the population of their Provinces, or at distinguishing between Hindus and Mohammedans. The reason for the latter omission is obvious: that the Congress authorities were, practically without exception, Hindus. The geographical line of division between Hindu and Mohammedan in Begal is clear and definite; but the Bengali Hindu could not consider the possibility of reverting to the partition between Western and Eastern Bengal that he had fought so fiercely to repeal. The agitation against Lord Curzon's partition of Bengal was carried on entirely by the Bengali Hindus, ostensibily in protest against division of the "Bengali Nation": in actual fact because the nimble witted Bengali Hindu held all the minor official posts in Eastern as well as in Western Bengal, to the practical exclusion of the slower witted Mohammedan of the Eastern districts: and realised that the grant of "self-determination" to the latter would mean the eventual replacement of the Hindu "Babu" by his Mohammedan counterpart. For a similar reason, no doubt, the United Provinces were not separated into their component parts of Oudh and Agra, the former having a Moslem majority: the North West Frontier Province was reckoned as part of the Punjab, instead of as a separate entity: and Baluchistan was ignored: so that, on questions where the vote was taken by Provinces instead of by the counting of heads, the Mohammedan Provinces should be as few as possible.

Some years ago, at the Ahmedabad session of the National Congress, a Mohammedan firebrand brought forward a resolution for the declaration of "The United States of India" and the immediate organisation of a parallel Government on the Sinn Fein model. The idea proved most popular and it needed all the tact of Mr. Gandhi—then at the zenith of his power—to achieve its rejection: competent observers, indeed, confidently asserted that, if the vote had been taken immediately after the mover's speech, and before Mr. Gandhi had spoken, the resolution would have been carried by a large majority. The mover, when asked to develop his views on the Hindu-Mohammedan question, was credited with some interesting suggestions. One of these was that, though the Hindus would admittedly be in a great majority in the United States of India, there would still be a certain number of Provinces in which there would be a Mohammedan majority: and this fact would prove a powerful protection against any oppression of Mohammedans in a Hindu State, since the Mohammedan States would be able to preserve the balance by threatening



MAP OF INDIA, SHOWING ADMINISTRATIVE AND CONGRESS PROVINCES. (Shaded portions represent Indian States and tribal territory.)

CONGRESS PROVINCES.

1. Ajmere-Merward.
2. Andhra.
3. Assam.
4. Behar.
5. Bengal.
6. Berar.
7. Burma.
8. Central Provinces (Hindustani).
9. Central Provinces (Marathi).
10. City of Bombay.
11. Delhi.
12. Gujarat.
13. Karnatak.
14. Karala.
15. Maharashtra.
16. Punjab and N. W. F. Province.
17. Sind.
18. Tamil Nadu.
19. United Provinces.
20. Utkal.

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reprisals against their Hindu population. Another was his enumeration of the States that would have a Mohammedan majority—the Punjab, the North West Frontier Province, Baluchistan, Sind, Oudh, Bengal (or Eastern Bengal, if the Province were divided), Assam (on the assumption that the limits of the administrative Province would remain as they were, without the subtraction of the Bengali speaking districts as decreed by the Congress) and Kashmir. The inclusion of Kashmir—a mainly Mohammedan State with a Hindu ruling caste—appeared to suggest the inclusion of Native States, with or without the agreement of their rulers, in the scheme: and an explanation of this suggestion, offered by a leading Mohammedan extremist shortly afterwards, was particularly illuminating. He said that, while extremist Indian politicians found much to object to in British rule, such objections paled into insignificance when compared with their objections to Native State rule: which he declared to be founded, practically without exception, on "zulm" (tyranny) and a denial of justice—except the particular brand that a wealthy or influential suitor was able to purchase—that were almost beyond belief. His conclusion was that, on the day that the United States of India became an accomplished fact, there would be a revolution in every Indian State throughout the country, and their inhabitants would hasten to throw in their lot with whichever of the States of the Union happened to be nearest to them: even if such adherence were to be to a State whose majority was of the opposite religion. Several of the correspondents on the Provincial Autonomy question have mentioned the difficulty of assimilating the Indian monarchies to the Indian Republics of the future that they foresee: but none of them has suggested so drastic a solution as the above. There can, however, be no doubt that this is the solution that was present in the minds of the Indian Congress leaders when they fixed the limits of their Provinces: since these were, in fact, drawn on the map without exclusion of the Native States—a fact which led to the Congress' political map being treated as confidential, and to the greatest difficulty being experienced in obtaining a copy. For instance, the "Province" of Ajmer includes the whole of Rajputana: the "Province" of Kerala includes Mysore: and the line of demarcation between the "Provinces" of Maharashtra and Andhra passes through the State of Hyderabad.

INDIAN REFORMS.

As was, perhaps, inevitable, the Legislative Assembly carried on September 8, after two days' debate, Pandit Moti Lal Nehru's amendment to the Government resolution proposing acceptance of the principles underlying the majority Report of the Reforms Enquiry Committee. The combination of the Swarajist and Independent Parties which enabled the amendment to be carried by 72 votes to 45—significant figures when it is remembered that the official members of the House number 40—seems finally to have disposed of the hope that the Nationalists had realised the true value of the pronouncements of the Secretary of State and the Viceroy, and were beginning to turn their thoughts towards the co-operation which both had declared to be a necessary preliminary to a further advance. But examination of the terms of the admendment, and of the speech of the mover, shows that the solidity of the Swarajist-Independent combination is not so firm as it looks. The wording of the admendment had been carefully framed so as to combine the views of all Nationalist sections: and Moti Lal expressly said that his amendment must be accepted or rejected exactly as it stood—"it must not be altered by one comma." The result of this was, that all the Nationalist speakers were obliged to confine their remarks to general terms: any attempt, by any one of them, to dilate on particular details, would have run the risk of raising opposition from some other supporter of the amendment; so that no such attempt was made.

It is noteworthy that the Pandit and his supporters have discarded their previous claim that the Minority Report of the Reforms Committee should form the basis of Government action and that, in accordance with that report, a Royal Commission should be set up to formulate the terms of a further advance in the Reforms; for the amendment demanded the calling of a Convention in India, representative of all parties, which should place a scheme for the future constitution of India before the Assembly, who should consider it and forward the result of their consideration to Parliament for passage in the form of an Act. It is also noteworthy that Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya declared that what India wanted was "unadulterated Western models of representative government": thus, while endorsing Moti Lal's denunciation of diarchy as a failure, abandoning the contention that India resented, in it, an attempt to force upon her Western political methods foreign to her own ideas, and declaring that her resentment was limited to the fact that Diarchy was a contrivance foreign to Western no less than to Eastern ideas. The debate included a certain amount of violent speaking, such as the declaration by a back-bencher that Englishmen in India were nothing but a gang of thieves and robbers: and the statement by Mr. Jinnah, the Independent leader, that the horrors of India under bureaucracy were worse than those of anarchy; but these purple patches seem merely to have evoked merriment, not only among the European members but among Swarajists themselves. On the other hand, the opinion of an influential Mohammedan member, that Moslems wanted no further political development until their special minority demands had been granted, passed unheeded by the Nationalists, and had no effect on their decision to support the amendment as it stood.

On the whole, the result of the debate supports the conclusion put forward in a recent issue of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA: that, when there is an opportunity of showing opposition to Government on a big political question, Independents and Swarajists may be counted on to combine for the purpose, even though they are fully aware that such a political "gesture" in reality leads nowhere; but that, in matters of detail, where their attitude really counts for something, there are so many causes of disagreement between the supporters of Nationalism that effective combination is almost impossible: and it may reasonably be expected that, after their latest dramatic gesture, the Nationalist members of the Legislative Assembly will get down to business: and will not only show themselves to be sensible persons, alive to real facts, but also to be prepared to offer a considerable measure of co-operation in making the best of the present and in assisting to make the best of the future.

CURRENT TOPICS.

Sir Frederick Whyte.

A message from Simla announces that Sir Frederick Whyte has undertaken, on behalf of the Government of India, an investigation into the relations between Local and Central Governments in various parts of the world.

This announcement, which is apparently intended as a result of the claim, mentioned by Lord Reading in his speech at the opening of the Assembly, that Provincial autonomy and a Central Federal Government should take the place of Diarchy, would appear to be merely a deduction from Sir Frederick Whyte's known intentions as regards the route of his return to England from India next October. We are authoritatively informed that no such arrangement has been made. Sir Frederick Whyte intends to return to England via Australia, the Far East, and America: and it may well be that the fact, that his itinerary includes Australia, the United States, and perhaps

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Canada, has led to the belief that he will examine the Federal forms of Government obtaining in those countries, with a view to submitting a report to the Government of India. He may even have offered to do so, in which case it is not at all unlikely that the Government of India may have accepted the offer, as they would naturally welcome a statement, from so competent an observer as Sir Frederick Whyte, of his personal impressions on a subject that may quite possibly become one of practical importance before very long; but it seems certain that the report has no more substantial basis than this.

The High Commissioner's Staff.

The Council of State passed, on September 8, a resolution that Indianisation of the establishment of the High Commissioner for India should be carried out so far as is compatible with efficiency and economy, and should take place in the higher staff of the establishment. This was an amendment to the original resolution, which demanded unconditional Indianisation: the mover pointing out that only six per cent. of the whole staff were Indians: whereas, in the case of the other High Commissioners in London, all responsible offices were filled by them with their own nationals. The use of the phrase "responsible officers" seems to have been the deciding factor; for it was represented that, though the present High Commissioner—himself an Indian—was appointing Indians wherever possible, and that an Indian complexion was being given to his Department, the bringing of Indians to England to fill routine posts, which were in fact much better filled by Englishment recruited on the spot, would be a most uneconomic proceeding.

It is to be hoped that the selection of the High Commissioner's superior staff will be carefully made, and that only such Indians will be appointed as are really suitable for the very important duties of the High Commissioner's office. One remembers the dictum ascribed to the late Lord Morris: who, to a friend who said that, when making an appointment, one should, *ceteris paribus*, appoint a man whom one knew personally, is said to have replied, "*Ceteris paribus* be d—d." And ayone who has recently been in India will at once agree that the appointment of Indians to superior—even to the very highest—posts under the Indian Government has generally been based on the fact that they were Indians, this being their sole qualification for important duties. In the Departments of the Government of India, however, there are still European officials who stand in the same sort of relation to their Indian superior officers as do the permanent staff in England to their Parliamentary chiefs; so that this method, of assisting Indians in high places to learn the trade of government, is all to the good. But, in the case of an isolated Department such as that of the High Commissioner for India in London, any weakening of the "permanent staff" would be a serious matter; and, when the High Commissioner's existing European assistants are replaced by Indians, they will need individual qualifications in addition to their racial one.

Punjab Irrigation.

An authoritative statement regarding the great Sutlej irrigation scheme, at present under construction in the Punjab, says that the total area that will be irrigated by it comes to five million acres: of which two million acres will receive water for both the spring and autumn crops, and the remaining three million for one crop only. Nearly two million acres of the newly irrigated land will be in the Punjab, two and three quarter million acres in the State of Bahawalpur, and nearly a third of a million in the State of Bikanir. Of the total irrigated area, no less than three and three quarter million acres are, at present, absolute desert; so that, apart from the water rates, which are expected to produce a return of 12½ per cent. on the capital expenditure, the sale of the land, by the Governments concerned, will probably do more than defray the total cost of the undertaking, besides offering a valuable outlet for surplus population from elsewhere. The average economic holding per cultivator is reckonded to be twelve acres: and the average size of the Indian family is put at five persons: so that the three and three quarter million acres of reclaimed desert ought eventually to support a population of not less than a million and a half. It is expected that the newly irrigated land will prove eminently suitable for the production of good varieties of long-staple cotton.

India's Trade with England.

Two important articles in the *Financial News*, stated to emanate from an exceptionally well-informed and authoritative source, are deserving of close attention. The articles set out to show that the decline in India's absorbtion of British goods, which is relative and not absolute, is not due to political influences but to purely economic causes. British exports to India fall into two broad classes—cotton goods and the rest. In cotton goods, the pre-War British percentage of India's total imports was 94.4: it is now 82. In the rest, the percentages are 46.8 and 41. The percentage in cotton goods lost by Great Britain has been gained by Japan, and that in the rest almost entirely by the United States. As regards the former, the opinion is expressed that, as Japan is the most serious rival to both the Indian and British textile industries, it is high time that Bombay and Lancashire made common cause against the Japanese threat to their mutual interests.

As regards the latter, the need is for improved propaganda and expert salesmanship. Foreign competitors are improving their qualities, cutting their prices, and extending their propaganda. British manufacturers are doing a good deal in the same direction, but further effort is required. It is generally understood that the increased costs of post-War industry have led to a wider margin, than there was before the War, between the prices of raw materials and of manufactured goods, in spite of the improved value of the former: so that the vast bulk of the Indian population, whose sole industry is agriculture, simply cannot afford to pay the prices asked nowadays for the goods that they used to buy before the War: and this is the true explanation of their recent heavy expenditure on bullion, particularly gold. Here at last was a commodity that stood at or below pre-War values, representing credit in a visible and durable form to the cautious peasant, who knows that a good monsoon cannot always be relied upon and who is bent on making provision against the ever-recurring possibility of a poor harvest. But, of the manufactured articles that he does buy, the Indian is still just as ready, as he ever was, to buy British goods: though, in face of foreign competition, he nowadays needs more adroit and more persistent convincing that British goods are best and, in the long run, the cheapest. Commercial travellers with long experience of Indian bazaars are required: and British manufacturers would do well to combine in the employment of such men.

Further, the new Indian Stores Rules, which permit the purchase by the Government of India of plant and machinery from branches, established in India, of manufacturing firms borne on the official India Office list of approved firms, have for their object the encouragement of British manufacturers to maintain stocks and expert staff in India, leading eventually to further expansion of Indian industrial effort under the best British supervision. British manufacturers are urged to take advantage of this new departure and to establish branches in India where they have not already done so. If the British do not give a lead to India's industrial efforts, others will; but, if they do, their efforts will lead to an increase in the earning capacity of the Indian and to his conviction that Great Britain is a country in which his earnings may most profitably be spent; so that closer commercial co-operation between India and England cannot fail to be of value to both.

Germans in India.

The Government of India have announced the withdrawal of the general restriction against the entry of ex-enemy aliens into India. For some considerable time past, the Government of India has been embarrassed by this restriction, which was originally intended to be effective for five years after the conclusion of peace. The long

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delay that ensued after the Armistice, before the official "termination of the War" in August 1921, produced a state of affairs that was not foreseen at the time that the Government of India made its original announcement: and the expiry of the general restriction has now been ante-dated by nearly a year. The intention of Government, when making the announcement, which they perforce regarded in the nature of a promise, was to protect British commerce in India from the objectionable form of German penetration that existed before the War; but the abolition of similar restrictions in Great Britain, and in neighbouring countries such as Ceylon—especially in view of the fact that there are no passport restrictions between India and Ceylon—as well as the existence of the French and Portuguese settlements at Pondicherry, Goa, and a number of less important places, has, for a long time past, made the retention of the restriction a matter of great difficulty.

Some years ago, it was decided that applications by German nationals would be considered individually on their merits, and the general restriction against other ex-enemy nationals was, to all intents and purposes, abandoned. Applications by German firms to send representatives to India, or by Indian firms to import German experts, were fairly frequent: and, where a good case was made out by the applicant, these were generally granted for a restricted period; with the general result of further applications for the period to be extended. Thus an Indian firm would receive permission to import a German expert to set up some special form of machinery imported from Germany. When the period of his stay in India was about to expire, it would be explained that unexpected delay had occurred in receipt of the machinery, and that the expert's further retention was necessary, to complete its installation. Later, it would be represented that, though the machinery was installed, it was not yet working satisfactorily: and so on: so that the restriction became little more than a farce, while its existence seriously inconvenienced *bona fide* applicants. An attempt was made to differentiate between German commercial principals and employees, though this was not much more successful: there were cases in which alleged employees of German firms turned out, on arrival in India, to be principals.

The Government of India tried to get itself absolved from its promise by argument: pointing out that it was to the commercial interest of India to trade with Germany, one of its most important pre-War customers: and that, if restrictions were placed in the way of German trade to India, Germany would not be in a position to pay for Indian trade to Germany. In the meantime, as the latest statistics show, German trade with India has practically reached it pre-War level, in spite of the restrictions: and it is, perhaps, this fact that has led to the decision to abolish them. Whatever the reason, Government has cause to congratulate itself that they have been abolished: and it does not seem in the least likely that anyone else in India will experience any inconvenience from their disappearance.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, August 27.

The Viceroy's Speech.

The reception which has been accorded to Lord Reading's speech differs considerably in tone from that which greeted the pronouncement of the Secretary of State for India, although all sections of the Press feel that Simla has added nothing to the inadequate Westminster oration. The main distinction lies in the more human tone which the Viceroy has employed and it is here that he has shown his understanding of the people with whom he has to deal. Lord Birkenhead's rhetoric failed to impress the Indian people; in India the gilded phrase is looked upon with suspicion, as custom has ordained its usage to cloak insincerity, a fact which the extremist press has not been slow to grasp. In his appeal to the heart, the Viceroy took the right line, but evidences of distrust are still not fully dispelled. *Forward* attributes the motive behind the speech to a desire to pacify "a large and influential body" in France and America whose opinion is decidedly hostile towards British Imperialism and adds to this indictment that the speech is designed to make wholesale converts to the new-fangled creed of Diarchy. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is not quite sure of itself and drifts off into a criticism of Swarajist methods, the failure of which it puts down to the flush of partial success. The *Bengalee* publishes a long article from the pen of Mr. Sastri in which he says that India has been saved in the nick of time from anarchy and, while he puts forward the danger of unmitigated autocracy, he urges all parties to use the methods of patient effort and constitutional agitation, a sentiment which the *Bengalee* warmly endorses. To the man in the street the speeches, coupled with the downfall of the Swaraj party, create a situation which he finds difficult to assess and leaves him wondering what all the tumult is about. His faith in the Swaraj leaders is shaken and he is tired of agitation of the kind they advocate; herein lies the healthy sign.

The President of the Assembly.

Mr. V. J. Patel, the Bombay Swarajist, has been elected to the Chair of the Legislative Assembly by a narrow margin of votes, defeating Mr. Rangachariar, an Independent candiate and the late Deputy President. The record of the latter gentleman shows him to be one of the ablest debaters in the house, and on the occasions when he has been called upon to occupy the chair, he has done so with impartiality and dignity. Although Mr. Patel's reputation has municipal administration in Bombay to its credit, his prominence in the public eye is the result of his refusal to participate in the official welcome to the Viceroy at Bombay and also of his extreme views, expressed at a time when the Swarajist tendency was towards more moderate action. His acceptance of office creates a further paradox in the history of Indian politics. The avowed policy of the Swaraj party is to wreck the constitution, and it remains to be seen how Mr. Patel will adhere to his creed and efficiently discharge the duties of President at the same time. There is always the contingency that, having risen to a post of honour, he will moderate his views, but any indication of a change of front will result in a brush with his Swaraj supporters before the present session of the Assembly is much older: and, should he see fit to decide a point against them, even the extensive vocabulary of *Forward* will be insufficient for his denunciation. Mr. Patel has shouldered a grave responsibility in his new position; his survival, or otherwise, of the test imposed upon him will form an indication of the fitness of the Swaraj party to hold the reins of Government.

Resignations.

On Wednesday last, Mr. Sen Gupta took it upon himself to state that the Swaraj party was in no danger of breaking up and in his usual bombastic style announced that, although several Councillors had resigned from the Municipal Congress Association, which he inferred differed from the Swaraj Party in the main, he had little doubt that he would be able to prevail upon them to return. His hopes have not been realised and two further resignations from prominent Mohammedan Swarajists have been handed in. The more sensational is that of Dr. A. Suhrawardy, who was recently the Swaraj nominee for the chair of the Legislative Council. This sudden change has been the result of Gandhi's interference. It appears that the Mahatma took exception to a visit which the Doctor paid to Lord Lytton and accused him of having sold his country. The other resignation comes from Shah Syed Emdadul Huq, an Eastern Bengal Zemindar. Mr. Huq has for some time past advocated the amelioration of the conditions of the peasants, but on his tabling resolutions to this end has met with no sympathy from the Swarajists, whose policy appears to be for the preservation of the unjust privileges enjoyed by the Zemindars who are leading members of the Swaraj Party. This is a revelation of the utmost importance and shows the true motive behind the

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extremist cause. From time immemorial the Zemindars have practically owned the *ryots* on their estates and have succeeded in keeping them poor by a variety of pernicious systems; it is not to the interest of these gentry that the peasant class should receive enlightenment, as this would cause a very real decrease in their income. Mr. Huq's statement provides the Moderates with evidence of the most convincing type, and they should see that it receives the publicity which its importance demands. By throwing in their lot with the Swarajists, the masses of India take the shortest route to the achievement of national suicide, for the goal of the party is not "equal chances for all": they seek to keep themselves rich and, so long as that end is achieved, methods do not matter. The warmest adherents to the Swaraj creed are prompted by selfish motives; these are not the leaders whose names come prominently into print; the leaders are their dupes.

The New Market Burial.

As a result of the Corporation's decision to exhume the body of the beggar from its grave in the New Market, a demonstration meeting of Mohammedans was held in Halliday Park on Sunday last. While the views of that community appear to have undergone a change in that they say it does not matter what religion the deceased professed, their real objection is to the disturbing of the grave. The speeches in the main were extreme in tone, one worthy Muslim going so far as to threaten that if the grave were interfered with dire consequences would follow. Another development has been the inception of a Moslem Councillors' Association, the moving spirits being the Mohammedans who left the Council Chamber as a protest agains the Corporation's resolution. At the inaugural meeting of this body it was resolved that the Mohammedan Councillors who have not yet broken with the Swarajists should be urged to do so and, if they refuse, an appeal is to be made to their constituents. If this agitation has been organised to administer the *coup de grace* to the Hindu Moslem Pact, its mission has certainly been fulfilled, but history proves that to meddle with the religious feelings of the Mohammedan masses is to fan an ever smouldering fire; should it burst into flame on this occasion, there is no knowing to what extent the conflagration may spread before being brought under control; it can never be quenched. The weapon is a pretty one to flaunt in the face of the Swarajist Corporation, and creates a situation with which they might be called upon to cope on the attainment of Swaraj in its fullest sense. Will the Swarajists be cowed by the display of force by their Mohammedan brethren? Both sides are on their mettle.

Markets.

The report this week is not encouraging. Dull conditions have ruled in the jute and gunny market with only a small business passing at varying prices; at the close the tone was quiet but steady. The tea market shows no signs of recovery from its recent depression, and advices from London indicate a further lowering of rates; this is in conformity with the position here, where sales this week have resulted in declines for all grades but the best, and these have been sold at lower rates owing to a falling off in quality. Stock returns should be to hand next week and, while nothing abnormal is anticipated, the statement should give an indication of the future tendency of the market.

The share market has displayed no particular feature. A somewhat easier feeling has been apparent in most departments in sympathy with the general conditions. Jutes have been irregular and show declines on the week; the best coal shares continue to command a fair amount of attention, but teas and cotton remain neglected. A fair business has been done in Government Stocks at lower rates, and rubbers have been steadier with no scrip offering.

The Trade returns for July show an increase in imports and decrease in exports over the previous months. Money is still abundant at previous rates, with exchange very steady.

BOMBAY LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bombay, August 27.

The session of the Bombay Legislative Council at Poona came to a somewhat abrupt end a fortnight ago. The session was expected to last till about Wednesday, August 19; and on Saturday morning there were still a large number of resolutions in the name of Swarajist members on the list, any one of which might have been expected to last for several hours.

On Friday night, however, the Swarajists considered themselves aggrieved because one of their resolutions was opposed by the united vote of the Government members, the non-Brahmins, and the Sindhis: and they therefore determined to adopt non-co-operation unless they could get some redress from Government. As, however, the co-operation of this particular party consists, in the Legislative Council, solely in proposing and voting for purely obstructive resolutions, their abstention was more welcome than otherwise: and Saturday's business consisted entirely of watching the numerous resolutions, standing in the name of Swarajist members, go by default owing to their refusal to take any part in the proceedings.

It is equally unfortunate that the Swarajist Party should be unable to maintain the recognised position of a minority in fighting on against odds, and that their policy should be regarded as so wholly obstructive that their abstention from the business of the House should be regarded by everyone concerned as the greatest of benefits. The Non-Brahmins are meanwhile consolidating their position as a recognised Opposition with a constructive and reasonable policy, and their party in the Bombay Council is probably the best and strongest in India.

In the Legislative Assembly at Delhi, on the other hand, all the opposition parties have combined to carry a vote of no confidence in the personnel of the admirably constituted Currency Commission. There is no doubt about it that the Indian, who is not by nature or training an expert in international finance, is possessed of a very definite idea that the rise of the rupee has been engineered in the interests of England as against India. The theory that the appreciation of currency leads to bad trade and unemployment is obviously gaining ground in many countries at present: and, as has been shown in a previous letter, Bombay mill owners are inclined to attribute their present difficuities in great part to the fall in the yen/rupee rate. But the opposition to the present Commission goes far further than this, and concerns itself with the mythical drain on India's resources that is supposed to be taking place towards Europe: a theory that, in view of the enormous influx of gold and silver into India, is a little difficult to understand. But, whatever the reasons, it is quite certain that what the Indian members of the Legislative Assembly want is a Currency Commission, pledged to bring back the 1s. 4d. rupee regardless of any argument: and the fact that the members of the Commission are all recognised experts on Indian or international finance, who may be relied on to express an opinion in the interests of all concerned—and, after all, in matters of finance the interests of India are ultimately those of England—has no weight with them.

The Central Bank of India.

The run on the Central Bank this week has been a most unfortunate illustration of the lack of confidence of Indians in their own management of affairs. The Central Bank which, a year or two ago, absorbed the Tata Industrial Bank, has, under the management of Mr. Pochkhanawalla, been for a number of years a great source of pride to all who are interested in Indian industry. It has built up a very sound position, and is now very considerably ahead of any other native Indian Joint Stock Bank, and is one of the most successful Indian institutions of any kind in the country.

Yet on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week it was subjected by its Indian clients to one of the most determined attacks that any bank has ever faced. How far the run

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was deliberately organised, or whether it was merely the result of a meaningless panic, will never presumably be known. But the Central Bank kept its doors open till midnight on Tuesday and, with the aid of the Imperial Bank and of the Currency Office, which kept it supplied with notes of all denominations, it was able to meet with comfort all calls made on it. The run continued on a smaller scale on Wednesday, but it is understood that it had ceased on Thursday.

The episode is much to the credit of the bank, but it is disappointing that its Indian clients should have shown so little confidence in the ability of their countrymen as to develop a foolish panic of such magnitude.

The Cotton Mills.

A deputation of mill owners interviewed the Viceroy during the week, but were informed that the financial situation did not allow of the abolition of the Excise Duty: whereupon Mr. N. N. Wadia, the leader of the deputation, is reported to have announced, with some heat, his intention of appealing to Lancashire for assistance in averting the common danger to India and England.

That such a retort should be possible shows how far we have moved from the days when it was considered that the Excise Duty was imposed solely to protect English piece-goods from Indian competition. It is now an article of faith with the mill owners that the main effect of the Excise Duty is to encourage the dumping of Japan's surplus production into India: and it is assumed that this is almost as obnoxious to Manchester as to Bombay.

No further developments are reported as to whether it is intended to bring the general reduction of wages into effect next week, and there is no information available as to the prospects of a strike.

THE INDIAN MAIL.

The Howrah Bridge.

The mail brings the news of the appointment of a Committee of the Bengal Legislative Council to consider the Government Bill for raising the money for the construction of a new bridge over the Hoogly at Calcutta, to replace the existing bridge of boats, which is sadly in need of replacement. The decision, that its replacement was necessary, was arrived at in 1909; but twelve years were expended in argument about the form of the new bridge: and it was not until 1921 that the supporters of a cantilever bridge carried the day. The Bengal Government then took two years to consider means of financing the project, but finally drafted a Bill, to the introduction of which the Government of India delayed sanction for several months. It was eventually introduced, in the Bengal Legislative Council, in August, 1924; but the Swarajists in the Council insisted that it should first be circulated for public opinion; so that the Committee, then appointed to consider the provisions of the Bill, lapsed and another year's delay ensued. A fresh Committee (of the unwieldy number of 25) has now been appointed and instructed to report as soon as possible. The chief duty of the Committee will be to report how the funds are to be raised; this will not be easy, since no person or public body wishes to contribute, though all are anxious that others should do so, and all are agreed that the Government of India should bear a share of the cost—which they have declined to do.

The Bill provides for the expenditure of the money required to build a cantilever bridge, but is capable of being modified so as to provide for a less permanent and less expensive structure. A pier bridge is not possible, since such a bridge would be likely to lead to silting—a form of trouble that is serious enough in the Port of Calcutta as it is: and the three remaining alternatives are cantilever, and a twin or a single bridge of boats. The report of the Committee, whatever it may be, will have to run the gauntlet of discussion in the Council, to which the Government of Bengal have left the final decision: and it is locally considered certain that the report will advise against a cantilever bridge: so that, to quote the *Statesman*, "the second city of the Empire will now revert to the primitive bridge of boats beloved by the late Julius Cæsar, and direct railway communication between Calcutta and the North of India will be postponed for another quarter of a century."

Bombay Swarajists.

The Swaraj Party in the Bombay Legislative Council have gone on strike and have refused to take any further part in the proceedings of the Council: of the resolutions and questions standing in the name of members of the party, none was moved or asked. The reason given by the leaders for this party manœuvre is a quaint one. They say that the Mohammedans and non-Brahmins passed a number of resolutions, with the assistance of the voting strength of the Swaraj Party, by which they obtained considerable concessions from the Provincial Government; but, when the Swarajists demanded reciprocal support, for their own resolutions, from their erstwhile allies, the latter refused to give it. They therefore decline to continue to assist the other communities to extract benefits from an unwilling bureaucracy: and propose to leave them to their own unaided devices in future, to see how they like it. No doubt they hope that the other communities will not like it: and will agree to play in the Swarajists' yard, if the Swarajists will continue to allow them to play in theirs.

"Indian Sandhurst" Committee.

When the personnel of the Indian Sandhurst Committee was first announced, objection was taken to the fact that it included no Mahratta representative: which, considering the excellent record of the Mahratta regiments in the War, was looked upon as a grave injustice. It is now announced that the omission is to be repaired, and a Mahratta representative appointed: and opportunity has been taken, at the same time, to add a representative from Madras.

The Committee held its first sitting shortly before the last mail left India. It will be interesting to see what decision it arrives at regarding its projected visit to this country and to Canada, to study the conditions at Sandhurst and Kingston. It does not seem possible that either of the European members—Sir Andrew Skeen, the Chief of the General Staff, and Mr. Burdon, the Army Secretary—will be able to make the trip: or that the prominent Indian politicians who are members of the Committee will find it possible to tear themselves away from the game of Indian politics which is in such an interesting state just now. It seems likely that the Committee will choose a deputation to represent them on tour: and, even if the result of their investigations is unlikely to be striking, they will doubtless have a good time, and thoroughly enjoy their trip.

Ibn Saud and the Hedjaz.

The Bombay Jamiat-ul-Ulema (Council of Doctors of Moslem canon law) have passed resolutions that outrages in the Hedjaz have been proved against Ibn Saud's soldiers, by whom many mosques and graves have been defiled or demolished at Mecca and Taif: that Ibn Saud was personally responsible for those outrages and had therefore merited their "severe hatred and contempt": that the leaders of the Central Khilafat Committee should be asked whether they would call upon Ibn Saud for an explanation of his false denial of the outrages, and whether they still continued to trust Ibn Saud's pledges after the proof that they had received of the falsity of his statements.

At a meeting of the Central Khilafat Committee, presided over by Shaukat Ali, it was stated that Ibn Saud had promised to see that the mosques and graves were repaired: that in no circumstances would he touch the holy places of Medina, or wage war there: and that, as soon as communications were safe, he would invite all Moslems to meet at an International Moslem Conference, for the purpose of "shouldering the responsibility, with his party in the Hedjaz, in freeing the Hedjaz from foreign domination" and for deciding on a constitution for the Holy Land.

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Shaukat Ali said it was the duty of Moslems to see that the Jezirat-ul-Arab ("Island of Arabia") was freed from non-Moslem hands: and, though the Turks had driven away the Khalifa from their country, he would assure the whole world that Moslems would not rest content until the Khalifa was restored to his former position, with his seat in the Jezirat-ul-Arab.

Shaukat Ali's younger brother, Mahomed Ali, was invited (at Delhi) to express an opinion: and said that Ibn Saud should be asked to restore all the damaged or desecrated buildings, or at least to allow Mohammedans to do so at their own cost: and added, that such a matter could not be decided by any Conference, whose duties should be confined to political matters.

For the moment, therefore, Ibn Saud's stock appears to be at a discount in India: and the Ali brothers are doubtless repenting of their previous whole-hearted acceptance of his claims as a champion of Islam. Shaukat Ali's demand for the restoration of the deposed Sultan of Turkey as Caliph of the Moslems, with his seat in Arabia, suggests that the Central Khilafat Committee have finally recognised the claim of Arab independence from Turkey: and is not likely to increase the popularity of Indian Moslems with their European co-religionists; nor, perhaps, with Ibn Saud.

The Jezirat-ul-Arab.

It will perhaps be noticed that, at the meeting of the Central Khilafat Committee referred to above, Shaukat Ali improved upon Ibn Saud's formula of freeing the Hedjaz from foreign domination, by substituting the phrase "Jezirat-ul-Arab" for "Hedjaz." The exact meaning of "the Island of Arabia" is a matter of dispute. According to the "Traditions," the Prophet, shortly before his death, ordered his followers to "eject Jews and Christians from the Island of Arabia." When the Prophet died, his temporal dominions were bounded on the North by a line drawn from the head of the Gulf of Akaba to the head of the Persian Gulf—roughly, by the thirtieth parallel of latitude. It is therefore permissible to suppose that, by the "Island" of Arabia, the Prophet meant the Arabian Peninsula. But subsequent Moslem geographers have interpreted the term in a wider sense: claiming, as the boundaries of the "Island," the Mediterranean on the West, so as to include Syria and Palestine, and the Euphrates and Tigris on the North and East, so as to include Mesopotamia.

Thus, if the Arabian Peninsula was the subject of the Prophet's instructions, the only part of it under non-Moslem domination is Aden: though the presence of a British Consul at Jeddah, and—when they existed—of British advisers to King Hussain, was, of course, obnoxious to a strict interpretation of the Prophet's words. But, if the geographers' definition is to be accepted, the presence of Christians and Jews in Mesopotamia, Syria, Palestine, and Trans-Jordania is equally obnoxious. On one side, it is argued that the religious meaning of the phrase, as present in the mind of the Prophet, can only have been the Peninsula, of which he died the temporal master: and that any subsequent geographical widening of the boundaries of the "Island" cannot be held to extend the religious obligation laid upon his followers by the Prophet's orders. On the other side, it is argued that the Prophet foresaw the extension of the sway of Islam to (and beyond) the confines of the enlarged "Island" and intended his injunction to apply accordingly. There are, in the Koran, several references to a region, not specified, called "al arz"—the land: which commentators consider to have meant Syria (including Palestine): as being of equal sanctity with the Arabian Peninsula itself. At any rate, it seems obvious that the Prophet's immediate successors, if they knew of his embargo against Christians and Jews, did not interpret it as applying to Syria: for the conqueror of Jerusalem explicitly permitted members of both communities not only to remain there, but to carry on their worship undisturbed.

After all, if Shaukat Ali and his followers feel it incumbent on them to carry out the orders of the Prophet in this particular, it is not necessary for them to worry about the lesser or the greater interpretation of the "Island": for, under either of the two interpretations, Aden is part of the Jezirat-ul-Arab, so that they might begin with that, and defer consideration of the rest until they have succeeded in "ejecting Jews and Christians" from there.

INDIAN EXCHANGE.

London, September 14.

Rates in India since our last report have been dead steady at 1s. 6 5-32d. for telegraphic remittances, with only a very limited inquiry at 1-64th higher.

Business, however, has been done between the Government and the Banks at 1s. 6 3-16d., to the extent of close upon two million pounds, and it is, therefore, evident that the import demand falls far short of the market requirements in order to finance the volume of exports.

The activity is chiefly on the Calcutta side, where shipments of jute are now on the move.

In the London market the quotations have been round about 1s. 6 3-16d., with only a little business done at this figure, which was not easily obtainable.

Transactions during the week have been usually put through at 1s. 6 7-32d., and at this rate the market was very steady on Monday.

A flutter was caused last week by the announcement of the India Government's official forecast of the jute crop, which has now been considerably reduced. The official estimates have always erred on the short side, and further details are awaited with much interest. Private advices anticipate a more satisfactory outturn than that given in the Indian trade cable of the 8th instant, which announced the final forecast of the jute crop in Bengal at 6,983,000 bales.

Prices have recorded a substantial advance, much to the chagrin of not a few in the industry who have been relying upon a larger crop and expected a reaction.

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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

170, *Strand, London, W.C.2.*
Tuesday Morning.

Britain's Export Trade.

There has recently been published a "Survey of Overseas Markets," the result of the labours of the Committee on Industry and Trade appointed by Mr. Ramsay MacDonald in July, 1924. This volume affords interesting and valuable reading, as it examines each country in turn and sets out the principal factors affecting the development of British trade in that particular market. It is impossible in a short space to analyse its findings, and the Survey is worthy of being carefully studied by all interested in export trade. Briefly stated, the Committee's findings are to the effect that the adverse forces which still operate in overseas markets to retard the full recovery of British trade are in the main world-forces, which operate with equal intensity against the trade of other exporting countries. With minor local exceptions which do not appreciably affect the general situation, British trade, broadly speaking, is not at present suffering from adverse discrimination as compared with that of other exporting countries. Of the main forces with which British trade has to contend some are transitory, such as the instability of exchange, the dearth of capital, the impaired purchasing power and the general financial and economic weakness of our customers, following the War. The world is still poorer for the waste of war, and years of hard work will be necessary to re-establish its purchasing power; but, given peace and political stability, there is no reason to doubt that recovery will take place. Other forces, however, like the growth of manufacture in the less industrially developed countries, undoubtedly represent permanent tendencies, with which traders must inevitably reckon in future, and to which it is, therefore, essential that they should strive with all their power to accommodate their outlook, their methods, and their organisation.

The Competitive Situation.

In dealing in turn with each country, the "Survey of Overseas Markets" has many practical comments and some helpful advice to give to the British trader. Thus in regard to Roumania it is stated that reconstruction and development have been retarded by a variety of causes and by the adoption of restrictive measures of an experimental nature; but, it is added later, the policy of the country in regard to foreign trade has altered for the better in many respects, and with a greater measure of freedom from control and intervention the prospects of further improvement are favourable. The class of goods obtained from Great Britain in the past will continue to be taken by Roumania, but competition there is bound to be. If the high cost of British goods is maintained, a considerable portion of the trade will be diverted to Czecho-Slovakia, Poland, and especially, to Italy, for suppliers in these countries have been more accommodating towards the Roumanian buyers. Again, in the case of Turkey the British mercantile position in Constantinople, the "Survey" states, is strong; but in view of the tendency for towns in the interior to try to cut out Constantinople, and of the entrance into business of numerous Turkish firms, it would seem desirable that steps should be taken by British exporters to send travellers to the towns in the interior to examine conditions for themselves, and above all to make those personal contacts without which business in Turkey is impossible. The personal element is also emphasised as an important factor in trade relations with Yugoslavia, and indeed will become more and more the key to success in all business in the Near and Middle East. Fortunately, the necessity is already recognised in some quarters, and our own columns have borne testimony to the energy and shrewdness of the head of one firm who finds it worth while to tour widely, from time to time, in the Near and Middle East.

Egypt as a Cotton Goods Market.

Wherever the trade outlook is discussed, one is left with the conviction that British exporters must set much more store than they have done hitherto on details connected with their business. In the Report recently published of the British Commercial Secretary in Egypt, extracts from which appear on another page, there is a very comprehensive survey of the Egyptian market for cotton piece-goods. The results of the year's (1924) trading, it is stated, cannot, from the point of view of United Kingdom firms, be considered to have been very satisfactory, as, with certain exceptions, the volume of goods supplied by the United Kingdom decreased very considerably, while in many of the principal lines Italian firms made extraordinary headway. The heavy fall in the lira exchange was, of course, a contributing factor, and there has been a certain amount of Egyptian investment in lire; but, continues the Report:—"The methods of merchanting adopted by Italian houses and their local representatives may be worth examination. The goods are normally sold c.i.f. Alexandria at a price quoted in lire with varying discount rates, according to the standing or importance of the client. There are no extras to the prices quoted, as these include packing, patterns, shipment, Customs dues, etc." There can be little doubt that business in the future will go where attention is paid to the psychology of trade, the details of packing and attractive make-up, and where consideration is given to the wishes and the convenience of the local purchaser.

Germany in the East.

German trade successes in the Near and Middle East are becoming items of frequent mention in the Press these days. It is perhaps, possible to attach too much importance to them; for after being entirely cut off from these markets, it is inevitable that our German rivals should make special efforts to get a footing in them again. Thus in Persia German trade in 1923-24 was double what it was in the previous year, but even so amounted only to a little over one per cent. of the total. As evidence, however, of the trend of things there is the spinning and weaving mill being erected in Ispahan, under German supervision and with, of course, German machinery. Again, it is the Junkers Aeroplane Company which has

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secured the contract for three regular air services between Teheran and, respectively, Enzeli, Bushire and the Iraq frontier. From Afghanistan comes the report that a German firm has secured the monopoly for all exports and imports. Further information on the subject would seem to be necessary before the precise significance of the alleged agreement can be gauged. It is said to provide also for the working of all mines in the country. The moral of it all would seem to be that no market these days is to be ignored. Competition is bound to be severe, but in the long run the quality of the goods will tell, if only adequate steps are taken to make that quality sufficiently known.

Greece's War Debts.

It is the principle rather than the amount involved that makes the agreement for the adjustment of Greece's War indebtedness to Great Britain such a satisfactory matter. The Greek Government has faced the music and, as was to be expected, has found her creditor very easy to deal with. Greece's War debt to Great Britain has been fixed at £20,710,312, inclusive of capital and interest up to March 31, 1925 and, together with one year's interest at five per cent. on the principal of the debt, will be represented by Treasury Bills falling due on March 31, 1926, which will be given by Greece to the British Government. Part of this debt represents the cost of material supplied to Greece under the Agreement of 1918, estimated at about nine millions sterling. Before asking for the repayment of any of this sum, the British Government has agreed to take into consideration Greece's general economic and financial situation. At the same time the damage caused by British troops when in occupation of Greek territory during Greece's neutrality will be offset against Greece's indebtedness to Great Britain. In regard to the balance of the debt then left payment will be arranged for on the lines to be fixed by Great Britain for her Allied War debts in general. Greece has set a commendable example in thus arranging for a settlement of her indebtedness to Great Britain. It was only in July that the decision authorising agreement on the subject was taken, and the signature of the formal document followed within two months, in spite of the difficulties through which the country has been passing as a result of the unfortunate struggle with Turkey.

Persia's Finances.

The wisdom of enlisting Western support in the administration of the finances of an Eastern country has been abundantly borne out by Persia's experience. Revenue has exceeded expenditure, it is pointed out in a recent British Commercial Report, since the American Mission took over the direction of the nation's finances, moreover, actual expenditure appears to be decreasing, while revenues increase. A report by the American Administrator-General brings the story down to March last, and it is stated that in spite of the fact that crops were the worst of any season since the famine year of 1918, revenues in general continue to show improvement. General trade conditions throughout the country also improved, and Dr. Millspaugh concludes the report by saying: "With order and stability still reigning in the country, may we all join in an effort to make the present year a year in which the work already done shall come to full fruition." In view of the fact that it has been the announced policy of the Persian Government and its American advisers for the last two years to attract foreign capital for co-operation with local interests in the development of the country's resources and the establishment of modern industries, and to secure from abroad a loan sufficient to permit of the construction or completion of modern roads or railway systems and the development of Persia's agricultural resources, the allusion in Dr. Millspaugh's words is taken to be that he hopes to arrange for an early loan for Persia. In this connexion a quotation from the British Commercial Report to which reference has already been made is apposite:—"Persia is doing her best to keep faith with her creditors, and in so doing she is strengthening her position against the day when she may need to float a large reconstruction loan, such as has already been said by the American advisers to be a necessity to the progress of the country."

Ships—and Ships.

Last week the Sanitary Inspectors' Association was holding its annual conference at Liverpool, and the programme included a visit of inspection to two White Star liners in the port. In the course of a brief speech of welcome the representative of the White Star Line referred to the company's vessels as being each a compact town or village in itself. The Majestic, he pointed out, had left for America the previous week with 3,500 people on board. Now, in addition to the constant sanitation in the way of cleaning after each voyage, these ships undergo every six months rigorous fumigation. Every crevice and corner of the vessel is stopped up and, of course, everybody on board, including the cats, has to leave. One day, it is to be hoped, the same strict attention to cleanliness will permeate the Near East, both in regard to steamers and trains. Time was when in certain coasting steamers the first-class deck, if not the saloon, might have to be shared with sheep. Things have, of course, improved very much since then; but even to-day the wary traveller will be careful as to the line of steamers on which he makes the most delightful of trips—from the point of view of scenery—on the Danube. There is, perhaps, no Sanitary Inspectors' Association in the Balkans at present: but it would be quite easy for an official of each company to be appointed to inspect every steamer before it started on a fresh trip and to satisfy himself that in the matter of cleanliness the vessel was up to the mark. In a comparatively short time officers, crew and passengers would adapt themselves to an improved standard, with advantage to the ship, themselves and the Company.

COMMENTATOR.

The Bank of Athens has opened a branch at Durazzo, and thus has the credit of being the first bank to begin business operations in Albania. A week ago the National Bank of Albania was formally created in Rome, but it has not yet been announced when premises will be opened in Albania.

An attempt will be made early next year to recover the treasure, amounting to over a million sterling, that went down in the P. and O. Egypt, which sank off the coast of Ushant in May 1922, after collision with a French cargo steamer. The Egypt carried £839,000 in gold, and £250,000 in silver. A contract for the salvage work has been entered into with the Towage and Salvage Company of Gothenburg, which after several months' search has been able to locate the wreck. The services of a French firm belonging to Brest will be utilised and a German deep-sea diving apparatus employed.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £ ...	97⅛	97⅜—9'16
Athens	Drachmæ to £ ...	25 22½	330-335
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	270—273
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.35—20.39
Berne	Francs to £.....	25.22½	25.10-25.13
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 3/16 - 18 7/32
Brussels	Francs to £..... ...	25.22½	109 85—110.45
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	982—995
Budapest	Kronen to £	24 02	345-347,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 3/16—18 7/32
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	850—865
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.84⅜—4.84⅜
Paris	Francs to £.....	25.22½	102 90—103.40
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	163¾
Rome	Lire to £	25 22½	116
Sofia.....	Leva to £	25.22½	670
Teheran	Krans to £	50	43.25
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	34.38-34 42
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	28—29

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THE LIUBLIANA SAMPLES FAIR.

(From Our Correspondent in Yugoslavia.)

Liubliana, September 2.

A Clash of Exhibitions.

In spite of economic depression and the special crisis through which Slovenia's chief standby, viz., the timber industry, is passing at the moment, the Fifth Liubliana Samples Fair was duly opened on August 29, and will last for ten days. It was rather a pity that the Subotitza Fair was held so immediately before it that the two events practically clashed, and that a big Hunters' Exhibition will open in Zagreb on September 8, claiming one of the most attractive features of last year's Fair, the contents of the Hunters' Pavilion—which would well have borne repetition. All the same, this year's Fair is looking well, and unexpectedly good business is being done. For one thing, the clerk of the weather is being kind for once, and visitors and dealers can see what there is to be seen and transact their business without wandering in and out of an all-depressing downpour.

Familiar Features.

Many features have by this time become familiar in the Liubliana Samples Fair—paper from the United Paper Mills (Vevche, etc.,) machinery from the Carniolan Smelting Works (Kranjska Industrijska Druzbr) and the Liubliana Machine Works, an exceptionally mellow-toned peal of bronze bells, a large display of foot-gear, basket-work furniture, wines and spirits, Slovene lace, in greater quantity than usual, and the inevitable Bosnian filigree stands, where one marvelled how little ornaments entailing so much hand labour and made of real silver, could be offered at so modest a price. And there are several interesting new departures.

Cement and brick works are greatly in evidence, housed in separate pavilions, constructed of their own material. The big canning factory "Globus" at Vrhnika is actually showing real jam made according to the English recipe, and offering it at reasonable prices. There is even apple jelly. Accessories for wireless apparatus have found their way here, too, and since the opening of the fair, a Liubliana firm has been advertising facilities for listening-in.

A very pretty novelty was a properly appointed and arranged green-house, such as I have not seen since I came to this country. It was shown by a native firm in Brod on the Save, and the flowers inside it as well as the cut blooms exhibited by the same firm were really "show" specimens! Perhaps there is not that incentive to cultivate beautiful, but practically artificial or exotic blooms in hothouse or garden in a country where the ordinary wild flowers are the prized garden flowers of less favoured climates, and the old-fashioned cottage garden favourites flourish without any trouble whatever. Adjoining this greenhouse there stands a wood-built villa, recommended as a useful sort of dwelling in days of housing shortage and high prices for building.

A sumptuous display of Oriental carpets and rugs by a Constantinople, London, and Vienna firm is a new and valuable exhibit. The number of B.S.A. motor bicycles has increased very greatly; the only aeroplane on show is of British make—so is one of the Liubliana Sporting Club's racing boats. The Hygienic Exhibition is practically the same as last year.

The Czecho-Slovak Pavilion is taken up altogether by exhibits of the world-famous Skoda Works, once an immense arms factory and now given up to works of peace. The firm is showing milk separators, motors, various machine parts, and plans for model slaughter-houses.

The Vogue of Sport.

The Sports Exhibition shows what has already been done for the development of sport in this country, and suggests many possibilities. Motoring, football, boxing, wrestling, rowing, ski-running, mountaineering and bicycling are represented, and it is here that the aeroplane already mentioned is to be seen. Skating and tennis are only represented by photographs of good exponents of these sports. The number of cups in all sections testify again to the fact that the Slovenes, though few in number, furnish the majority of Yugoslavia's best athletes. Ski-runners and mountaineers have obviously been most at pains to make their sections interesting and attractive. It is interesting to learn that ski-ing has been practised for centuries in certain Alpine villages of Slovenia as an ordinary method of getting about in winter, and to compare a few very primitive skis, warranted two hundred years old, and of a very stumpy shape with the present day style which is copied from the Norwegian ski. Several native firms showed skis of various patterns, and, of course, there were mountain boots in plenty. The most attractive feature, however, was the veritable gallery of beautiful Alpine views—summer and winter landscapes—shown in the Mountaineering and Winter Sports sections by the amateur photographers of the Tourist Club Skala. There were also good photographs of climbing exploits, and a clever model of a mountain top with hut and path, bolts and wires and bull's eye guide marks, all complete.

Timber and Side Shows.

The row of stands occupied by the Slovene timber merchants was the most important section of the Fair, although the least attractive, and indeed scarcely noticeable. Various samples of timber were shown, most of them merely sawn, some planed, and specimens of parquet work. Slovene timber is very close-grained and otherwise of good quality. The samples on show included several specimens of fumed beech, for which there ought to be a demand.

The number of visitors to the Fair is very large this year. There will again be a horse show, and a cattle show will be held in connection with it. These shows are economically important, as horse breeding and stock-raising are old-established occupations in Slovenia.

Not in connection with the Fair, but probably with a view to profiting by the number of visitors to Liubliana at Fair time, the "Light Athletic Meeting" for the Slovene championships took place on August 30. The most interesting items on the programme were the 1,500 and 5,000 metre races. Both were won by E. Drzaj, who established a new Slovene record over both lengths, covering the longer distance in 17 min. 10.8 sec. (P. Nurmi's time for this race at the 1924 Olympic Games was 14 min. 31.15 sec.)

ROUMANIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, September 1.

Railway Electrification.

Conferences are at present being held at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce with French, Italian and Swiss engineers with a view to drawing up plans for the electrification of the whole Roumanian railway system. It will no doubt be a long time before such comprehensive plans can be carried out in full, for it will be a gigantic piece of work; but one must admire the sanguine temperament and energy of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce in launching upon such an enterprise, or even in contemplating it at a time when the country is still struggling to establish her financial position.

It is proposed to establish power stations at suitable points along the great watershed of the Carpathians, which will not only be large enough to supply the railways, but will also provide energy for some of the growing industries, especially in Transylvania, and possibly also the towns within their radius.

At the present time many of the locomotives, more particularly those running in the Old Kingdom, have been converted for burning oil, which is very much cleaner than the poor quality lignite used as fuel in Transylvania, which fills the carriages with soot.

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AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS IN IRAQ.

The following extracts are taken from the Agricultural Bulletin of Iraq for the month ending August 15:—

The calendar month of July opened with a week of comparatively cool weather, but became hotter later. The strong seasonal winds from the north-west were very active and dust-storms were frequent, but the hot scorching winds which usually occur during this month were rare. At Hinaidi the mean maximum and mean minimum temperatures recorded were 109.4 deg. F. and 75.2 deg. F. as against 109.5 deg. F. and 79.9 deg. F. the average for the past 36 years. The relative humidity was only 26 per cent. as against an average of 36 per cent. Climatic conditions were good for all crops, and the seasonable winds enabled cultivators to make satisfactory progress with their threshing.

The abnormally low state of the rivers is making the satisfactory irrigation of all Saifi crops a very difficult problem. The river Dialah above the dam at Table Mountain has a discharge of only about one-half of last year, and in consequence there is a great scarcity of water in all the Dialah Liwa canals. Garden owners complain of the shedding of immature fruits and the annual Saifi crops present an almost universal appearance of drought. Pump irrigation on the Tigris is equally difficult. In many cases the river has fallen below the foundations of the wells, and attempts to get water into the well lead to very great danger of a collapse. Fears are expressed that the rice crop will be short on both rivers due to irrigation difficulties. The present state of all three rivers is said to be lower than ever before experienced.

The prices of food stuffs remain high. Wheat is being imported into Basrah and the price in the Port is Rs. 210 per ton.

Most of the inland markets are selling at from Rs. 220 to Rs. 250, whilst the price in Mosul is still as high as Rs. 340 per ton. These high prices will probably adversely affect the areas sown next winter.

Apart from the water shortage *Saifi* crops are in good condition generally and very free from disease. Early sown maize and *Dukn* have been harvested and have given good yields as a rule. Cotton remains very free from all disease. The spotted boll worm *Earias Insulana* has been reported from various plantations, but nowhere is the attack severe. At the Experimental Farm the intensity of attack on the crops is certainly less than one-tenth of what it was at this time last year. In irrigated tracts, however, much cotton is being forced into premature opening by water-shortage, and a dull, weak-stapled cotton is being picked. Pickings become general in early August, and Messrs. The British Cotton Growing Association have commenced buying at Rs. 500 per ton for first class cotton. The present market price of raw cotton does not justify this high price, and unless the Liverpool market hardens, which is not considered likely at present, the price will probably have to be reduced.

The good reports previously to hand of the date crop are confirmed this month. The quantity of all three varieties is well above the average. The quality will depend largely on the weather conditions of the current month, during the final ripening. *Chubbar* disease has increased a little during the period under report, but it is not serious. Experimentally it was successfully controlled on an infected plantation by spraying.

The July, 1925, exports of wheat from Iraq were 117 tons and nil of barley as compared with 7,408 tons exported during the same month last year. The August, 1924—July, 1925, exports of dates from Iraq were 143,216 tons, valued at Rs. 1,85,63,479, as compared with 124,076 tons, valued at Rs. 1,57,01,581 exported during the corresponding season last year.

The July, 1925, exports of wool from Iraq were 447 tons as compared with 8,756 tons exported during the corresponding period last year.

THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION IN INDIA.

A report issued from the India Office on September 11, states:—In India during August rainfall on the whole was sufficient in Madras Presidency, over the greater part of Bombay Presidency and Sind, in the Central Provinces, Bihar and Orissa, the Punjab, the majority of the Punjab States, Burma, Assam, the North West Frontier Province, Baluchistan and Hyderabad. Excessive rain has damaged the crops in most districts of the United Provinces, especially in the lowlands, and also in parts of the Punjab. Extensive damage to winter rice crops has been done by the floods in two districts of Orissa. More rain is needed in Central India States, Rajputana, Ajmer-Merwara, Western India States and Bengal.

Standing crops are generally fair. The cotton crop is backward in parts of the Central Provinces. The condition of sugar cane is good in the United Provinces and Bihar and Orissa. The harvesting of jute is in full swing in Eastern Bengal, but lack of water is being felt in Mysore District for retting. In Assam, prospects of tea are good, but the out-turn of jute is poor and cotton is likely to be poor.

Fodder and grazing are generally sufficient. The condition of cattle is good generally, but cattle disease has prevailed in parts of Rajputana and Hyderabad and in one district of Burma.

Prices are high but steady in the North West Frontier Province and Baluchistan. Hyderabad reports a downward tendency. The price of rice remained almost stationary in Bengal, while the price of jute reached a record level. In Madras and Burma prices generally are lower than during the correspondingly period of last year, but the price of rice in Madras showed a slight tendency to rise. In the Punjab the price of wheat was slightly higher than last year. The stock of food grain is low in Baluchistan. On the whole the agricultural outlook is satisfactory.

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British Consular Reports

EGYPT.

The marked prosperity of Egypt is clearly brought out in the Report on the Economic and Financial Situation of Egypt by Mr. E. Homan Mulock, H.M.'s Commercial Secretary in Cairo, which is dated June, 1925, and has just been published by the Stationery Office.

The financial situation of the country at the end of 1924, it is stated, is summed up concisely in the following quotation from the Finance Committee's Note on the 1925-26 Budget:— The figures for foreign trade for the calendar year 1924 show an excess of exports over imports of £E16,467,000 as compared with an excess of £E14,576,000 and £E8,040,000 in 1923 and 1922 respectively. Statistics of foreign trade are, of course, subject to correction on account of methods of valuation, invisible imports and exports, transactions on credit, etc. Without attempting to establish the real balance of trade for the year 1924, it is clear that there was a substantial addition to the financial resources of Egypt during that period.

This is represented by an increase in Egypt's foreign investments. The Note Issue, which stood at £E36,400,000 on December 31, 1923, had increased to £E42,000,000 on December 31, 1924. Private bank deposits have grown, while the public deposits with the National Bank of Egypt increased during the year by £E7,459,537, resulting in a corresponding increase in the Bank's short-term investments abroad. The investments consist not only of British and other foreign securities, but also purchases from abroad of Egyptian Public Debt, and the securities of Egyptian companies. The statistics of the Caisse de la Dette show that, whereas in the first six months of 1923 53 per cent. of the Public Debt coupons were presented for payment in Egypt, by the second half of 1924 this figure had increased to 57 per cent.

It is chiefly cotton, continues the Report, which is responsible for the increased prosperity of Egypt. That the favourable trade balance in 1924 was greater than that of the two preceding years, in spite of a considerable rise in imports, which in itself indicates an increase in the purchasing power of the country, was due to a still greater advance in exports, accounted for practically entirely by a rise of over £E7,000,000 in the value of cotton exported during the calendar year 1924. As this rise in value was accompanied by a decrease in quantity of over 200,000 cantars, the resulting average price per cantar over the whole twelve months stood at 38 dols. 96 cents for 1924, as compared with 33 dols. 13 cents for 1923. Since 1924 prices 100 per cent. higher than the average for that year have been attained, owing to the strong statistical position of Sakellarides resulting from extensive curtailment of the area under that variety in the 1924-5 season. One result of high prices has been arrivals and exports on so large a scale that the carry-over at the end of the current season is expected to be very small, while the effect of the high premium enjoyed by Sakellarides over both Uppers and American cotton on the cultivators has been to make them revert to the sowing of Sakellarides on a scale that will, in all probability, more than redress the balance of last season's curtailment. In any event, it is to be hoped that the area under, and yield of Sakel in Lower Egypt will be sufficiently large in 1925-26 to remove from misguided merchants and cultivators the temptation to mix F.G.F. Sakel with Zagora or second-rate Sakel with best Pilion, in order to make up for shortages in tenderable cotton, which did so much harm to Egypt's reputation as a cotton-producing country during the current season, and which has caused such grave and widespread doubts as to the quality of the seed (whose adulteration was the natural consequence of mixing Sakel with other varieties before ginning) distributed for the 1925-26 crop.

Unfortunately for Egypt, the legislative measures for preventing the mixture in the fields, or even the hybridisation by too close proximity in cultivation, of any variety of short-staple cotton with Sakel, which should have been enacted in time to apply to the sowing of the 1925-26 crop, were not taken in hand until too late, and in June of this year were still under consideration by a technical committee of the Ministry of Agriculture. The broad lines of their proposals are to confine the cultivation of Sakel strictly to Lower Egypt, and of Zagora and Ashmouni to Upper Egypt, and to allow the planting of Pilion in Lower Egypt, provided that it is nowhere in proximity to Sakel. Measures are also being investigated with the object of ensuring the purity of tagawi, or seed suitable for sowing, and to control its distribution, but it is to be feared that, however watertight and stringent these may prove to be, they will be inadequate in view of the insufficiency of native personnel qualified in every way to enforce them. The fixation of zones for Sakel and other varieties has been advocated for years by European experts, but, while it is unlikely that Zagora and Ashmouni have been planted at all in Lower Egypt, the absence of legislative measures governing the distribution of Sakellarides may yet be regretted as regards Upper Egypt, since the chances are that the small and large cultivators, in their anxiety to grow on as large a scale as possible the variety which has commanded such high prices this season, have planted Sakel in Upper Egypt as well.

Position of the Cultivator.

In this connection it may be of interest to consider the ratio of cost of cultivation to the proceeds of sale in the case of the fellah in 1924. As the high prices for cotton attained during the year 1925, particularly in March, may not have benefited many of the small cultivators owing to their having contracted to sell their cotton earlier, it does not afford a fair criterion of the extent to which the average fellah benefited to compare prices subsequent to 1924 with the cost of cultivation. Taking, therefore, the average price of all cotton in 1924, viz., 38 dols. 96 cents (a dollar equals 20 piastre—4s. 1¼d.), as a very considerable estimate, and multiplying this by three as a fair estimate of yield in cantars per feddan of Sakel, and by four in the case of Uppers, the resulting sum represents a handsome profit over the cost in 1924 of cultivating one feddan of cotton (after rice), assuming that the cultivator has to hire oxen and all the labour required for each stage or process. The cost of cultivation under these circumstances, which does not by any means apply to all cultivators, is estimated by experts at 649½ piastres, or 32 dols. 47 cents, per feddan in 1924, as against 1,658 piastres, or 82 dols. 90 cents, in 1920. The very great difference between these two figures and the small proportion borne by cost of cultivation in 1924 to the proceeds thereof are evidence of the fallacy of the complaint so often heard during the year under review of the existence of an economic crisis. So far as the fellah is concerned, it must be borne in mind that, as he is able to pay his taxes out of, and feed himself on, his other crops, any profit he makes out of cotton is net. It is estimated that, as regards Sakel, 40 dols. a cantar is a remunerative price, and, although the average price during 1924 was slightly below this profitable minimum, Sakel contracts rose during the first four months of the current season (the period during which the fellah usually reaps the reward of his labours) from 40 dols. 38 cents on September 1 to 58 dols. 60 cents on December 31, 1924.

The "Economic Crisis."

As the fellah constitutes so large a proportion of the population, and as the landowners' profits from cotton were so very much larger than those of the fellah, the so-called economic crisis in 1924 was presumably limited to the minority comprising such of the business and industrial community as are not directly interested in cotton. Assuming that it was, it is difficult to reconcile with a 10 per cent. increase in imports; with the amount of money circulating as the result of the export during the year of more than £E56,000,000 worth of cotton; with the extensive building of new private houses, huge blocks of flats and shops, showrooms and offices (which cannot be solely attributable to the fall in the cost of building materials); with the frequent transactions in desirable house property and vacant land, both of which have

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greatly appreciated in value owing to the building craze; with the increase in the number of private motor-cars and commercial motor vehicles of all kinds, both in Cairo and Alexandria; and, *inter alia*, with the appreciation in the prices of stocks and shares of all kinds.

Budget Surplus, 1925-26.

To these important factors in the prosperous economic situation of Egypt should be added the highly satisfactory condition of Government finance, indicated by an estimated surplus of nearly £E 6,000,000 on March 31, 1925, and a corresponding increase in the Reserve Fund, which on that date was roughly computed at £E24,000,000. In addition to this, two special reserves have been created, viz., £E1,037,860 as a "Reserve relating to the Capital Account of the Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones," and £E512,462 relating to the Ottoman Debt. Receipts for 1925-26 are estimated at £E36,870,000, and expenditure at £E36,288,266, indicating a surplus of £1581,734. Receipts and expenditure in 1925-26 are respectively £E2,470,000 and £E2,012,783 higher than in 1924-25. The increase in receipts is due chiefly to estimated increases in revenue from railways, £E785,000; interest on funds, £E305,000; cotton tax, £E250,000; customs, £E140,000; telephones, £E105,000. The most important items in the increase in the total expenditure are:—Railways, £E1,067,000; Education, £376,000; public debt, £E300,000; and educational missions, £196,000.

The Government's Economic and Financial Policy.

A review of the economic and financial development during the period covered by this report, viz., the financial year 1924-25 and the first two months of 1925-26, falls naturally into two periods, viz., Parliamentary and post-Parliamentary. The economic and financial policy of the first Egyptian Parliament, which sat from March 15 to July 10, 1924, may be summed up in the words:—"Economic independence at all costs." The outstanding instance of this was afforded by the Government's repudiation of payment, after July 12, of the coupons of the Turkish Loans secured on the Egyptian Tribute. After reference to Reserve Fund Investments and to the application of this desire for economic independence in regard to native industrial enterprise and a national mercantile marine, the Report continues:

It is a matter of considerable difficulty to describe exactly what was the policy of the Egyptian Government and Parliament in matters of finance and economics of a purely domestic nature, i.e., those in which European interests were not solely or chiefly affected. For instance, the Government on the one hand insisted on the Reserve Fund being kept intact, but on the other agreed to an unspecified amount for Government purchase of cotton, and cash for a loan of a quarter of a million to the Agricultural Co-operative Societies, being drawn from the Reserve.

Coming to the Post-Parliamentary period the Report states:—

In February, 1925, the Council of Ministers decided upon the reconstitution and revival of the Economic Council, which had been suspended during 1924 by a decision of the Chamber on June 11. The recent reconstitution of this body, so far from fulfilling the aim of the Chamber to confine it to Egyptian members, includes a greater proportion of Europeans to Egyptians than it did at its original inception in September, 1922. The policy of the Egyptian Parliament of encouraging local industry still survives, although such encouragement is no longer confined to purely native enterprise, as is shown by the abolition on February 15, 1925, of the excise duty of 4 per cent. *ad valorem* on all cotton piece-goods manufactured locally by mechanical means. This will principally benefit the Filature Nationale, which is entirely in European hands. A purely Egyptian industry will, however, be fostered by the action of the Government in re-opening on February 25, 1925, their petroleum refinery at Suez, which had remained inactive since the end of November, 1923, owing to the indecision of the Government as to whether it would not be better to sell, or at least let, a factory which can only be run at a loss. Although the Egyptian Parliament considered that 70 per cent. of the railway revenues was too high a proportion for expenditure, which, in their opinion, should not exceed 45 per cent., it was the Zaghloulist Cabinet which on November 10, 1924, approved of the programme, to be spread over the three financial years 1925-26 to 1927-28, for spending £E3,105,000 on abnormal renewals of track and rolling-stock, in addition to normal current renewals amounting to £E567,000 a year. It may perhaps be of interest to add that, according to a statement made in the Chamber by the Finance Committee, the capital of the railways was placed at £E30,126,028 on March 31, 1924, and the net estimated railway revenue for 1924-25 constituted 6 per cent. of that sum.

General Finance.

The outstanding events in financial circles during the period under review have been the repudiation of the Tribute Loans, and the action brought against the Suez Canal Company—which is an Egyptian company in the eyes of the law—by the debenture holders who claim that their interest should be paid in francs, not at the rate of exchange, but at the legal value of the franc in Egypt in the money having legal currency there, viz., 3.8575 pt. per franc. The first Civil Chamber of the Mixed Courts at Cairo gave judgment on January 26, 1925, in favour of the debenture holders, but the company appealed against this decision. The result of the appeal—which was started on April 23, 1925—was that the decision of the First Civil Chamber in favour of the debenture holders was confirmed. The court of Appeal also confirmed a similar decision given in favour of the debenture holders against the Cairo Electric Railways and Heliopolis Oasis Company. This campaign of debenture holders against companies under European management which operate in Egypt, but pay their interest and dividends in francs, French or Belgian, as the case may be, was encouraged by their initial success against the Sucreries et Raffineries d'Egypte in the Mixed Court of Appeal on June 17, 1924. Speculation in the debentures of all the companies attacked, or susceptible to attack, has been rife, and it is generally understood that the extent of the annual exodus to Europe in the summer of 1925 depends largely on the result of the appeal by the Suez Canal Company.

All the principal banks had satisfactory financial years, and in some cases were able to increase their dividends. However, the effect on banking business of the augmentation in the prosperity of the country was rather an adverse one, owing to the reduction in demands for advances, and the accompanying extension of competition therefor, and to the fact that private deposits, which greatly increased, had, of necessity, to be placed in short-term investments, the return from which is not as profitable as that on commercial and industrial advances.

BRITISH MOTOR-CARS IN THE EAST.

Mr. James Thom, who is well known in the motoring world throughout India, Burma, Ceylon, and the Far East, has joined the export department of Rootes, Ltd., 141, New Bond Street, London, who handle the sole world's export of the Clyno and Hillman cars, and has left for Bombay. He will be travelling through India during October, and will then proceed to the Far East. During his tour Mr. Thom will be prepared to take up the matter of agencies with any dealers throughout the Orient. Until October 31 Mr. Thom will be found c/o Messrs. Allen Berry, Ltd., of Calcutta, and after that date and until February 28 c/o Raffell's Hotel, Singapore.

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Near East Markets.

SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report as follows for the week ending September 5:—

Sultanas.

The arrivals of sultanas on the Smyrna market since the opening of the season are estimated at 4,760 tons as compared with 13,000 tons for the corresponding period in 1924. Estimated sales are put at 4,210 tons compared with 10,360 tons in 1924. The closing prices are: Types 12-17 inclusive: 57s., 60s., 63s., 66s., 70s., and 74s. respectively, per cwt. c.i.f. London (Liverpool): the corresponding prices per 100 kgs. c.i.f. Hamburg (Trieste) Amsterdam were Fls. 68, 71, 74, 77, 81, and 86 respectively.

Prices in the Sultana market show a slight reduction on last week's closing level. The course of market indicates an easier tendency. Shippers are putting a strong opposition to present level of prices owing to the heavy losses they are incurring in their forward sales made earlier in the season.

In face of their reluctance to buy, prices have slided slightly.

It is now possible to form a fairly reliable estimate of the yield. It is generally estimated at between 23 to 30,000 tons. Our own view is that the yield will not exceed 23/25,000 tons.

Figs.

Arrivals of figs on the Smyrna market since the opening of the season are estimated at 30,000 bags, as compared with 55,500 bags for the corresponding period in 1924. Estimated sales for the same period are put at 25,000 bags, as compared with 48,500 bags in 1924. Shipments to date to the United Kingdom are estimated at 110 tons, as compared with 1,431 tons in 1924.

The fig crop is ten days backward, and there should be large arrivals from this date onwards. Supplies until now have been hardly sufficient to meet current engagements.

TURKEY'S NUT CROP.

His Majesty's Consul at Trebizond (Mr. W. L. C. Knight) informs the Department of Overseas Trade that the local nut crop, harvesting of which is in progress, promises to be one of the most abundant on record. It is stated that nothing like it has been known for at least thirty years, and the quality is as excellent as the quantity is exceptional. The Turkish growers and exporters have the added satisfaction of having to meet considerably less competition than usual, owing to the poor Spanish crop and the almost total failure of that of Southern Italy.

A preliminary calculation estimates this season's yield, for the Trebizond-Labistan area alone (i.e., excluding the still more productive district of Kiressun) at 400,000 cantars = 17,600,000 okes = 22,000 tons, valued approximately at 8,000,000 lira or roughly £1,000,000 sterling.

The local merchants' prices average 50 piastres per oke for the unshelled nuts and 110 for the shelled. Important shipments are now being made to America (transhipment at Constantinople, Hamburg, or Rotterdam). Prices c.i.f. New York are around 110 shillings per 100 kilos for the unshelled, and vary from 230 to 250 shillings for the shelled nuts.

As a general rule the great bulk of the nuts are exported shelled (*itch Funduk, décortiquées*), and only a very small quantity unshelled (*kabuklu, en coque*). The former are chiefly used by chocolate manufacturers, while the latter are mostly retailed for table use, principally in England, Germany, and Egypt. This year, however, a greatly increased amount is being exported unshelled, owing to the scarcity of Spanish and Italian nuts already referred to. It is estimated that nearly 25 per cent. of the present crop is being exported unshelled. As regards the local price of nuts, it is said to be less than half that of 1024, and it is thought that owing to the great quantities available for export, prices will fall still further later in the year.

SHIPPING NOTES.

A Nile river steamer is being built by Messrs. J. T. Thorneycroft and Co. for Egyptian owners. The dimensions of the vessel, which is to be completed within eight months, will be 250 ft. over all and 32 ft. between the paddles, with a draft of 3 ft. 6 in. The speed is to be about 9 knots.

A steamer, built by Messrs. Short Brothers, of Pallion, Sunderland, to the order of Messrs. Lowther, Latta and Co., for the Nitrate Producers' Steamship Co., is to be called Anglo-Indian. The dimensions of the vessel, which underwent her official trials last week, are:—Length, 426 ft.; breadth, 59 ft. 6 in.; draft, 25 ft.

Messrs Andrew Weir and Co. (Bank Line), have taken over the first of the two twin-screw motor vessels now being built for them by Messrs. Harland and Wolff, Govan. The Bank Line already have two of these cargo vessels in service.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Circassia for Bombay (Liverpool, September 25). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Dorsetshire for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 3).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Warwickshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, September 23); s.s. Herefordshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, October 7).

British India Line.—S.s. Domala for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 26); s.s. Merkara for Bombay and Karachi (London, September 25); s.s. Manela for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 10); s.s. Madura for Bombay and Karachi (London, October 9).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Phrygia for Gibraltar, Oran, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, October 10).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Hong Kong for Calcutta (Birkhenhead, October 1).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Vedamore for Galatz and Braila only (Liverpool, September 30); s.s. Dromore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galata, and Braila (Liverpool, October 17); s.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, November 6). (The last steamer of the season for Sulina, Galatz, and Braila.)

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Nyanza for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 3); s.s. Ranchi for Bombay (London, October 2).

Prince Line.—S.s. Lancastrian Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, and Haifa (London, October 3); s.s. Egyptian Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, and Haifa (London, October 24).

We have to record with regret the sudden death of Sir John Jordan, a director of the Chartered Bank of India, and a great authority on China, where he was British Minister from 1906 to 1920. He was the kindliest and most unassuming of men.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ending September 3, state:—

Since our last report the Futures market has been erratic; at the close the Sakel tone has been firmer, whereas that of Ashmouni is somewhat easier; the net changes on the week are the following:—

Sakellarides, 0.52 dollars up for November, 0.37 dollars up for January, 0.17 dollars up for March; Ashmouni, 0.55 dollars down for October, 0.70 dollars down for December. The position does not offer any new features worthy of comment. The demand from abroad is still rather small and commercial houses continue to keep, more or less, out of the market. The wide fluctuations experienced during the week are due to speculative manipulation. The bull clique has been trying to push up prices by spreading the report that the Government's intervention in the Sakel market was imminent, whilst the bear clique has been endeavouring to break prices by spreading alarming forecasts as a consequence of the reported financial difficulties of some English spinners. With regard to the Government's intervention it appears that the question will be considered at the next meeting of the Council of Ministers; however, even if it is decided to intervene in principle, we do not think the Government will begin purchasing at the present level of prices.

The easier tone of Ashmouni may be attributed to some hedging of high grade cotton, which has just arrived and which the holders withdrew from the market owing to the recent heavy depreciation in premiums; also, to sales by straddlers against purchases of Sakellarides and American. The usual end of the season adjustment of figures of stocks etc., has not yet been published.

We estimate the quantity of old crop cotton remaining up-country at August 31 last at 50,000 Cantars, the larger proportion being Scarto and Affrita. The week's receipts amount to Crs. 66,551 against exports Crs. 57,210; the stock stands at Crs. 303,893.

Spot: Minet el Bassal has been slightly more active this week and sales for the week amount to about 5,300 bales, of which we estimate 150 bales Sakel, 5,100 bales Uppers, 50 bales Zagora and a few bales of Pilion. Cotton from Upper Egypt is beginning to arrive rather more freely.

Sakellarides: has been almost entirely neglected and only a very small turnover has taken place. Quotations are nominal and spot differences are generally markedly cheaper than last week. A few bales of very early new crop Sakel have arrived and were sold at good prices.

Ashmouni and Zagora: have met with a good demand covering all grades. Spot differences are easier for good and better, steady for Good Fair and Fully Good Fair and stiffer for the grades below Good Fair, which are now becoming scarce and hard to buy.

Brown and Pilion: are neglected. A few bales of Pilion have changed hands but quotations are still nominal and must remain so till the new cotton arrives in sufficient quantities.

White is entirely neglected. Quotations are once more easier and nominal.

Crop 1925: We give below the report of the Alexandria General Produce Association for the month of August. In our opinion it gives a fairly accurate statement of the present condition of the crop.

Latest reports from Upper Egypt are rather optimistic.

Lower Egypt.—The temperature on the whole has been favourable to the cotton plants. There have been mists, but it is not yet possible to judge the damage done. Bollworm has been reported everywhere; the percentage of bolls attacked varies between 10 and 15 per cent. It is reported that the Pilion and Zagora varieties have suffered more from this pest than the Sakellarides variety. Water for irrigation has been sufficient. The picking of the Zagora and Pilion varieties has commenced sporadically. It is agreed that the backwardness of Sakellarides variety has been more or less recovered and it is expected that picking will commence about September 15.

Upper Egypt and Fayoum.—The temperature during the month of August has been favourable to the cotton plants. Some damage from attacks of pink worm and boll worm has been reported and estimated at between 5 to 8 per cent. Also some damage has been done by "Nadwa Assaliya." Picking began in August 20 and progresses normally. The crop on the whole promises to be superior to that of last year.

MANCHESTER COTTON MARKET.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ending September 12 states:

Conditions during the past week have been such as are usually considered favourable to inducing buyers to extend their operations. Raw Cotton, after exhibiting weakness for quite a long period, has rallied and begun to climb upward. Business in yarn and cloth, however, has not shown any development of special note. Enquiry has been on a considerable scale, but generally at prices corresponding to the lowest point touched by the raw material.

Yarn.—The rise in the price of American Cotton has operated against Spinners, who find that only with the utmost difficulty can they secure for themselves the increased prices necessary, most buyers, for the time being at any rate, declining to pay the advance. There is nothing fresh to report with regard to Egyptian Spinnings. Demand remains still poor, and, in view of the heavy discount on new crop months, this can hardly be wondered at. Shipments of yarn last month amounted to 15,038,000 lb. as compared with 14,044,700 lb. in July and 11,852,000 lb. in August last year.

Cloth.—There has been a considerable development of enquiry in this section, but reports as to the amount of business actually booked vary somewhat. India has taken some fair lines in light goods, but the heavier fabrics are difficult to move. Trade with China has moved along the same lines as reported in recent weeks. A fair demand has been met with for South America, but business for Egypt and the Near East remains at a disappointing level.

Shipments of cloth last month amounted to 344,277,000 square yards as compared with 370,841,700 square yards in July and 373,644,000 square yards in August last year.

Raw Cotton.—As already mentioned, there has been a change of sentiment in this section. Saturday of last week and Monday both showed small declines in price, but the Bureau Report issued on Tuesday was a surprise. The condition was given as 56.2 per cent. and the indicated yield 13,740,000 bales, a decline of 250,000 bales since the previous report. The number of bales ginned to the last September was given as 1,893,000, by far the highest figure reported at this date for many years past. The condition report was decidedly worse than had been anticipated and, in consequence, prices began to rise and have continued to do so throughout the remainder of the week. It is thought here, however, that, with the season so far advanced, a large crop is a certainty and the ginning figures are pointed to as evidence of the remarkably early date at which it is maturing.

An estimate has also been published during the past week by the Egyptian Government giving their country's crop at 7,273,000 cantars, of which 3,563,00 is said to be Sakellarides. These figures both represent considerable increases over last year. Prices of this class of cotton are only slightly changed on the week.

Closing quotations yesterday were as follows:—American Middling 13.01, Egyptian Fully Good Fair 28.05, the figures for last week being 12.51 and 27.95 respectively.

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Company Meeting.

DIALA COTTON PLANTATIONS, LTD.

The statutory meeting of the members of the Diala Cotton Plantations, Ltd., was held on Wednesday, September 9, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, Sir Edward Manville presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. William S. Gregg) having read the notice convening the meeting, the Chairman said:

Gentlemen, this statutory meeting has been convened in accordance with the provisions of the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908, and is of a formal nature, there being no resolution to put before the meeting for adoption. The statutory report has been sent to every member of the company, but if there is any further information which you desire to obtain with regard to any matter relating to the formation of the company or arising out of the report, I shall be happy to furnish the same. There has also been prepared a list showing the names, etc., of the members of the company and the number of shares held by them respectively, and this list is open for your inspection.

Iraqi Shareholders.

There is a point of considerable interest in connection with the list of shareholders to which I should like to draw your attention. It is that we have a considerable number of shareholders domiciled in Iraq—in fact, a larger number than those residing in the United Kingdom. This demonstrates the interest taken in our undertaking by Iraquis, and it is obviously to our advantage that a considerable number of the inhabitants of the country should be so interested. Naturally, the number of shares held by individual Iraquis is relatively small, as might be expected, having regard to their means; but it cannot fail to be of advantage to the company that so many of the resident individuals have acquired an interest in our undertaking, which should result in local support for our policy. It thus transpires that we have no fewer than 693 shareholders domiciled in Iraq, with 605 shareholders outside that country domiciled, with a few exceptions, in the United Kingdom, whilst, on the other hand, the Iraqi shareholders hold a total of 27,644 shares, the remaining 372,356 being held by the shareholders chiefly in this country.

The financial statement included in the report, I think, explains itself. There has been called up 10s. per share on the 400,000 shares of £1 each allotted, and the report shows that the application and allotment moneys due in respect of these shares have been well paid up, there being but little in arrear, and these arrears are now carrying interest at 8 per cent. per annum until payment. The preliminary expenses have practically all been settled, and the purchase consideration of £25,000 due to Eastern Irrigations, Ltd., in accordance with the agreement of the 16th day of June between that company and ourselves has been paid. In accordance with the same agreement, application was duly made for 50,000 shares of £1 each in Eastern Irrigations, Ltd., and the balance payable in respect of these shares will become due towards the end of the present month.

Work in Iraq.

Reference was made in the prospectus to the fact that Mr. Roger Thomas, late Inspector-General of Agriculture in Iraq, would join the Board after allotment. I am pleased to inform the shareholders that this arrangement has been duly carried out, and Mr. Roger Thomas has been appointed Managing Director of the company, and is now in Iraq carrying on his duties. Mr. Thomas left for Baghdad at the end of July, and from the incorporation of the company until that date he was in close consultation with your Board in regard to the various details involved in the work of the company and its general policy. He is now actively engaged in making the preliminary arrangements for the development of the acreage on which we shall cultivate cotton. As you will recollect, before the incorporation of the company 600 acres were put under cultivation. The object of this, apart from the relatively small crop which will be obtained from it this autumn, was to enable the company to obtain the requisite experience sufficiently to deal with a much larger area which will be put under cultivation at once, and to enable the cultivators to be educated in the work which lies before them. Since Mr. Thomas has returned to Iraq he reports that he is satisfied with the progress which has been made during his absence, and that, in spite of our methods being absolutely new to the cultivators, these have now settled down contentedly to the work, and that there is available for the bigger cultivation in prospect an adequate amount of labour.

You will have observed from the report made by Sir Thomas Ward, which was published in the prospectus, that a number of important matters arise which call for an early decision; and, in view of the importance of eliminating as far as possible mistakes and difficulties which might be encountered in the work of considerable magnitude which lies before us, we have appointed a Commission to proceed to Iraq forthwith to consult with Mr. Roger Thomas and Sir Thomas Ward on the spot. This Commission consists of Lord Chelmsford, the Chairman of Eastern Irrigations, Ltd., which company he represents, and Sir Douglas Newton, a member of our Board. The advice and assistance of Sir Thomas Ward, the company's Chief Consultant, and others, including the company's Resident Engineer, will be available when the Commission arrives, as they are proceeding to Baghdad in advance. We believe that this procedure will tend to render the operations of the company efficient, and will result in a general policy being inaugurated under the best possible conditions. The machinery, etc., immediately necessary was ordered before Mr. Roger Thomas left for Iraq, so that the opening up of a considerable area for cultivation this autumn can be proceeded with without difficulty.

I have here some cotton from our estates which was brought over by King Feisal, who is here now, as you know, and which one of our directors Mr. Wilson, who is well skilled in judging the quality of cotton, says is of first-class quality. If any of you would like to examine it, please do so.

No questions being asked, the proceedings terminated.

NEW COMPANY.

Bulgarian Development.

Private. Capital, £750 in 1s. shares. To acquire from the Bulgarian or any other Goverment or authority any rights with respect to trading of all kinds between Great Britain and Bulgaria. Subscribers:—P. Ivanoff, 21, Cornwall Terrace, Regent's Park, mining engineer; P. Felenott, 35, Chalfont Court, Upper Baker Street, shipowner; J. Baerselman, 56a, Park Street, Southwark, merchant; H. Baerselman, 25, Cambridge Road, Southend-on-Sea, director of British Black Sea Shipping and Oil Company; G. Baerselman, 56a, Park Street, Southwark, foreign and Colonial merchant; D. J. Scott, 24, Normanton Road, Croydon, bank official; T. H. Evans, 6, Broad Street Place, director of La Guaira Harbour Corporation; W. A. Wills, 50, Pont Street, director of the Victoria Falls and Transvaal Power Company; Ornis Steamship Company (T. H. Evans, director), 63-4, New Broad Street. Registered office: Boston House, 63-4, New Broad Street, E.C.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

BURMA RUBY MINES.

The accounts of the Burma Ruby Mines for the year ended February 28 show, after making the usual provision for depreciation, a deficiency of £33,520, which, added to a debit of £14,715 brought forward, makes a net deficiency of £48,235. Owing to loss on operations during the year, which was due to unforeseen working difficulties and to the panning out of two mines in the Mogok district, the Board considered that it was not possible for them to proceed with new development to an extent which would be likely to give any return for money expended unless fresh capital could be raised for the purpose. They accordingly addressed the Government on June 5, explaining the position, and suggested that a fresh lease should be granted on terms which there was reason to believe would enable them to raise, by debentures, a sum sufficient to carry out further development. The Secretary of State has definitely refused this proposal, but has offered—provided the company continue working—to cancel unconditionally the liability of £19,589 to Government. This offer the Board has accepted. Meeting, Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., September 22, 2.30 p.m.

EGYPTIAN AND FOREIGN TRUST.

The net profit of the Egyptian and Foreign Trust for the eighteen months ended June 30, 1925, was £3,317, reducing the debit balance to £22,822. Investments have been taken in at cost; valuation at current market prices on June 30, 1925, shows depreciation of about 32 per cent. Report states that directors have given careful consideration to the question of continued depreciation in the value of securities and the inability of the company to pay dividends while this depreciation exists. Their proposals for the future of the company are embodied in a circular accompanying the report. Meeting, River Plate House, September 17, 3 p.m.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Eastern Bank has declared an interim dividend for the current year of 4s. a share, less tax, payable on October 1. The dividend a year ago was the same.

The Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China has declared an interim dividend for the half-year ending June 30 last at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, free of Income Tax, payable on and after September 16.

The directors of the Mercantile Bank of India have declared an interim dividend of 8 per cent., less tax, on the "A," "B," and "C" shares, payable September 25. A similar payment was made last year, followed by a final payment of 8 per cent.

The Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways Company recommends final divided of 4 per cent., plus bonus of 3½ per cent., on capital stock, making 11½ per cent. for year. (Distribution for 1923-24 was 10 per cent.)

Messrs. Harrisons and Crosfield have declared a dividend on the preference shares at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum for the three months ending September 30, less tax at 3s. 8½d. in the £. Warrants will be posted on September 30 to shareholders registered at that date, and will include approved transferees in respect of transfers lodged at the Company's office not later than September 15.

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(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889.)

CAPITAL (fully paid) - £650,000 | RESERVE - - - £420,000

Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

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The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia ; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

London Office : 33-36, KING WILLIAM ST., E.C.4 ; Chief Office in Persia, TEHERAN

IONIAN BANK, Ltd.

Established 1839.

Capital Authorised - - - £600.000
Capital Paid up - - - £485.580
Reserve Fund - - - - £190.000
Total Assets- - - - £6,536,314

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Local Head Offices :—
CALCUTTA, BOMBAY, MADRAS

Managing Governors in India :—
Sir NORCOT WARREN, K.C.I.E
N. M. MURRAY, Esq.
Manager in London :—
Sir S. A. H. SITWELL.

Authorised Capital Rs. 11.25.00.000
Paid-up Capital - Rs. 5 62.50.000
Reserve - - - Rs. 4.77.50 000

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Branches in all Principal Towns in India.
London Branch - - 5 Whittington Avenue, E.C.3.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866.
Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

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AUTHORISED CAPITAL ... £4,000,000 | Paid-up Capital ... £2,000,000
Subscribed Capital ... £4.000,000 | Reserve Fund ... £2,800,000

HEAD OFFICE : 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2

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Aden, Steamer Poin	Cawnpore	Delhi	Madras	Tuticorin	Mombasa		Jinia
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Powers of Attorney or other forms and any information required may be had on application to the Bank in London or any of its Branches.
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(A Limited Liability Company Registered in Athens.)

CAPITAL PAID UP - Drs. 36,000,000
RESERVE FUNDS - Drs. 38,150,045.40

The Assets include securities worth £1,000,000, which are valued at Drs. 25,000,000; that is at the rate of Drs. 25 per £1 only.

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Branches: Piraeus, Argos, Pyrgos, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Nauplia, Vostizza (Aegion), Calamata, Syra, Chio, Candia, Volo, Salonica, Larrissa, Triccala, Mitylene, Canea, Zante, Plomari, Tripolitza. Associated Bank in London:

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MERCHANDISE DEPARTMENT.

The Bank undertakes the warehousing and sale of goods consigned.

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Head Office: ATHENS.

ESTABLISHED 1893.

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38, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.

CAPITAL £3,000,000. RESERVE FUND, £4,000,000

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HENRY BATESON, ESQ.
COLIN FREDERICK CAMPBELL, ESQ.
THOMAS CUTHBERTSON, ESQ.
SIR WILLIAM HENRY NEVILLE GOSCHEN, K.B.E.
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ARCHIBALD AULDJO JAMIESON, ESQ.
THE RIGHT HON. SIR JOHN NEWELL JORDAN, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., K.C.B.
WILLIAM FOOT MITCHELL, ESQ., M.P.
LEWIS ALEXANDER WALLACE, ESQ.

Chief Manager—W. E. PRESTON.
Managers—J. S. BRUCE and G. MILLER

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BANGTOK	HAMBURG	MANILA	SOURABAYA
BATAVIA	HANKOW	MEDAN	TAPING (F.M.S.)
BOMBAY	HONGKONG	NEW YORK	TAVOY (Lower Burma)
CALCUTTA	ILOILO	PEKING	TIENTSIN
CANTON	IPOH	PENANG	TOKYO
CAWNPORE	KARACHI	PUKET	YOKOHAMA
CEBU	KLANG	RANGOON	ZAMBOANGA (Phillipine Islands)
COLOMBO	KOBE	SAIGON	PHILLIPPINE
	KUALA LUMPUR	SEMARANG (Java)	
		SEREHBAN	

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The Corporation buy and receive for collection Bills of Exchang grant Drafts and transact general business connected with the East.

DEPOSITS OF MONEY are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application. Interest payable half-yearly, 30th June and 31st December.

The Bank is prepared to undertake Trusteeships and Executorships.

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Authorised Capital (200,000 Shares of £10 each) - £2,000,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - - - - £1,000,000
Paid up Capital - - £1,000,000
Reserve Fund - - £360,000

Branches: BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, KARACHI, MADRAS, COLOMBO, BAGDAD, BASRA, AMARA, HILLAH, MOSUL, BAHREIN.

Board of Directors:

J. S. HASKELL, Esq. (*Chairman*).
SIR JAMES LEIGH-WOOD, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G. (*Deputy Chairman*).
G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq.
J. H. BATTY, Esq. EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq.
SIR PERCY WILSON NEWSON, Bt.
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The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, purchases, grants advances against or collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency Business in connection with the East.

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F. H. SUTTON, *Manager*

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Head Office: LONDON.

(Affiliated with Barclays Bank, Ltd.)

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SUDAN.—Makwar, Omdurman, Khartoum, Port Sudan, Wad Medani. PALESTINE.—Haifa, Jaffa. Jerusalem, Nazareth
MEDITERRANEAN. Malta, Gibraltar.

Subscribed Capital - - - - £1,800,000 Paid-up Capital - - - - £600,000
Reserve - - - - - £720,000

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NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

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A Weekly Review of the Politics and Commerce of the Balkan Peninsula, Turkey, Egypt, and the Sudan, Syria, Palestine, Arabia, Iraq, Persia and India.

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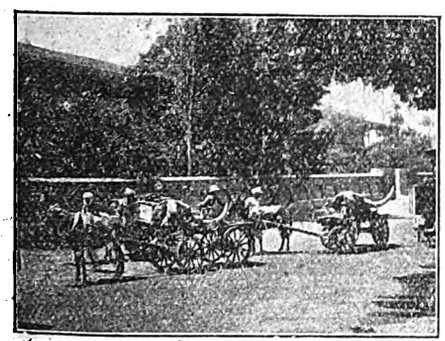

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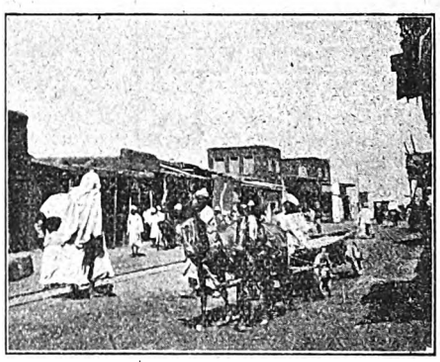

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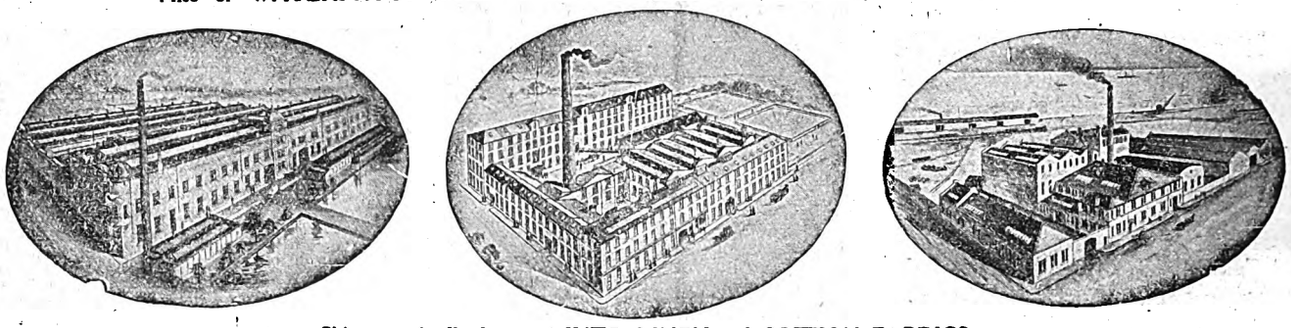

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No. 748.—VOL. XXVIII. THURSDAY, SEMPTEMBER 24, 1925.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	Page
NOTES OF THE WEEK	361
SPECIAL LETTERS—	
Palestine	364
Bulgaria	364
Albania	364
Cyprus	365
Persia	366
SPECIAL ARTICLE—	
The Chiflik	368
LEADING ARTICLE—	
Bluff or Business at Geneva ...	363
BOOK REVIEWS	371
PERSONAL AND GENERAL ...	373
THE WEEK AT HOME	369
INDIAN AFFAIRS—	
Political Politics in India ...	374
Current Topics	375
Special Letters: Calcutta ...	376
Simla	377
Provincial Autonomy in India	378
The Indian Mail	379
Indian Exchange	380
YUGOSLAV SUPPLEMENT—	
Abundance of Money	383
State Monopolies	384
Foreign Trade	386
COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
Notes and News	381
Cotton and Cotton Goods ...	388
Near East Markets	391
British Consular Reports ...	389
Chess	393

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

Fabian Tactics.

As the League of Nations has yet to convince the world of its practical utility, it is unfortunate that it has deliberately lost an opportunity of asserting its authority by a clear-cut decision in the Mosul controversy. By calling into question its own competence, instead of acting up to the rôle of the Areopagus of the nations, the Council has impaired its own prestige and has played into the hands of Turkey. Having no valid arguments to support its claim, the Turkish Government has adopted blocking tactics; from day to day in Geneva it has shifted its ground, in the hope that amid a multiplicity of excuses and objections it will find a means of undermining Great Britain's sense of duty towards Iraq. As a last resort the Turkish delegate appears to have brusquely informed the Council that Turkey would admit its competence only in the event of its decision being entirely in her favour. Instead of ignoring this piece of unsophisticated impertinence, the Council apologetically turns to The Hague Tribunal to substantiate its authority.

The Lausanne Clauses.

There is nothing in the Turks' allegations to support their contention in regard to their "rights" under the Lausanne Treaty. A moment's deliberation on the part of the Council, it would have been thought, would satisfy it on this point. Article 3 of the Treaty may be loosely worded; but, when a dispute has defied two efforts at settlement, it is not referred to a body of the standing of the Council of the League of Nations for pious recommendations, but for an arbitral decision. If the Turks do not understand this fact, it is a pity that the Council did not seize the occasion for enlightening the Anatolian ignorance of the Turkish Government. Again, the Turkish delegation claimed that certain words used by Lord Curzon in the Lausanne negotiations supported their contention. The words in question have no real bearing on the point at issue. Lord Curzon was trying to explain to the Turks what procedure the Council of the League might be expected to adopt. He disclaimed specifically any knowledge of what the Council would do, but added:—"Article 5 of the Covenant lays down that the decision of the Council, on which the Turkish Government will be represented, must be given unanimously. Therefore, no decision can be taken without the consent of that Government." The circumstances Lord Curzon had in mind passed when Turkey refused his offer. The Constantinople negotiations showed that settlement by consent was impossible and only an arbitral award became practicable. If Turkey had been guided in her attitude by any previous remarks of Lord Curzon, who stated that he could not bind the Council, she ought to have made the point when she agreed to have the dispute referred to the Council. The citation of Lord Curzon's remarks at this stage is merely a blocking device, to which a strong-minded Council would have given an immediate and crushing reply.

Great Britain's Policy.

There is no reason why Turkey's tactics should be allowed to over-embarrass Great Britain. A speedy solution was to be desired, because as a nation we have too much on our hands to allow us to regard with complacency a protracted state of unsettlement in any one quarter. Turkey, as an Oriental State, does not share this frame of mind. If she prefers to leave the question of her frontier with Iraq indefinitely in dispute, she must be allowed to do so. The next move will rest with her. Great Britain has been in effective occupation of the Mosul vilayet for six years or more; the Turks are on the other side of the Brussels Line. There will be time enough for public opinion to become agitated when anything in the nature of a serious invasion of Iraq is on foot. Until then we can trust those who are responsible for the security of Iraq to be equal to their immediate task. Great Britain desires to be on friendly terms with the Turks, but cannot betray the Iraqis to gain this end.

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In time, if the British Government holds its ground, the Turks will appreciate this point.

Turkey at Geneva.

Those who are encouraging Turkey in her present attitude on the Mosul question are not acting the part of a true friend. Much of what lies behind the Angora movement has commanded the respect and admiration of the world—the determination of the Turks to do things for themselves, their desire to make good and to throw off the shackles that prevented them from marching in the van of civilisation with Western nations. The evil genius that led them into the Mosul dispute, however, has robbed the Turks of much that they had previously gained and dealt them a serious set-back in the march of progress. At Geneva they have lost face among the nations; their claim to be on an equality with the West has been proved to be hollow, for both in intellect and in tactics they have shown themselves still essentially Oriental; their outlook has been that of Anatolia, not even that of Turkey in Europe. Their worst *gaucherie* has been to harry and persecute Nestorians within their power, while the Council was still considering their claims to have yet other aliens brought under their jurisdiction. We are of those who believe that new Turkey can yet make good, but she must learn to walk before she can run. All that she requires to know about Western civilisation cannot be evolved in the inner consciousness of Angora alone, and it is the part of a true friend to drum this fact into her. In Angora Turkey may have learned the virtue of panama hats and hit upon the device of abolishing Dervish orders, but Western civilisation is built up on a wider outlook than it has been possible to gain so far from Angora. Turkey is acting to-day as a man who had announced his intention of becoming a doctor, but refused to learn medicine and anatomy from any other doctor. With such tactics the process of stepping into line with Western nations may not be altogether hopeless, but it will be a long one. If the Mosul vilayet had meant to her all that she declares, she could have set about obtaining possession of it in many better ways. As things are, she has merely gone to Geneva to draw attention to the fact that she is entirely unqualified to be given it.

Druses and the Desert Mail.

Since last week's issue of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA went to press the French authorities in Syria have declared their inability to protect the Desert Mail Service to Baghdad, and the route has been changed. Convoys for the present will run from Beyrout via Haifa and Jerusalem and will set out for the run across the Desert from Amman. There is a tendency in France to attribute *Schadenfreude* on the part of the British to this deflection of the Baghdad mail service to a route entirely through Great Britain's mandated territories. If there is such a tendency, it will not be on the part either of the Company responsible for the service or of passengers. The French route was originally chosen on account of its obvious advantages: the journey across the Desert is much shorter from Damascus than from Amman, and much easier for motor-cars. The whole organisation has been built up on the Damascus route. A French steamship line supplies the connexion at Beyrout, and passengers, after landing, have no further trouble with their luggage, apart from the one night spent in Damascus, until their arrival in Baghdad. The Jerusalem route is handicapped by changes at Port Said, Kantara, Jerusalem, and Amman, with the absence of hotel accommodation at the latter place. Moreover, the desert track from Amman suffers from some fifty miles of lava country which offers very bad going for cars. If the service were to be permanently transferred to the southern route, it might be possible to arrange for the improvement of this part of the journey; but neither the Company nor the Palestine Government is likely to be anxious to spend money on roadmaking for a temporary deflection of the Service. What can be guaranteed is that all concerned will co-operate to make the Desert Service as easy and as comfortable as possible while it is being run over a temporary route.

The Future of the Desert Service.

The French authorities in Syria have not been slow to appreciate the value to their territory of having the Desert Mail Service pass through Damascus. They have, accordingly, done their best, by granting special facilities to the Service, to make sure that it will continue to run across Syria. The Druse revolt, however, has introduced a serious complication. Until the Druses are pacified, not merely subjugated, there will be no justification for a return to the former route. The longer the Desert Service has to accustom itself to the Jerusalem-Amman route, the easier it will be to introduce the improvements required to turn the scale in favour of Palestine as the starting point instead of Syria. Next spring should see an Iraq post established at Rutba Wells, halfway between Amman and Baghdad, with an emergency station for the British Air Service between Egypt and India. It will be easy to add a second station for the motor service. Again, it would not be a very costly undertaking to make a road through the lava country, and the Palestine Government could recover some of the expense by levying a toll on all cars other than those employed in the Desert Mail Service using the road. On the other hand, there can be no question that the future of land communications between Palestine or Syria and Iraq suggests possibilities beyond the scope of a small private company, however enterprising. The need for converting the Nairn Transport Service into a public company and extending its sphere of usefulness has already been recognised, and negotiations to this end have been only temporarily interrupted by the latest developments in Syria. Participation of French companies, the French authorities in Syria, and the Beyrout municipality would inevitably keep the Service to the Damascus route, unless in the course of the next month or so the Palestine Government, as a result of the temporary transfer of the mail convoys to the Amman route, should express a strong wish to support the undertaking. In that case, provision might be made to use both the Damascus and the Amman route, which converge on the Rutba Wells; for it cannot be long before the traffic between the Mediterranean and Iraq and Persia will call for the double route. Unfortunately, in matters of this nature British officialdom usually finds that precedent requires it to do nothing. The Desert Mail Service owes its existence to an enterprising Briton, a British Bank that was long-sighted enough to break away from prescribed practice, and the very practical support of the French authorities in Syria. If it is to be established on a wider or stronger basis, it would be thought that British official co-operation, either through or on behalf of the Palestine and Iraq Governments, was essential to British interests in the Middle East.

(Continued on page 367.)

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BUSINESS OR BLUFF AT GENEVA.

The meeting of the League of Nations at Geneva has resolved itself, as far as the Mosul controversy is concerned, into a big question mark—Business or Bluff? Even the Council itself is a party to the general enigma. It has decided to invite the Permanent Court of International Justice at The Hague to elucidate certain points of law, the chief of which is whether the Council, under the provisions of the Treaty of Lausanne, is acting in the Mosul dispute as an arbitrator or as a mediator. This point, it may be admitted at once, is an important one. It is conceivable that the Council, taking note of the equivocal attitude of the Turkish delegate on the question as to whether Turkey still considered herself bound by Fethi Bey's undertaking to accept the Council's ruling, was anxious to deliver its decision with the fullest possible authority, and to this end bethought itself of securing the endorsement of The Hague Tribunal. Even so, it might have been expected that the point would have been raised when the Mosul question was first submitted to the Council rather than postponed until the moment when a decision was awaited. On the other hand, the uncomfortable inquiry asserts itself, Is the Council merely seeking to shuffle out of its responsibility? The reference to The Hague, it seems to be taken for granted by the Council itself, postpones a final decision until December. In view of the admitted urgency of a decision, would any body of men who meant business have sheltered themselves behind the thin cloak of uncertainty regarding the status of a Court that is meant to be supreme for the nations of the world? No one outside Turkey can have imagined that the stage at Geneva was set for simple mediation—a term entirely at variance with the essence of the dispute. By Article 16 of the Treaty of Lausanne Turkey renounced all rights and title whatsoever over or respecting the territories situated outside the frontiers laid down in the Treaty. At the moment when that agreement was signed Great Britain had been for five years in effective occupation of the Mosul vilayet; Turkey, summoned to a conference for an agreed peace in regard to matters affected by her victory over Greece, chose to challenge the British demarcation of the Turkey-Iraq frontier. The British Government, unwilling to detain its Allies on a relatively minor point which concerned no one except Britain and Turkey, agreed that the precise alignment of the Iraq frontier should be left to be settled by subsequent negotiation; but it would be straining credibility overmuch to suppose that the possibility of the demarcation of the frontier reducing the total area of Iraq by one-quarter was at any time under question. When, therefore, the dispute was referred to the Council of the League of Nations it must be regarded as axiomatic that the Council was being asked to make an arbitral award.

Of more importance than the hesitation of the weak-kneed Council is the question whether Turkey by her attitude at Geneva means business or bluff. She has now, through the mouth of her chief delegate, repudiated the undertaking previously given to accept the ruling of the Council; she refuses to allow that the Council can exercise more than a mediatory function, or that her sovereignty over Mosul can be in any way impaired unless and until she voluntarily resigns it. In the meantime, the Turks have circulated the information that they have moved up troops to the Mosul frontier, and they have certainly harried and driven into the mountains a number of Nestorians occupying the country between the Brussels Line and the former Mosul frontier, where they had pledged themselves not to disturb the *status quo*. Our own reading of the Turkish action is that the Angora Government has made up its mind that the Geneva decision is going against Turkey and it is resolved to make itself as unpleasant as possible in order to increase the price at which its good behaviour will have to be purchased. Unless it had satisfied itself that its claim to the Mosul vilayet, with the supplementary offer of a Security Pact, would never be granted, the persecution of the Nestorians at this particular moment was the work of a lunatic. Between this attitude and war, however, there is a wide gulf. The Turks are not going to set out on the conquest of the Mosul vilayet with forty thousand men or in October. On the other hand, they will encourage everyone so minded to believe that they will, and the Turkish delegation at Geneva must have been considerably disappointed at being unable to discover any trace of a white feather on Mr. Amery's person.

For Great Britain the situation is admittedly embarrassing; but as in all similar cases, the way out lies in firmness. The embarrassment for the most part concerns Iraq, because throughout this period of uncertainty the mandated territory is compelled to mark time, whereas it is most important that many matters of internal urgency awaiting decision should be settled to enable the country to go ahead. The withdrawal of the undertaking to accept the League's ruling was inevitable in the face of the Turkish attitude, and it has to a certain extent cleared the ground. If Turkey is anxious to stake the future of the Republic on the possession of the Mosul vilayet, which is not Turkish in language or sentiment, she must sooner or later find herself up against the opinion of the greater part of the civilised world, because the Arabs could be subjugated only by force of arms and kept in subjection by the same means. Ultimately Great Britain would be forced to interfere, and it is better, easier, and less costly that she should, with Iraq behind her, stand her ground to-day on the mountains of Kurdistan and leave the Turks, if so resolved, to do their worst. Any other course would be derogatory to Great Britain's prestige in the East and humiliating to the great mass of Britons. In the interests of humanity the British Government has claimed a frontier which would protect the Nestorians from the persecution that they have again had to undergo; but there can be no need at present for a forward move to occupy this line, if Turkey bars the way. On the other hand, the effective occupation of the Mosul vilayet for six years holds good to-day, and, apart from the annoyance of an unsettled question, Great Britain has in all probability only to hold her ground to find that a wiser policy will eventually prevail in Angora.

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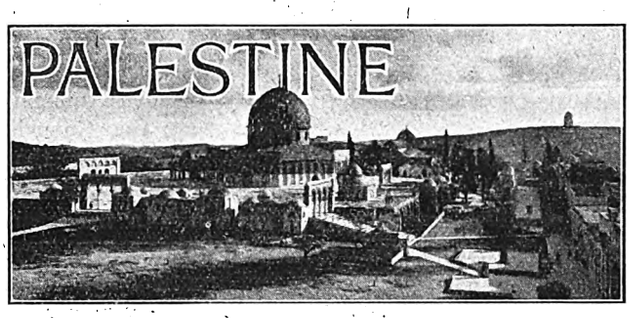
The Near and Middle East*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Jerusalem, September 12.

Arabs of Syria and Palestine.

Though so very near at hand the Druse revolt has not had anything like the electrical effect on the Palestinian Arabs that it has had on the Syrian Arabs. Even the French efforts—and highly successful efforts—at stifling the easy passage of news, with its certain consequence of increasing the supply of exaggerated and baseless rumour, have not helped to stir up Arab feelings in Palestine. These remarks are by way of preface to the most recent activities of the local "Arab Executive." Exactly what connexions and relations there are between the political malcontents of Palestine and Syria one cannot tell; but it almost looks as though there may have been some thought of an attempt at concerted action between the Syrian "Popular Party" led by Dr. Abdrurrahman Shahbandar, and the Palestine faction of which the Arab Executive is the mouthpiece. Some ten days ago, shortly after the strong French measures towards suppressing the Syrian "Popular Party," the Arab Executive published widely a letter to General Sarrail expressing their sympathy with the Druses in their fight for freedom, deploring the strong measures adopted by the French and protesting against the arrest of the Arab leaders. Now the Arab Executive has gone a step further. It has submitted to the Government the request that next Wednesday, Sepember 16, shall be made an opportunity for holding "peaceful demonstrations" throughout the whole of Palestine to express Palestine Arab sympathy with the Syrian people's bid for liberty; it has also "resolved" that prayers shall be offered in the Mosques next Friday, and in the Christian Churches the following Sunday, to the effect that Syria "may be delivered from servitude." What answer the Arab Executive will receive from the Palestine Government goes without saying. The whole of these activities are as artificial as they are dangerous. They seem to be an attempt by these few Arab leaders to create a factitious atmosphere of Syrian and Palestinian unity and of a common striving for "political redemption," and, incidentally, an attempt by the Arab Executive to assume definitely in the eyes of the new High Commissioner, the position of active and influential leadership and representativeness in the Palestinian Arab sphere.

Of the activity and, indeed, honest patriotism of these Arab leaders there can be no doubt; and, compared with the other Arab parties, they have a far superior imagination and flair in carrying out their purpose—in spite of their frequent ineptness in judgment. But what remains to be proved afresh is their influence throughout the country, and how far their activities arise out of a deep-seated feeling in the country and to what extent they are backed by the Arabs as a whole.

The High Commissioner.

Last Tuesday Lord Plumer made his first real public appearance since his arrival nearly three weeks ago. It was mildly sensational. Instead of the expected large-scale reception of the customary type—the whole of Government officialdom and Government wives and families, the entire and variegated assembly of Jerusalem's mass of religious and community heads, representatives, consuls, "notables," social lights, and the whole of the Government House "visitors' book"—instead of this there was only a sedate gathering, women excluded, comprising a small selection of some fifty inhabitants of Jerusalem of the serious, stolid, professional classes—bankers, lawyers, doctors, merchants, members of city council, a professional academic or two, and a few of the numerous journalists. Lord Plumer conscientiously took them all in turn and left on them the clear impression of an active mind, alert and interested in problems of most kinds, and not by any means that of a dour or stiff military man. The journalists, hopeful of making the most of a choice opportunity, received no change: in his conversation with them the High Commissioner harped solely on the advantages of Samoa as a place of deportation for tiresome Pressmen.

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BULGARIA.

Sofia, September 15.

A Settlement with Roumania.

Desultory negotiations have been proceeding for the last two or three years between Bulgaria and Roumania with regard to the payment of sundry claims arising out of the War. First and foremost comes the question of the property of Bulgarians living in Roumania. After the War the Roumanian Government placed a sequestration on these properties, but the Bulgarian Government by paying a sum of 250 million Lei has arranged for this sequestration to be raised. Secondly, Bulgaria will pay 70 million Lei in compensation for damage done to Roumanian property in Bulgaria during the War. Lastly, 43 million Levas will be paid to Roumanians living in Bulgaria whose lands were expropriated under an agrarian law passed in 1920.

At Geneva this week it is expected that MM. Kalfoff and Duca, the respective Foreign Ministers of Bulgaria and Roumania, will sign an agreement relative to the above. Then the two Parliaments will have to accord ratification. Payment will be spread over four years, and there has been a certain amount of grumbling in Bulgaria regarding the extra charges which will be consequently laid on the Budget. But if one look at matters from a broader point of view it would seem an excellent thing that the only important point in dispute between two neighbouring countries has at last been settled.

***Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.**

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For some time past Bulgarian interests in Bucharest have been looked after by a Chargé d'Affaires, but M. Pomenoff, Chief of the Political Section at the Foreign Office, has now been appointed Minister.

The Departure of M. Zankoff.

Rather suddenly M. Zankoff, the Prime Minister, left Sofia last week for a holiday in Switzerland. As M. Kalfoff, the Foreign Minister and a close friend of M. Zankoff, is at present at Geneva it is surmised that the Bulgarian Premier wishes to keep in close contact with his colleague. Reports have been issued to the effect that offers made by a foreign group for a loan to Bulgaria will be considered by M. Zankoff when in Switzerland. This is improbable, and what is more likely is that M. Zankoff wants a good holiday away from Bulgaria but sufficiently near M. Kalfoff to allow of future political combinations being discussed.

British Warships at Varna.

The visit to Varna of two cruisers belonging to the Mediterranean fleet has caused a good deal more comment than circumstances would appear to warrant. It is said, for example, that Great Britain dispatched these two cruisers to the Black Sea with the idea of showing Yugoslavia that British policy towards Bulgaria and Roumania could be very friendly if necessity demanded. Then it was said that the visit of the cruisers was intended to remind the Soviet that British sea power was still existent. Lastly, of course, it was said that the cruisers were demonsrating British naval superiority to the Turks in view of the dispute over Mosul. In all probability all the three theories mentioned above may be dismissed as ridiculous. The two cruisers in question were detached from the Mediterranean fleet purely and simply in order that their crews might acquaint themselves with new waters.

In any case, the reception accorded to our ships at Varna was cordial in the extreme and before leaving, the British Admiral, during a dinner given by the Mayor of Varna, spoke in highly flattering terms of Bulgaria, her Monarch, and the uphill struggle she was at present waging.

Ceded Property in Ex-enemy States.

The Reparation Commission in Paris have sent to Sofia a Commission which will receive reports from experts regarding Bulgarian State properties in territory ceded by Bulgaria according to the Treaty of Neuilly. The value of these properties will be deducted from Bulgaria's Reparation payments. Several meetings have taken place between this Commission and Bulgarian officials, and it is expected that the Commission will finish its work in two or three weeks.

ALBANIA.

Tirana, September 16.

Official News.

The Press Bureau of the Government, in view of tendencious reports that have appeared in the Belgrade newspapers and repeated elsewhere, has issued the following notice for foreign newspapers to copy:—

"1. The Commission set up under the auspices of the Council of Ambassadors for the delimitation of the frontier between Albania and Yugoslavia has recommenced its labours, accompanied by the Albanian delegate, M. Mehdi Frasheri.

"2. The National Militia has initiated its manœuvres, which are proving a great success. The President of the Republic has inspected the troops and has congratulated the officers on the success of the turnout.

"3. Parliament will shortly be resuming its labours, and deputies are consequently returning to the capital.

"4. The whole of the exiles who have been amnestied have returned to Albania. Perfect tranquillity reigns in the country."

The Commission in question is the one set up to demarcate the recent changes in the frontier agreed upon by the two Governments concerned.

With regard to the manœuvres, it will be recalled that after the successful revolution accomplished by Ahmed Bey Zogu, the Regular Army was abolished. Its place has been taken by a voluntarily recruited Gendarmerie and a Militia, organised on a local territorial basis and commanded by officers drawn from the Clans and Districts to which the men themselves belong. The present manœuvres constitute a test of the efficiency of the new organisation.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, Delayed.

The Breach of Promise Case.

The action, mentioned in a former note, in which a Greek girl, Miss Rouvali, sought compensation for a breach of promise of marriage from Mr. J. Ellis, the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, has been concluded. Mr. B. Dickenson, President of the Court, pronounced a long and careful judgment. The plaintiff, who claimed £3,000, has been awarded £1,720, including £30 costs. The present salary of the defendant is £850 a year, and it is provided that payment shall be made by instalments, with interest at 4½ per cent. on the unpaid balances. The matter of an appeal is being considered.

A Summer Camp on Mt. Troodos.

Amongst the spots well known to summer visitors is the attractive home for paying guests provided in the camp under canvas known as Miss Young's camp. For many years Miss Young, of Nicosia, has received visitors and tourists in a group of tents—with tastefully decorated interiors (mostly manufctured in the bazaars of Cairo). They are pitched annually during the season in a very picturesque site, over 5,000 feet above the sea, amidst the towering pine trees of Mt. Troodos. The camp has been a welcome retreat for numerous visitors from Egypt and elsewhere, who have enjoyed a holiday there. Miss Young contemplates giving up the excellent effort she has carried on for so long, the camp and equipment being for sale. It is to be hoped that they will be taken over by some enterprising successor.

A Cyprus Spa.

Of places that have been coming more and more into repute, mention should be made of a village high up in the Troodos range, situate on the banks of a torrent that

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runs down northward into the Morphou Bay. It possesses the rather formidable name of Kalopanagiotti. Here there are hot sulphur springs, which have long been visited by patients suffering from rheumatic and other ailments, who have in most cases, if not all, derived great benefit from the waters. Until lately there was no hotel; but accommodation can now be obtained, and this will no doubt be gradually improved. The neighbourhood is attractive. It is but a few miles from the Troodos military and civilian camps, and various places of interest are within easy reach.

General News.

It is believed that Mr. Fenn, the Chief Secretary, now acting as Governor, will leave in October.

The gathering of carobs (locust beans) will begin on August 15 in the plains, and will be continued at later dates in the higher zones. The times are fixed under a special law.

Nicosia, September 8.

The New Legislative Council.

October 1 has been fixed for the nomination of candidates for seats in the new Council—to be enlarged by six additional members, three Greek and three official; and October 14 for the polling in the twelve electoral divisions. Canvassing is proceeding actively throughout the island, and all the Greek seats will, it would appear, be hotly contested.

The Mediterranean Squadron.

A large division of the Fleet will, it is said, visit Cyprus on September 28. H.M.S. Queen Elizabeth, flagship of Admiral Sir Roger Keyes, it is expected, will drop anchor in Famagusta Harbour, while the Iron Duke, with Rear Admiral Hodges, will visit Larnaca. Other vessels of the Squadron will proceed to Limassol. It is expected that they will remain in Cypriot waters longer than has been usual in the past. These visits, which are less frequent than might be hoped, are much appreciated.

Town Planning at Nicosia.

Very soon after the occupation, in 1878, houses built, or to be occupied by, British officials began to spring up outside the walls of the capital, Nicosia; and, although a few have preferred to occupy old, and often interesting, houses—Turkish and other—inside the city walls, sites outside have been generally preferred. Government House and the Government Offices were constructed at some distance. Tree planting and avenues followed. It is now desirable that provision should be made for future roads and streets of different categories; and a Committee, which consists of the District Commissioner, the Director of Public Works, and the Chief of the Land Registry Office, will regulate all buildings situate outside the city walls. Plans may be seen at Government and Municipal Offices.

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Alleged Cure of Leprosy.

According to the Greek paper, *Phoné tes Kyprou*, great success has attended a treatment of lepers by a Greek specialist, Dr. Cons, who is said to have cured a leper in the island of Chios. At the invitation of the Metropolitan of Chios, he has been dealing with all cases in the island, and has instructed the local practitioners how to proceed during his absence. The treatment lasts from six to sixteen months. Greek doctors in Crete and elsewhere are applying it. The *Phoné* suggests that a trial of the cure should be made in Cyprus. Here the lepers are segregated in an establishment outside Nicosia, called the "Leper Farm," and are under the supervision of the Chief Medical Officer.

General News.

The Emir Zeid, after paying his father, ex-King Hussein, a visit, left by steamer for Port Said, having decided to proceed via Egypt rather than by Syria—to Iraq—on account of the disturbed state of the country. His father accompanied him as far as Larnaca.

Great regret is expressed at the coming departure of the Director of the Skouriotissa mines, which produce iron pyrites, in the north of the island. They provide employment for a large number of Cypriots, and are of great benefit to the island.

The carob (locust bean) crop, gathered in August, has been less than that of last year. The present price given by merchants is 20s. to 21s. the (Aleppo) kantar (of 180 okes): 800 okes to the ton.

PERSIA.

Teheran, August 28.

General News.

A certain amount of grumbling was inevitable in the Provinces over the new Tea and Sugar Taxes, and the Deficient Coinage question. All defaced and deficient coin was recalled recently and the use thereof declared illegal after a reasonable interval, but to mitigate the loss caused thereby, all Government administrations and the Banks for some time after, continued to accept such coin subject to 10 per cent depreciation. The time limit for this concession has again expired, but has had to be re-extended in response to popular clamour.

The chief problem of the moment is the shortage of water all over the country, and the provision of adequate grain supplies now and next year. Another dry winter will be a calamity for which the country is not adequately prepared. Thanks to the foresight and energy shown by the American Finance Commission, this matter is receiving close attention, and all grain supplies are being registered and conserved.

It is at such times that the need of an up-to-date policy is felt in regard to schemes of water conservation. Lack of Capital is the great obstacle in this as in other schemes of progress in Persia, and always will be till greater encouragement is given to genuine investors. The conditions for its encouragement are certainly improving fast. The country for many years has not been so safe and tranquil as at the present time, thanks to the confidence inspired by the firmness of the present Prime Minister and his Government, in every corner of the country.

The Turkoman operations are not yet at an end, but more reinforcements have been sent in order to occupy and more thoroughly to subdue the country. Very little news filters through but from letters received it appears that the Army is likely to be kept in occupation there for some time owing to the attitude of the Turkoman Soviet across the border.

Fifty Bulgarian politicians arrived in Budapest last week to spend some days in the capital as the guests of the municipality. Last Saturday they were entertained at a banquet at which members of the Government and of the National Assembly were present.

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BRITISH CRUISERS IN VARNA.

(From a Bulgarian Correspondent.)

Varna, September 6.

Two British cruisers of the Mediterranean Fleet, H.M.S. Frobisher with Rear-Admiral Weystall on board, and H.M.S. Dragon, arrived at Varna for a week's visit, on August 29 They were watched by admiring eyes and welcomed at heart by all those who saw them glide into the bay on a very beautiful summer evening, when the dreams that come after sunset have cast their spell over the Black Sea.

Since the days when British ships had helped in the evacuation of Russian refugees from the Crimea, we had seen no British sailors in Varna. Here, at last, were some who were on no "war" or "relief" mission, just peacefully cruising and calling at a Bulgarian port, where, though pre-War prosperity has sadly declined, the natural beauty of the coast, its wooded mystery and sunlit charm persist. The cruisers seemed to bring a breath of Western brightness to the inhabitatns of Varna. Even more so, perhaps, to the young King of a much-tried country, who, from his Palace of Euxinograd, near Varna, saw them pass into the harbour. King Boris is a keen sailor by nature and enjoys nothing more than his summer holiday on the Black Sea. This year, the visit of Rear-Admiral Weystall will certainly have added to his memories of happy days.

On the morning after their arrival the cruisers fired a salute, which was answered by a Bulgarian Coast Battery. This exchange of greetings rang out pleasantly in the golden peace of summer, and soon after the cruisers were open to visitors, who rushed happily to see the ships. The fact that technical and practical wonders were explained by a British cicerone in a language that very few understood, could not damp anyone's enthusiasm.

From the very first day the Admiral and officers made themselves extremely popular with the Bulgarians, who, as a nation, have a deep sense of hospitality, and cherished this rare opportunity of welcoming most courteous representatives of the much-admired British Navy.

The Admiral had an audience of the King at the Palace of Euxinograd, and invited his Majesty to lunch on his flagship. When the King, accompanied by the officers of his suite, and by M. Stancioff, former Minister in London, arrived on board H.M.S. Frobisher, the Royal Bulgarian standard was hoisted. A salute of guns announced the arrival and subsequent departure of Bulgaria's Sovereign, who, for the first time since his accession to the throne, was thus a guest of Great Britain. To all present the occasion seemed a singularly moving and happy one.

The Admiral and senior officers lunched with the King at the Palace and made a tour of the gardens. They were also the guests of the Mayor of Varna and of the Colonel commanding the garrison, the authorities of Varna being asked to meet them. The same authorities and their families met with the most charming hospitality on the Admiral's ship, where a luncheon and afternoon reception took place. There was also an informal tennis party at M. and Mme. Stancioff's villa, and excellent football maches were played between the British sailors and the best Bulgarian teams.

When the cruisers vanished on the horizon line this morning, in the uncertain greyness of dawn, one hoped that such visits might be more frequent, and one felt the comfort of having been among friends, who often seem so scarce and distant when one gazes over the deep waters of the Black Sea, towards the hidden shores where clouds are heavy and whence they so easily travel westwards with their messages of thunder and unrest.

The Bedouins who were concerned in the last attack near Damascus on the motor convoy have been proved to belong to the same band as those who committed the previous outrage, as they were wearing clothes belonging to drivers who were stripped in that raid.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

(Continued from page 362.)

The Labour Party and Bulgaria.

Bulgaria seems to exercise as strong a fascination over the British Labour Party as Iraq does over the *Daily Mail*. Yet a third delegation has been sent to find out what it can in the country. As a mission of relief its ostensible object was a worthy one. The party of three ladies, one of whom was Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., represented the Committee of the Bulgarian Widows and Orphans Relief Fund, and had been charged to distribute, or to arrange for the distribution of, relief to those who had been left widows or fatherless as a result of the Cathedral outrage and the political troubles. The Cathedral outrage, it will be noticed, enters the picture conjured up by these warm-hearted sisters of Labour mercy, but it is not quite clear whether their compassion goes out to the families of the actual victims of the bomb explosion as overflowingly as it does to the families of those who, rightly or wrongly, are held in Bulgaria to have had a hand, directly or indirectly, in the outrage, or whether it is restricted to the latter category. For the Bulgarians, of course, the distinction is an important one, and any attempt on the part of a foreign delegation, holding aloft the standard of sympathy and relief, to exclude from its ministrations the victims of an unprovoked Communist outrage, while confining its attentions solely to Communist families would not unnaturally be regarded as a piece of unwarrantable impertinence. We do not know what policy Dr. Marion Phillips, Lady Clare Annesley and Miss Wilkinson adopted, but from the statements of the latter it is to be inferred that they were quite as much interested in learning what the political opponents of the present Bulgarian Government had to say against it, and what was supposed by these same opponents to be taking place in prisons, as they were concerned to see that an unspecified sum of money "raised by public appeal and private subscription" was expended to the best advantage for widows and children. The deputation, however, professes itself "well satisfied with the result of its efforts," which could presumably never have been attained by sending the money by post. The Bulgarian authorities appear to have regarded them at first as interfering busybodies, but an interview with the Prime Minister secured them freedom from official observation. They then return home to the Trade Union Congress, which proceeds, it is to be feared, in vulgar language to give the show away by a resolution expressing "horror at the continual repression of the workers and agrarian organisations in Bulgaria and the persecution of their helpless dependents and (the Conference) demands in the name of humanity that the Bulgarian Government shall give facilities to the Committee formed by the Labour organisations for relief work among the widows and children of those who have suffered." It was tactless not to drag in the victims of the Cathedral outrage, after the delegation had very carefully put them first on paper.

Members of the Salonika Re-union will lay a wreath on Sunday, October 4, on the Cenotaph, having first paraded at 11.30 on the Horse Guards Parade, when a short service will be held. Following the ceremony and the observance of two minutes' silence, the members will march off down Whitehall to the end of Parliament Street, where they will disperse. A dinner will be held at 1.30 in the Drill Hall of the Queen's Westminsters and Civil Service Rifles in Buckingham Gate, S.W.

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THE CHIFLIK.

By MALCOLM BURR.

One inevitable result of the conquest of a country is the dispossession of the existing landowners and the establishment of an alien aristocracy.

The Balkan Peninsula has offered no exception to this rule, and after the Ottoman Conquest the land was seized and divided between the Sultan, and the *wakfs*, or religious endowments, and the nobility. A few subtle Phanariotes, by their subservience to their Turkish masters, acquired and held some large properties, and the Bulgarian usurers, the *chorbajis* of infamous memory, identified their interests with those of their rulers so effectively that they too were enabled to acquire and to retain some big estates, which were notorious for the rigour of their oppression. In Bosnia and in Herzegovina, the greater part of the old Serbian feudal aristocracy went over to Islam, and so retained their privileges. Only in the remote fastnesses of Albania, especially in the north, were the original owners able to retain their land in a state of semi-independence.

With the land in the possession of the *spahis*, *beys* and *agas*, the native population sank to the lowest levels of the proletariat, as *kmets* in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as *chifjis* elsewhere, becoming in practice, if not actually in theory, nothing but serfs tied to the soil, the mere cattle of their masters.

This mediæval system prevailed throughout the greater part of the Balkans until the liberation of the oppressed peoples. The great estates, or *chifliks*, were most numerous in the more open eastern and southern regions of the peninsula, nearer to the capital, and here the administration was most rigorous. In the lower Danubian basin, in the valley of the Morava and Vardar, practically all the peasants were *chifjis*, or labourers on the *chifliks:* here the Turkish population was most dense, and the relief of the country and its almost complete deforestation rendered easier the supervision by the *bey* over his employed, and revolt more difficult, and favoured the development of those crowded hovels, scarcely fit for human habitation, which are one of the characteristics of the system. The Christian population or *rayahs* were treated as mere cattle, often not so well, and centuries of such an existence could not fail to leave an impress upon their character.

But as we proceed in a northerly and easterly direction, further from the control of the capital, the country becomes more broken and mountainous, and the forests greater and denser: here the number of *chifliks* diminished, and the proportion of free peasants was greater. In the Shumadia or Central Serbia, in Montenegro, in parts of Herzegovina and of Greece and in Albania, there survived a large, if not actually dominant, proportion of free peasants, more occupied in pastoral pursuits than in agriculture, which began to develop in the Pindus and Dinaric ranges, in Serbia and northern Bosnia, only in the middle of the nineteenth century. It is not by chance that it was in the then densely wooded country of the Shumadia, with its houses in scattered clearings and sometimes powerful *zadrugas* or family communes, often strong enough to be able to make themselves respected, where the landowners could not easily supervise their men, that the spirit of nationality and freedom lingered on through the Dark Ages, and burst into flame in the revolt against the extortions of the *spahis* at the end of the eighteenth century, and set the example to Greece and the other oppressed Christian peoples.

Yet the *chiflik* system survived in what was left of Turkey in Europe until 1912, and lingers on to-day, in a modified form, in parts of Thrace and Macedonia, in Thessaly and in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In Thessaly and parts of Macedonia, big estates passed into the hands of wealthy capitalists, who bought the land from the peasants, while in Bosnia, as recently as 1910, the Austro-Hungarian Government recognised the existence of 650,000 *kmets*, and one of the most knotty of the post-War problems of the south-east of Europe has been the release of the peasants with compensation for the landowners. Greece, Roumania and Yugoslavia have all had to face it, the latter country meeting it not only with their own nationals in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but in Serbian Macedonia, where the landlords were Turks or Mohammedan Albanians, and in the vast latifundia of southern Hungary, where the Magyar magnates held the land that was worked by the mainly Slav peasantry: in Croatia, too, there were huge estates held by owners of alien origin and tradition. It is interesting, too, to note that near Dubrovnik, the home of freedom through so many centuries, there lingered on traces of mediæval *coloniae* that date from the thirteenth century.

In form, the *chiflik* is an artificial type of village which existed in Byzantine days, but was finally developed by the Turks. By the beginning of the nineteenth century it had spread throughout almost the whole of the Balkan peninsula, except Dalmatia, Montenegro, and part of Albania. It was most strongly developed in the broad, rich plains, especially those south of Nish, in the lower valley of the Danube, the basins of the Maritsa, and of the Vardar, the plains of Kossovo, Metohia and Thessaly, and large areas in central and southern Albania.

In general, the *chiflik* hamlet consists of a rectangular enclosure, the walls of which form a protection against marauders, both two- and four-footed, as may frequently be seen in Germany and other parts of the Continent. The outside wall consists of the backs of a series of single-room hovels, opening towards the courtyard, for the human, and stables for the animal, property of the *bey*, the two differing but little in style and filth. In a more favourable position, preferably on rising ground, stood the homestead, the house of the owner, consisting of two separate buildings, the *selamlik*, or men's, and *haremlik*, or women's quarters. The house is usually built of good material, and burnt brick, but the hovels are generally of sun-dried brick, with roof of a coarse thatch, or sometimes tiled. Outside this courtyard, in a suitable position commanding the fields around, there is usually a not inelegant kind of summer-house called the *chardak*, where the bey would sit and refresh himself while watching his men and beasts at work around.

Sometimes, but not often, several *chifliks* occur near enough together to form a regular village, and in this case, especially near the shores of the Aegean coast, the *chifliks* mingle with villages of the Mediteranean type, but with the elimination of the Turk, the *chifliks* are evolving into, or being replaced by, free villages, of types varying with the locality.

The hovels of the *chifjis* are primitive in the extreme: they are never whitewashed, and the soft sun-dried bricks are heavily eroded by every storm, and require constant patching. They offer the bare minimum of shelter indispensable for life, mere human stables, with no scope for amenity or any feeling other than strictly indispensable utility. The *chifji* led a life so arduous that he had no energy left for any of the joys of life, so that often enough his huts were lacking even in the most primitive furniture, though in the more remote districts, there were often enough some attempts at cleanliness, and even wooden chests for a few belongings, such as the variegated clothes of the women, the one bright spot in their drab lives, and even beds. Along the coasts of Thrace and Macedonia, too, under Greek influence, the conditions were somewhat better.

The *selamlik* and *haremlik* were usually substantially, sometimes quite elegantly, built. A typical case is the property at Bardovtse, near Skoplye, once belonging to a wealthy pasha. The houses are pleasing of aspect, of variously coloured brick: the two wings are rectangular,

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while the centre portion has a convex facade, with the entrance door and broad stairs, leading through a spacious and pleasant verandah. The general effect is picturesque, and when it was furnished with luxurious oriental rugs, ancient weapons and carved woodwork, the pasha must have had a comfortable and luxurious home. The *selamlik* stands out prominently, but the *haremlik*, connected by a bridge, is modestly sheltered in a grove of trees.

Close by, under the eye of the pasha is the hamlet where, until 1912, the *chifjis* eked out their miserable existence. And here we find one of the most striking characteristics of the system, which throws a lurid light upon the mentality of the Turkish landowners. Every father of a family received a free grant of a tiny patch of land on which to build his hovel: adjoining each hovel, and built on it, were one, two or more sub-hovels, like excrescences. Each of these was the accommodation for a married son. For when a young man was old enough, he was married by order of the pasha to a suitable girl chosen for him, and the young pair then built their kennel adjoining the paternal hovel. Then for a time they were excused manual labour, not from any motive of sentiment, but to encourage them to breed, and so produce more labourers for the pasha; a young mother, moreover, was excused even domestic duties, so that she could concentrate her attention upon her babe: when this was old enough, it joined the crowd of its counsins in the grandpaternal hut, while the parents went back to their work in the fields, until the arrival of another young *chifji* gave the mother a temporary change of occupation. Of a truth, the pasha was a practical eugenist.

To enable the *chifji* to live, a proportion of the produce was allotted to him for the support of his family: at Bardovtse, and probably in many other places, the pasha took half and gave half to the *chifjis*: in a good year, they might do fairly well on this, and even among Turkish landowners there are sometimes good-natured men, and times and in places the lot of the serfs may have been almost tolerable, but in the vast majority of cases, it was a grinding, unending tyranny, brought to an end only by the victorious wars of the once dispised *rayahs*.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

Resumption of Mr. Lloyd George.

It may or may not be a good thing for England, it may or may not make judgment of party politics any easier—this return of Mr. Lloyd George, once head of a Coalition Cabinet, but for a longer period the most opportune of Radical Socialists. For without question this ex-Premier is, in the political sense, "coming back"; he has resumed the way of thinking which he quite rightly renounced when the Great War broke out: the state of mind, I mean, in which he was able to impose on the English nation the Germanic Insurance Bill.

One finds no gratification in so continually being opposed to an ex-Prime Minister whose energetic genius during the War so exactly coincided with the needs of the nation, but it is difficult indeed to discover aught else than opportunism in this latest effort of the ancient foe of the landlords to restate the land question. It seems true that he does not keep his ear quite so close to the ground, or, rather, to the voice of influential advisers or supporters, as he did in the fruity days of the Coalition, but it is still in the spirit of *carpe diem* that he, who in his speeches upon agriculture has perhaps made more mistakes than any other politician, should in effect accuse the present Government of lethargy in the agricultural struggle and claim for the Liberal Party the one true means of saving the situation. It seems almost like old times, when, in company with Baron De Forest the young Liberal politician went about the country making speeches which infuriated those very landowners who in later years came to support him so whole-heartedly. "He loves me; he doesn't; he would if he could but he can't . . . . he doesn't" must now be the puzzled comment of the landowners.

The Agrarian Problem.

At least this may be said for Mr. Lloyd George's speech at Killerton: it was uttered in sober and moderate tone; it was polite; it was even logical. Whether this was due to his realisation that the topic of agrciulture was a vital one, whether to the fact that he was the quest of Mr. F. D. Acland, whose loyaly to him had already once received a severe shaking, or whether because there were in his Devonshire audience many people who did know the difference between a turnip and a parsnip, one cannot say; at any rate the *faux pas* that he committed were for the most part theoretical.

But, however restrained his language was, his proposals were extreme. Not that there was anything against them on this account: but Mr. Lloyd George's extreme always means one thing—the State. Briefly, his proposal—the proposal, one assumes, of the Liberal Party—is to abolish landlordism in favour of land nationalisation. If only the incompetent landlords and inefficient farmers could have their work supervised by a host of tireless bureaucratic officials, how much happier we should be! Not that the landlord is to be swept away quite ruthlessly: he is to be "fairly compensated" (one rather guesses what "fair compensation" would be when an urban house of Commons got hold of an agrarian problem)—after the accomplishment of which complicated measure a State Department is to perform his functions. In other words, dispossess those who for generations have been mismanaging their job in favour of those high-souled men who during the past two years have learned all there is to know about British agriculture (and Continental agriculture as well).

The one main assumption that underlay this speech was that the English farmer was inferior to the Con-

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tinental farmer—Liberals are always referring to the success of Danish and Scandinavian farming. One wonders what the Devon farmers thought of all this. I do not know south-west England sufficiently well, but it is safe to say that if Mr. Lloyd George had delivered his speech to the Norfolk barley-growers, the Oxfordshire vegetable-growers, the Lincolnshire potato-growers, or to the Cambridgeshire, Worcestershire, and Kent fruit and hop growers, he would have had one or two unanswerable question to evade at the end of his speech. For the fact is that in the Liberal Party there is little tradition of connection with the land; agriculture is of all subjects that in which moves most uneasily. How utterly false its touch is when it does approach the problem is to be seen from Mr. Lloyd George's passing of the Corn Production Act in the summer of 1920 and its repeal less than a year later. But that was four years ago; and the Welsh statesman's memory was never his strongest possession.

The Stockport By-Election.

The result of the Stockport by-election, in which the traditional order of Conservatism, Labour, Liberal was upset, appears to have sent both the professing foes and the professing friends of the Government into the wildest transports. For the danger of judging the general from the particular never impresses itself very much upon the losing side: the very fact that the Liberal gained nearly five thousand more votes than at the previous election is hailed by the Liberals as a sign of the times, and political Labour is frankly bubbling over because its nominee defeated the representatives of the older parties.

But the truth is that it is impossible, in ignorance of the local conditions at Stockport, to greet the result of this by-election either with frowns or smiles. Most of the comments upon it have been puerile. The Beaverbrook Press, for instance, stretching its anti-Baldwin bow even more tautly than usual, attributes the defeat of the Conservative to the granting of the Coal Subsidy, as if voters who disapproved of that measure would sullkily go over, directly or indirectly, to Labour. It may be true that the Government has failed to consolidate the ground that it won at the last election, but that that ground is now cracking under its feet is altogether a premature notion. The return of Labour is not yet; nor the revival of Liberalism. Political pendulums have a fickle swing, but they are not quite so fickle as is the penny Press.

The State and Liberty.

In these days when, if one is not an anarchist, the responsibilities of the State are seen inevitably to increase, the old controversy upon the desirable limits upon individual liberty is breaking out afresh. It is, in the broad consideration, the issue between the Liberal and the Socialist schools of thought—these names being used in the theoretical sense. One is not surprised, therefore, to find so doctrinaire and academic a body as the Fabian Society announcing a series of public lectures in which the point will be raised. These discussions, for all the aridity which commonly distinguishes Fabian polemics, should be interesting, in as much as such a heterogeneous list of speakers as Mr. R. H. Tawney, Mr. St. John Philby, the Master of Balliol, and the inevitable Messrs. Bernard Shaw and Sidney Webb has been announced. One wonders, for instance, whether Mr. Philby's idea of freedom gained from his experiences in the Wahhabi State will be the same as Mr. Shaw's gained from his experiences in the state of his own mind: Puritan systems so often approximate one another.

Public Schools and Association.

The Football Association has addressed to the headmasters of the public schools of this country a memorandum asking that Association football shall be re-introduced at least on equal terms with other winter games, abandoned in favour of Rugby. The memorandum argues that since Association is the winter game of the country, and especially of the Army, it is highly desirable that more public school atmosphere should be put into it.

With those bare proposals it is difficult not to agree, although one imagines that it is rather a sense of tradition than of social duty which has enabled such schools as Winchester, Repton, Malvern, Shrewsbury, Charterhouse, Westminster, and so on to remain faithful to Soccer. But they appear to overlook the reasons which prompted so many schools to forsake Soccer for Rugby. These were mainly, I believe, the general fact that the dribbling code had deteriorated in conduct so much owing to the influence of professionalism, and the particular fact that it had become increasingly difficult to arrange fixtures with neighbouring sides who were reputable.

Now it is hard, in view of the increasing number of ungentlemanly incidents which one reads of in the professional Soccer matches, to imagine that the public schools will easily renounce a game in which unsportsman like conduct is very rare, for any one who has watched some of the thousands of so-called "amateur" games of which the F.A. so proudly speaks knows very well that things that "are not done" are by no means confined to professional teams. Only last Saturday (it being too wet for cricket) I saw, in one of these "amateur" games, a back handle a ball standing on his goal-line, and, after the ball had passed from his hand into the net, appeal to the referee for a penalty to be given against his side!

It is true that, played in the proper spirit, Soccer is as fine a winter game to play as there is; but there will be long controversies before a general return is made to it by the schools.

A British Pianist.

It is complained by many worthy but ignorant people that for fine playing in music you must go to foreign executive artists. It is a great misapprehension—how great the death the other day of Mr. Leonard Borwick reminds us. For Borwick, though no virtuoso, was a pianist whose beauty of playing was essentially an English beauty. Whether he was interpreting Bach or Beethoven or Schumann or Brahms or Liszt or Debussy, his playing had a poise, a restraint, and, in fine, a soundness that were of his native country.

The pianoforte seemed to him the means of entrance to another world, not, as it becomes with many, a vehicle of display. Only such an artist could have done what he did for music in England. He was an apostle of the school of sweet reasonableness, the school which gives very definite, if not infinite, pleasure. ALTER EGO.

According to the *Jumhuriet*, part of the Soviet Black Sea Fleet was due to arrive at Constantinople last Saturday and part of the Baltic Fleet later.

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Book Reviews and Notes.

TWO NOTABLE FIGHTERS.

"INDIA AS I KNEW IT, 1885-1925." By Sir Michael O'Dwyer. (London: Constable and Co., Ltd. 18s. net.)

"A NATION IN MAKING." By Sir Surendranath Banerjea. (Oxford University Press. 16s. net.)

It was Mark Twain who said that, if he ever wrote an autobiography, "it will be as other men have done—with the most earnest desire to make myself out to be the better man in every little business that has been to my discredit: and I shall fail, like the others, to make my readers believe anything except the truth."

It is, of course, a truism to say that, when X writes his autobiography, its most suitable title would be "X as I see him": it is so in all cases, and not less than usual in these two books. Neither is, in the slightest degree, an "apologia"—quite the contrary. Both are, in their different ways, indictments of the Government of India: the former as it is, the latter as it was. The main difference between them is what may be called their propaganda scheme: that of Sir Michael O'Dwyer being political, and that of Sir Surendranath Banerjea being personal. The casual reader of either would perhaps be inclined to a less sympathetic view of the writers than one who knew them. Sir Michael's presentation of himself hardly does himself justice: though the reader would necessarily recognise the truth that the author was a notable administrator and a much bigger man than most of his official contemporaries in India, he would also quite clearly realise how it was that Sir Michael had enemies as well as friends, and would be unlikely to understand the extraordinary personal attraction that he exercised on the great majority of those who knew him in India. Similarly, the casual reader would be apt to think of Sir Surendranath Banerjea as an amiable old gentleman who liked to lay it on to himself with a trowel, and who gloried so much in his gift of eloquence as to have made himself out to be a bit of a windbag. But, apart from the personality of the writers, both books are notable contributions to the Indian literature of the day. The political controversies in which both the authors were so closely involved have died down; but a perusal of their books is necessary to anyone who wishes to have a full view of the circumstances in which those controversies arose.

Sir Surendranath's book deals mostly with the past and is largely taken up with his history of the fight for the annulment of the partition of Bengal. In the present era of embittered communal feeling in India, his reason for the struggle against Lord Curzon's partition sounds almost pathetic. If the division of the Hindu west from the Mohammedan east was to be perpetuated, he wrote in 1905, "it would be fatal to our political progress, and to that close union between Hindus and Mohammedans upon which the prospects of Indian advancement so largely depend." It is needless to stress the fact that the Mohammedan view was quite different: the Mohammedans of Eastern Bengal welcomed Lord Curzon's partition, and regard its reversal as a breach of faith which they have never forgotten or forgiven. Sir Surendranath accepted Diarchy, and stoutly defended himself against the charge of betrayal of his principles by acceptance of a Ministry: it is not we who have changed, he said, but Government. At the same time, his idea of the eventual form that self-government should take in India, after the transition stage of Diarchy, remained what it had been in 1909: when, in his "last words to the British public" on leaving England, he said, "first give us autonomous Provincial Governments: then build up on them a Central Federal Council or Assembly. I will except army and railway expenditure for the sake of compromise; otherwise I claim Indian control over the expenditure of all money raised from Indian taxpayers."

Sir Michael's book, a large part of which is naturally devoted to the Punjab rebellion of 1919, is of special interest to the student of Indian economics, owing to its championship of the interests of the peasant. He mentions that, in 1905, there were in the Punjab twelve co-operative societies, with a few hundred members and a capital of a few thousand rupees: whereas, in 1919, when he left the Punjab, there were six thousand societies with 150,000 members and a working capital of one and a half million pounds. The rate of interest throughout the Province had been brought down to less than half of what it had been before, and hundreds of thousands of acres of peasant holdings had been redeemed from mortgages. The inception of co-operative societies had been met by strong opposition from moneylenders, which however proved unsuccessful; but not so the opposition of the lawyers to a subsequent extension of the principle, by which an attempt was made to substitute, between the members of the Societies, arbitration for litigation. This was unpopular with the Bar: the Minister himself was a lawyer: and, as the official, who had tried to start the new idea, pathetically wrote in his report, "litigation, being our second greatest industry, cannot be interfered with." It is to be hoped, says Sir Michael, that, in spite of this example of the difficulties attending it, this beneficent work for the Punjab peasant is now so firmly rooted as to be able to defy the opposition to which, as agriculture is a "transferred" subject, he foresees that it will still be liable.

As regards the future of the Imperial Services in India, Sir Michael makes a point which we do not remember to have seen put forward before. In 1924, he says, of eleven I.C.S. posts offered in England all but three went to Indians, and among them there was not a single Mohammedan or Sikh. In India, in the three years 1922-1924, 45 candidates were selected for the I.C.S.: of these 41 were Hindus, and there was not a single European or Mohammedan. On the other hand, the Indians admitted to Sandhurst are almost all Sikhs or Mohammedans. So that, in the future, the divorce between the Hindus holding political power, and the Mohammedans and Sikhs in the Army, will become even more marked than at present.

INDIA IN RECENT TIMES.

"A SKETCH OF THE HISTORY OF INDIA FROM 1858 TO 1918." By Henry Dodwell. M.A. (London: Longmans Green and Co., 6s.)

Professor Dodwell has placed everyone under a very deep debt by his "Sketch of the History of India from 1858 to 1918." As he has himself pointed out, the task was by no means easy, and what looms large at present may not necessarily have the same importance at a future date. He has limited his scope to some extent by confin-

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ing attention mainly to the material that will be available to future generations, but that has not restrained him entirely from inserting some personal touches. The chapter dealing with education contains much more than knowledge from printed sources. It is the work of a close observer who has had plenty of opportunity to see the working of the system. Still, it is curious that then he seems to have missed the real cause which tends to keep the degree standard low. In India, a degree is a *sine qua non* for Government and most other better paid service, and the Universities are performing a double task—the work of the Civil Service Commissioners and that of responsible examining bodies. After all, it may well be considered an injustice to fail a man in his degree examination, when you declare him, thereby, to be unsuited for a minor post in a Government office. It is an interesting case of the conflict between standards of efficiency and standards of intellect. But the chapter is profoundly true and at the root of much of the modern unrest is the shallow thought which comes from defective education, used for a purpose different from that for which it was intended. There is one protest which will be welcome to those who know India through other than English-speaking channels—Professor Dodwell's regret that only those are regarded as educated, whose education is Western. It is one of the worst effects of the *damnosa hereditas* of Macaulay.

The intimate bearing of Western education on the rise of modern unrest is well worked out. But, though Professor Dodwell notices the unemployed officials of *l'ancien régime* as the material on which unrest has worked most successfully, he hardly stresses it enough. It is a most significant fact that the main activities of unrest in 1906 and even later correspond almost identically with the regions disturbed by the Mahrattas in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The addition of the Muslim element is almost entirely due to the fear of majority rule.

Professor Dodwell's attack on the cult of efficiency may sound contradictory in the light of his attack on bad education, but this is not really the case. Efficiency is on the whole a shallow form of pragmatism, and a deflection of the aims of Government from the main duty of Government—the interests of the subjects—to the perfection of a system. It is from "systematization" that Indian Education has suffered—it was introduced largely in the interests of perfecting a system of political ideas, not so much that it was for the good of the Indian as that it was considered necessary for his political good. And—in the interests of efficiency it must be Western Education.

The two main portions of the book are devoted to the development of the Government and to Foreign affairs.

Both in his introduction and in Book I., Professor Dodwell shows how much the process of centralization has depended upon "the shrinkage" of the earth's surface before the development of means of communication. This has rendered it possible for India to be controlled from Whitehall by a Secretary of State who, while he might not understand the problems in hand, had sufficient justification to persist in the illusion that he did, and to enforce his decisions. It is under this head that we find the brunt of the author's attack on Morley, and it must be admitted, that severe as Professor Dodwell is, he makes a very strong case. He will never convince the idealist school of Radical thought, for Morley to them is *deus ex machina*, and facts count for nothing. There is one point on which even Professor Dodwell is moved to give Morley the meed of recognising good in a Viceroy's suggestions, but there, even, appears to be some doubt, and Professor Dodwell, like the House of Commons *may* have been led astray. The late Sir William Meyer, who was at Simla during Minto's Viceroyalty used to tell a story to the effect that Morley, relying on Lady Minto's love of Simla, wrote strongly to the Viceroy asking him to arrange that the draft reforms should appear to come at the instance of the Government of India—hence Lord Minto's difficult task of persuading his counsellors when the Viceroy complied, Morley was able to refer in the House "to the widely divergent views and traditions of His Excellency and himself, yet they were agreed" etc. The story is at any rate worthy of record, as its authority is fairly high. But, to return to the earlier point, the increasing intimacy promoted by means of communication and other economic factors enables Professor Dodwell to acquit the overworked district officer and to assign to its proper quarter the blame for the enormous increase of brueaucracy in India.

The sketch of Foreign affairs leaves nothing to be desired. In a way, it explains much of the rest of Indian development. The Central Asiatic problem and its solution have been the deciding factors of the stability of all governments in India, and the British Government is no exception. With the stability of the government goes the security of all classes, particularly in the North. The invasions of Nadir Shah and Ahmad Shah are long forgotten now, but a revival of their study might prove a salutary check on even the most enlightened sentimentalism on the reduction of Army estimates in India. The votes are usually moved by those who would be the first to pay for help if their vote had its full effect. Here it would seem the proper place to acknowledge Professor Dodwell's able explanation of the real cause of the failure of Kitchener's reforms. Kitchener's scheme was blamed —very freely—for the failure of the Indian Army in Mesopotamia. That will now no longer be possible. It is impossible to discuss all the points Professor Dodwell has raised, but apart from a bias in favour of "the good old days of John Company," when after all, problems were simple, he has presented an absolutely fair account of the sixty years following the Mutiny. He has avoided overstating the importance of the years 1857-8, but yet he has done justice to the change that took place then. He has given us an excellent guide to present day problems and last but not least done something to inspire with a little confidence the prospect of the future.

F. W. BUCKLER.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Scenes and Characters from Indian History." Compiled and Edited with historical and explanatory notes by C. H. Payne. (London: Oxford University Press. 6s. net.)

"The Industrial Evolution of India in Recent Times." By D. R. Gadgil, B.A., M.Litt. (Cantab.). (London: Oxford University Press. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The Evolution of Provincial Finance in British India." By B. R. Ambedkar, D.Sc. (Econ.). (London: P. S. King and Son, Ltd. 15s. net.)

AN AMERICAN ORIENTALIST.

The death was announced from New York on September 14 of Professor Albert T. Clay, of Yale University, a distinguished student of Assyriology and Babylonian literature. It will be recalled that Professor Clay, while returning, in his capacity of President of the American Society of Oriental Research, from the opening last year of the Baghdad School of Archæology, was injured in a desert motor accident. His last publication was called "The Origin of Biblical Traditions," in which the thesis was maintained that the Hebrews did not borrow their religious traditions from Babylonia. He will long be remembered for his studies on the antiquity of the Amorites.

ASCENT OF MT. ELBRUZ.

An expedition sent out from Tiflis by the Georgian Geographical Society has successfully ascended Mount Elbruz (18,526 ft.) in the Caucasus. Five days were needed to attain the summit of this, the highest mountain in Europe, as during some 70 hours the expedition had to shelter in its tents from a snowstorm on the glacier at the height of 12,000 ft. On its way up the expedition installed a hut for permanent meteorological records on the Asau glacier at the height of 9,000 ft. Five women took part in the ascent, which was ardous owing to the snowstorm and the difficult going over the fields of lava and ice.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY

September 24, 1925 (New Style).
September 11, 1925 (Old Style).
Rabia I, 6, 1344 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Tishri, 6, 5686, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Greek Minister returned to London from Paris last Sunday.

The Shah of Persia left Paris on September 20 for Lausanne.

Viscount Chelmsford left London on September 16 for the Continent.

Lord and Lady Lamington left London last week for Lamington, Lanarkshire.

M. Fikry, Secretary at the Egyptian Legation, left London last Thursday evening for Cairo.

Sir Henry and Lady Bax-Ironside have returned to 23, Grosvenor Place from a tour in Normandy.

Lady Willcocks left London last Saturday in the Peninsular and Oriental ss. Novara for Port Said.

Shevky Pasha, Secretary at the Turkish Embassy, returned to London on September 15 from Geneva.

Princess Antoine Bibesco left London last week to join Prince Antoine Bibesco at 45, Quai Bourbon, Paris.

M. Subotitch, specially attached to the Yugoslav Legation, returned to London last Friday from Belgrade.

Murad Hechmat, Secretary at the Egyptian Legation, left London last Friday evening for the Continent on leave.

The Aga Khan, who was the guest of Lord and Lady Savile for the Doncaster Races, left London on September 14 for Paris.

M. Dimitri A. Naoumoff, Secretary at the Bulgarian Legation, left London last Friday for Paris, and will be absent several weeks.

The Bulgarian Minister in London left last Saturday for Geneva. During his absence M. Stoyan Petroff Tchomakoff, Counsellor, is acting as Chargé d'Affaires.

Major and Lady Alexandra Metcalfe sailed from London last Friday for India, where Major Metcalfe will take up his duties on the personal staff of the Commander-in-Chief, Field-Marshall Sir William Birdwood.

Mr. Jyotis Ranjan Das, barrister, has been appointed one of the Judges of the High Court of Judicature at Rangoon in the vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. Charles Philip Radford Young.

The Maharajah of Porbandar, who has been staying in England during the summer, left London last Friday for India. Colonel Bannerman, of the India Office, was present at Victoria Station to take leave of his Highness.

The marriage of Captain M. S. O'Rorke, Palestine Police, late Royal Irish Constabulary, son of the late Mr. M. O'Rorke and of Mrs. O'Rorke, of Rathmines Road, Dublin, and Muriel, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mawdesley, of Oundle, will take place shortly in Palestine.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENT.

DEATH.

BOVILL.—September 15, at South Walsham, Alfred Karslake Bovill, I.S.O., late Principal Forest Officer of Cyprus, son of the late Sir William Bovill, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas.

Mr. William Culbertson, the newly appointed American Minister to Roumania, presented his letters of credence to King Ferdinand at Sinaia on September 12.

The engagement is announced between J. W. Robertson, Sudan Political Service, eldest son of the late Mr. James Robertson and of Mrs. Robertson, Ettrick Road, Edinburgh, and Nancy, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh S. Walker, Vernon Avenue, Huddersfield.

Ismail Pasha Sirry, the Egyptian Minister of Public Works, and the Under Secretary, Saleh Pasha Enan, have arrived in London to consult Sir Geoffrey Archer, the Governor-General of the Sudan, about the Gebel Auila dam, on the White Nile, which the Egyptian Government propose to build.

The Maharajah Gaekwar of Baroda gave a luncheon at the Carlton Hotel on September 16. His guests included Earl Winterton, General Sir Havelock Hudson, Sir Benjamin Roberston, Sir Albert Gait, Sir Reginald Mant, Sir Campbell Rhodes, Sir Muhammed Rafiq, Colonel M. J. Meade, Colonel A. D. Bannerman, Dr. Y. V. Modak, and Mr. N. M. Samarth.

The following are among transfers and promotions in the Colonial Service that have been made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies: Mr. R. Popham Lobb, Colonial Secretary, British Guiana, to Chief Secretary, Cyprus; Mr. J. C. D. Fenn, Chief Secretary, Cyprus, to Colonial Secretary, British Guiana. Mr. H. B. Popham, late Provincial Commissioner, Gold Coast, to Commissioner, Grade 2, Cyprus.

PRINCE SEIFEDDINE.

In view of the curiosity aroused by the circumstances attending the stay in, and departure from, England of Prince Seifeddine, we publish the following comment, which we have received from the Egyptian Legation in London:—

"Prince Seifeddine was, at the time of the former Khedive Abbas Hilmi, recognised insane by a Medical Commission in Egypt, whose advice was to send the Prince to an asylum in England, where climate and careful treatment would suit his case. As his state did not show any amelioration, he was kept in his asylum, where he was being treated by the best medical men in London. During his treatment he was authorised by his doctors to go out on walks with his attendants—which afforded his mother a suitable opportunity to plan his escape."

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Indian Affairs.

POLITICAL PARTIES IN INDIA.

The two main political parties in India are the Swarajists and the Independents. They are both anti-Government and, on important occasions, can be counted on to combine against Government; but their policies are not identical. The policy of the Swarajists is non-co-operation, with a view to rendering the continuance of the present form of government impossible and so to force a change: and their tactics are to oppose all Government measures and to support all anti-Government measures, without discrimination. The policy of the Independents is described by themselves as "responsive co-operation"—the support of any Government measures which they consider to be in the interests of India, the support of any anti-Government measure of the same kind, and opposition to any measure, whether for or against Government, the passing of which they do not consider would be advantageous to India. The Swarajists in the Bombay Legislative Council have recently refused to take any further part in the proceedings of the Council because, after they have, in furtherance of their own policy, supported the demands of the Bombay Independents, the latter, also in pursuance of their own policy, declined to support the demands of the Swarajists except on their merits. As the Bombay Independents are in a minority in the Council when opposed by the official members, they can only defeat the latter with Swarajist assistance: and the defection of the Swarajists was intended to drive home this fact by leaving the Independents to "stew in their own juice." In the Legislative Assembly at Simla, the Swarajists and Independents have recently combined to defeat the Government of India in their resolution on Indian Constitutional Reform, by adopting an amendment in which their own programme for the future government of India was put forward in some detail. The Council of State—the Upper House of the Central Indian Legislature—adopted, by 28 votes to 7, the Government of India's resolution and rejected the Nationalist amendment. This action has given great offence to the Swarajists and Nationalists in the Assembly: and they threaten to organise opposition to all the elected members of the Council of State who did not vote with the minority, at the next Council election which is now imminent. The leaders of the two parties have also been in consultation regarding a proposal that all the Nationalist members should resign their seats in protest against the action of the Council of State, and seek re-election with a view to obtaining a mandate from their constituents in favour of their own action and in opposition to that of the Council. So far, it does not appear that the proposal meets with general approval from the rank and file, and it is unlikely to be adopted. But the constitutional breach, between the extreme Nationalists in the Lower House and the Moderate Nationalists in the Upper, is likely to check a tendency on the part of the Swarajists in the Assembly, of which signs were becoming evident, to draw nearer to the Independent policy of "responsive co-operation"; and to cause them to revert to their original policy of uncompromising opposition to all Government measures.

It appears, however, that a movement is on foot to organise a third party, which shall combine the existing Moderates and Liberals—at present few and disorganised—into a Conservative party, in which shall be included all men with a substantial stake in the country, in particular the great landlords: while it is hoped that, in the present strained state of communal feeling, it will be possible to add the Mohammedan members to the Party also. The Moderates and Liberals, while desiring progress towards self-government, declare that the present moment is inopportune for any further advance, and hold that nothing is to be gained by defiance of the British Parliament such as that enunciated in the Nationalist amendment passed by the Assembly on the Reforms. The men with a stake in the country are alarmed at the Communist doctries which at one time found an echo in the speeches of Mr. C. R. Das: and the landlords, in particular, are disturbed at a suggestion, lately put forward by extremist politicians, to revoke the permanent settlement existing in Bengal and in parts of the United Provinces. The Mohammedans are frightened at the prospect of a "Hindu Raj" which they foresee as the result of a successful issue to the present agitation against the form of government obtaining in India. But, though all these component parts of a possible Conservative Party have good reason to oppose extremist politicians, Swarajists and Indenpendents alike, the diversity of their own interests is such that their effective combination appears to be unlikely. Any permanent alliance between Hindus and Mohammedans is a practical impossibility: questions are bound to arise that would divide them sharply, and it would not be difficult for the astute extremist to exploit such divisions. Moreover, the Permanent Settlement is not a good party cry. An Association of the great landlords of Bengal has recently been formed with the declared purpose of resisting any attempt to alter it; but the very general complaint against the Permanent Settlement is not directed against itself so much as against the landlords who misuse it. When the grant of a permanent settlement was made to the great landlords, it was assumed that reliance could be placed on the goodwill of the landlords for the fulfilment of the implied contract—that they should extend to their tenants the advantages that they themselves enjoyed. This assumption was a mistaken one; for the landlords, though themselves secure against any enhancement of land revenue, did not scruple to raise the rents of their tenants, until the amount received by them as rent is many times what it was when the Permanent Settlement was brought into force. Moreover, one of the two Mohammedan members of the Bengal Legislative Council, who have recently resigned their membership of the Swaraj Party, has specifically done so on the ground that the Swaraj Party is the champion of the landlords against the tenants: that he feels convinced that the Swaraj Party is anxious to preserve the privileges of the landlords and that, although the agricultural population of India forms 95 per cent. of the whole, the peasants can expect no sympathy from the Swarajists. That he had, so far, been helping the Swaraj Party because he believed that it advocated a progressive policy; but that, as he is now convinced that its policy is really reactionary, he has felt himself compelled to resign from it.

An exceptionally well informed correspondent in India has recently written: "There is a steadily growing community in India which is undoubtedly in favour of wholehearted co-operation. At the same time this community largely consists of landed proprietors or their tenants who have not got the gift of the gab to the same extent as the other party which is still conceited enough to imagine that, despite its consisting of those who have little or no stake in the country, it can yet hold the power. All the more significance is attached to Lord Birkenhead's statements in regard to the agricultural question: and, if this Government follows up his words by deeds, I believe that, given proper representation and organisation, the landed classes will come out on top, joined probably by some of the trading community." The Viceroy's speech at the opening of the Legislative Assembly has shown that the Government of India is preparing to follow up Lord Birkenhead's words by deeds: and it may be that this will lead to the formation of a Conservative Party in the Councils, that will be powerful enough to hold its own against the disruptive efforts of the extremists. But such a result will only be possible if the landlords and their tenants pull together: and if the former, who will be the natural representatives of the latter in the Councils, succeed in educating the rural voter, not only into a certain knowledge that the interests of both classes are identical, but into the will to make his knowledge felt at the polls.

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CURRENT TOPICS.

The Bombay Mill Industry.

A deputation representing the Bombay Mill operatives waited on the Governor of Bombay on August 15, to urge Government interference in the questions at issue between them and the Mill Owners: plainly intimating that, if the owners adhered to their expressed intention of reducing wages, a strike would be inevitable. The Governor explained that the financial loss entailed on the men by short time working—the remedy that they themselves proposed—would be greater than under the proposed wages cut: that the owners had specifically promised to restore the cut as soon as the financial situation allowed: and that a strike, while causing widespread misery, could not possibly improve the men's position, but could only have the inevitable result of making matters in the industry worse than they now are.

The cables show, however, that this advice was disregarded. The employees of a single mill walked out in a body on September 15: within an hour, twelve mills were involved and 20,000 men downed tools: and, by the following day, the number of hands on strike had more than doubled. The strikers assembled outside the mills that were still at work, and threw stones, but police were quickly on the scene and no serious disturbance resulted. At first sight, the moment chosen for the strike seems surprising: for the cut in wages was not due to take place until the first of October. But, when the position is examined, it appears in quite a different light.

In the third week of August, the Bombay Indian Merchants' Chamber submitted a representation to the Commerce Department of the Government of India, in the course of which they laid stress on the necessity for the immediate abolition of the Excise duty, in spite of the Government announcement that this was impossible for financial reasons. They said that Great Britain had recently made a great sacrifice of revenue with the object of avoiding a coal strike and preventing unemployment: and they urged the Government of India to similar "courageous action" in respect of the cotton industry. The mill operatives, who had been invited by the mill owners to join the latter's deputation to the Viceroy, not only declined to do so, but submitted a separate representation asking that the situation in the textile industry should be considered from the point of view of the workmen and not of the owners: and urging the Viceroy not to agree to the abolition of the Excise duty except on condition that the mill owners agreed, if it were abolished, to adhere to the old wage rate. It may reasonably be assumed that political influences have been set at work to combat the workmen's objections to joining forces with the owners: and it seems likely that the latter have been induced to give, informally no doubt, the required promise.

The date on which any given resolution will be moved in the Legislative Assembly is, of course, announced well beforehand: and a resolution recommending the suspension of the cotton Excise duties for the remainder of the year, in order to help the Bombay industry, was set down for September 16. It is obvious that the effect of such a resolution, which the Swarajists were certain of being able to pass against the Government, would be greatly enhanced if it could be synchronised with a successful strike: and one day would be enough to decide whether it would be successful or not. An arrangement, therefore, under which a strike should be started on September 15, would be a skilful political move—the previous fixing of the day for the Assembly's resolution prevented any arrangement for the resolution to coincide with a strike, but did not prevent an arrangement for the strike to coincide with the resolution: and it seems certain that this is what has been done.

It will now be represented that the existence of the Excise duty is the chief reason for the depression in the cotton industry and that it is mainly this that has forced the native Indian mill owners to reduce wages: the reduction of wages has forced the operatives to strike: and it is only Government's refusal to remove the duty that prevents the mill owners from continuing to pay the existing wage: ergo, Government is directly responsible for the occurrence of the strike, and will remain responsible for its continuance so long as it refuses to abandon the Excise duty. If Government were now to abandon the duty, it is quite likely that the mill owners would be placed in an awkward position; but this would weigh for nothing in the eyes of the politicians, as it would form yet another example of what they preach so persistently—that nothing is to be got out of Englishmen except by a display of force.

The Indian Currency Commission.

It is announced that the Chairman and the three members of the Indian Currency Commission who are at present in England (Sir Henry Strakosch, Sir Reginald Mant, and Mr. W. E. Preston) will leave London for India on November 5. The four Indian members, with Sir Norcott Warren and Sir Alexander Murray, are already there. The Commission will begin its work immediately after the arrival of the contingent from England. The question of issuing a questionnaire will be decided after the assembly of the Commission, but invitations have already been issued for the submission of written memoranda. It is expected that the taking of oral evidence in India, supplementary to the written data, will occupy about two months, so that the Commission should be back in London by the end of February, there to elaborate their conclusions.

Reference has already been made, on the cabled report, to the condemnation of the personnel of the Commission by a vote in the Legislative Assembly. From the mail papers to hand this week, it appears that objection was not confined to the fact that the Indian members of the Commission are in a minority of four to six, but that it extended to three out of the four Indian members themselves. Extremist newspapers claim credit for the moderation of the leaders' demands—instead of insisting, as they might well have done, that the Commission should consist entirely of Indians, all that they ask is, that the Chairman and a majority of the members should be Indians: that is, that its present racial composition should be reversed: though, at the same time, they claim that the Indian members should be selected by themselves and not imposed by the Government. The latter demand is due to the opinion, persistently held or, at any rate, persistently ventilated in India, that the rupee exchange has been and is being "manipulated" by the Government of India in the interests of Great Britain and against the interests of India. For this reason, the only one of the four Indians on the Commission whose appointment is welcomed is Sir Purshottamdas Thakurdas; whose general qualification is that he has all along been an unsparing critic of Government financial methods, and whose particular qualification is that he is an insistent partisan of the 1s. 4d. rupee. He apparently advocates the immediate stabilisation of exchange at that rate, by a stroke of the pen: without, so far as the layman can follow his arguments, either knowing or caring how such a result could be achieved in fact, or what would be its effects if it were; beyond a general belief that a low rate of exchange would benefit Indian industries in the face of British and Japanese competition.

One may reasonably suppose that his supporters in the Press have an even more hazy idea of exchange problems than he has himself: and that their opposition to his Indian colleagues—which has gone to the length of suggesting that he should resign his seat on the Commission rather than accept the position of a single voice crying in the wilderness—is based on Sir Purshottamdas Thakurdas' general qualification rather than on his particular one: and on what is considered to be the absence of it in the case of his Indian colleagues. The Commission is condemned as a "packed" one: and it must be assumed that the condemnation of the other three Indian experts is due to their politics rather than to their technical qualifications. It is true that the latter are belittled; but the gravamen of the attack is that they are "Jo Hookums"—persons whom Government can count upon to deliver a finding "according to orders." The Anglo-Indian Press is unanimous in declaring that the Assembly has done itself a grave disservice by carrying what was, in effect, a vote of censure not only on Govern-

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ment, but also on three distinguished Indian financial experts; but this is an attitude that may be questioned. As things are at present, it is unfortunately only too evident that the Swarajists can always count on support from the Independents on any motion the effect of which is to asperse the motives, as distinct from the policy, of Government: and the acceptance of the opportunity, offered by the composition of the Currency Commission, is only what was to be expected.

"India To-Day."

This important film, which was exhibited at a private view at the Polytechnic Cinema Theatre, Regent Street, on September 14, was promoted by the India Joint Committee, representing five of the leading missionary societies. It aims at an appeal to the general public, as well as to those interested in missionary effort in India, but is likely to be more effective with the latter than with the former. The pamphlet, distributed to the audience, says that over five miles of film were taken in all, so that it was, of course, only possible to exhibit selected portions of it: and it is permissible to suggest that a better selection might have been made in the subjects of general interest—what may be described as the travel portion of the film. It is quite possible that, when it comes to be shown to the public, this slight defect may be removed: but, as shown on September 14, the travel pictures compared unfavourably with those shown by Indian films, such for instance as Lowell Thomas' "India" of two years' ago, whose object is entertainment rather than instruction. The latter not only is, but certainly ought to be, the main object of "India To-day"; and it makes as it is, an appeal which will be widely responded to, though its improvement, in the former respect, should do a great deal to widen the circle to which that appeal will be addressed.

The film begins by an attempt to bring home to its audience the vast extent of India and the diversity of its scenery and peoples: it next particularises on the primitive methods of agriculture and the existing observances of religion, as being the two main avenues, the material and the spiritual, through which missionary effort sets itself to bring about an improvement. Both these latter are presented in a sympathetic spirit that is most attractive: and lead naturally to the second part of the film, which is almost entirely devoted to showing the results of missionary endeavour and the uplift, material as well as spiritual, which it has already achieved, and of which its continued efforts promise so great an enlargement. Most of the pictures in this part are, as is only natural, serious illustrations of a serious subject; but they are interspersed with others, entertaining and humorous, which will be enjoyed by all who see them—young and old, solemn and frivolous. A presentment, in popular form, of missionary work in India has not previously been attempted on anything like the present scale: and the promoters are to be congratulated on the way in which they have met what all their supporters must now recognise as a long felt want.

The Viceroy's Farewell.

In bidding farewell to the Council of State, which dissolved on September 17, Lord Reading congratulated them on "the sober and temperate exercise of the wide powers entrusted to them": and added, in effect, a certificate that, if the Royal Commission on Reforms was not granted before 1929, it would not be the fault of the Council of State. As a reprisal for their rejection of the Nationalist amendment to the Government resolution on Reform, the Swarajists and Independents have threatened to oppose the existing Councillors, should they seek re-election; but it is probable that this threat does not disturb them overmuch; most of the members are persons with a real stake in the country, who wield considerable personal influence with their electors. There is a story—doubtless apocryphal—told of an important territorial magnate who, on being congratulated on the relief to his purse that would accrue from an anti-bribery bill that was passed in India a few years ago, is said to have replied, "Not at all—in future I shall have to bribe not only the electors, but the rest of the countryside also, to prevent them from giving me away."

Mr. Saklatvala.

The decision of the authorities in the United States to exclude Mr. Saklatvala, the Communist M.P. for Battersea, appears, according to reports from New York, to have amused his brothers, as it will doubtless amuse everyone in India who knows him. One of Mr. Saklatvala's complaints against his exclusion (which, of course, he attributes to pressure by the British Government—an insinuation that the latter promptly denied) was that he was thus prevented from visiting his two brothers in America; but they appear to bear the deprivation calmly. One of them is reported as saying that "almost from childhood, my brother has always taken the opposite side on every question. He really likes publicity"; and the other, that "he is the only member of the family afflicted with Communism, and we took most of his theories as a joke." Mr. Saklatvala's position, until his very recent resignation—a step apparently taken in order to avoid dismissal—as a salaried servant of a great "capitalistic" firm, has, of course, given constant point to the "joke." He is credited with being a nephew of the present head of Tata's, and with enjoying the certainty of succeeding, in due course, to a large share in the latter's great wealth: and he is also credited with the remark, made a few years ago, that circumstances would very likely compel him, in the future, to defend the position of which he was then so vigorous an assailant.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, September 3.

The Political Outlook in Bengal.

A lull in the activities of the Extremists in Bengal has been apparent since the appointment of an Independent to the Chair of the Legislative Council, and has been even more marked during the week under review. Coupled with the sensational defeats the Swarajists have sustained in the Council, it may be accepted as the verdict of the people on the attempt to revive revolutionary propaganda. Anarchical methods have been weighed in the balance and found wanting, and while the masses had sufficient faith in the leadership of the late Mr. Das to lend their support to any scheme which he cared to devise, their confidence is not with Sen Gupta. Bengal has been watching the turn things have taken at Simla; not many weeks ago Pandit Motilal Nehru was loud in his denial of pourparlers between the leaders of the Swaraj Party and the Government, but the support which he has accorded to the Contempt of Court Bill, together with his acceptance of a seat on the Skeen Committee, has given the lead to a general return to sanity. Even the appointment of Mr. Patel to the Presidentship of the Assembly has caused misgivings in the ranks of the Swarajists, and there are murmurings that his acceptance of the post has provided him with an easy means of dissociating himself from the Swarajist cause. Gandhi, after playing the role of Handy Andy for the past four months, has left Bengal, and his going has not been marked by any signs of great sorrow. There is some speculation as to whether his waning popularity has been the cause of his departure or whether he realises that, so far as his creed goes, Bengal is a sinking ship. Sen Gupta is now left alone with his triple crown, and the next few months will show if he possesses any of the qualities of a leader which have been claimed for him. His task is a difficult one; he has to face hard facts and to live down the somewhat unsavoury reputation he has gained for himself since he came prominently before the public. The situation does not promise to become any easier for him in the near future.

The Steel Industry.

Government has now issued the report of the Tariff Board on the Steel Industry, and in doing so records yet another victory for Tata's in the shape of a further bounty on steel ingots manufactured in India from Indian ores. To review the position briefly, last year the Steel Protec-

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tion Act was passed and enforced a duty on imported steel sufficient to secure for the Indian manufacturer a price of Rs.180 per ton, which it was thought would enable him to cope with outside competition. Unexpectedly exchange rose in favour of India and, about the same time, European steel prices fell perceptibly, creating a position which favoured the purchase of the European product. Within six months of the passing of the Act, Tata's applied for an enhancement of the import duty, and their demand was acceded to by means of a bounty of twenty rupees per ton on seventy per cent. of their output of steel ingots: this assistance was granted for one year and limited to an expenditure of fifty lakhs of rupees. Since then, European prices have not recovered: and, after reviewing the situation, the Tariff Board have recommended a further bounty of eighteen rupees per ton on seventy per cent. of the output, from October of this year for the eighteen months the Act will have to run. The expenditure is limited to ninety lakhs: and it is pointed out that the import duty will bring in sufficient revenue to provide for the bounty and leave an estimated surplus, at the end of the time, of about a quarter of a crore of rupees. The forecast may be a correct one, but the prospect to the user of steel is not alluring. The Tariff Board have raised the price of steel, and are keeping it up; whatever surplus there may be will come from the pockets of the consumers in India. In seeking to protect the industry, the Tariff Board has overlooked the small concerns, who will suffer considerably as a result of Tata's good fortune: and, while much may be said for the fostering of the industry, it should have been done in such a way as would have guarded against the forming of a monopoly. With all the assistance, at the end of the eighteen months will the industry be any more stable than it is to-day? [It will be remembered that the Government of India, in giving effect to the proposals of the Tariff Board, reduced the bounty to twelve rupees and the maximum expenditure to sixty lakhs.—ED.]

Markets.

Following a heavy decline earlier in the week, jute has displayed a much steadier tone at the close, with more interest showing at a higher level of prices; gunnies have appreciated in sympathy. There has been a little more doing in piece-goods, and though no particular feature can be reported, there is an indication of the possibility of a slight revival from the past dull conditions. Both here and in London, the tea market has continued depressed, with a general lowering of rates except for tippy teas, which have commanded a fair amount of attention at previous rates. The new returns, so far to hand, suggest a lower outturn, a factor which would help to counteract the effect of the present heavy surplus of stocks, with a corresponding steadying of prices.

All sections of the share market have been somewhat dull during the past week; jutes depreciated at first in sympathy with the commodity, and teas were almost neglected. The shares most inquired for were rubber, in which market a fair amount of business was carried through. A smaller demand has been apparent for first-class coal shares, buyers appearing to be satisfied for the time being; cottons are unchanged, and Government Stocks a dull market. Money continues easy at nominal rates with Exchange slightly higher.

THE INDIAN TERRITORIAL FORCE.

(By Our Simla Correspondent).

The Indian Territorial Force is an experiment of recent date, for it was only in September 1920 that a Bill for its creation was introduced into the Imperial Legislative Council; yet sufficient time has elapsed to make it worth while for a survey to be made of the results achieved by it up to date. Such a survey was made last year by the Committee which sat under the presidency of Lieut.-General Sir John Shea, the Adjutant-General in India, and the report of which was published last January. This report makes interesting reading, for it does not confine itself to probing the weak points in the present system and to suggesting remedies for them, but it looks ahead far into the future and seeks to devise a means by which India may become in course of time fully capable of undertaking the responsibility for her own defence. When the Indian Territorial Forces Bill was first introduced in the Council, Sir Charles Monro, who at that time was Commander-in-Chief, declared that the new force which it was proposed to create was intended to provide an outlet for those Indians who desired to see in existence a second line to the Regular Army, "whereby in time of need the almost unlimited man-power of India may be utilised to strengthen the military forces of the country on a scale commensurate with its vast population." The primary object of the force was thus to provide for patriotic Indians, who are actuated by a desire to fit themselves for the defence of their country, a means of satisfying this desire.

The results achieved, in so far as they can be visualised at present, have, however, been by no means over-encouraging in this respect. A number of Territorial units have been created in all parts of India, indeed in all areas in which there has appeared to exist a genuine desire for their formation. Yet the response has been only half-hearted. The professional and educated man has, except in a few rare instances, shown no enthusiasm to join these units, and the men from whom they are recruited belong almost entirely to those classes which are enlisted in the Regular Army. Moreover, the men of these classes who join the force do so, not for any reasons of patriotism or from any special desire to train themselves to defend their country, but because they regard it as a stepping-stone to enlistment in the Regular Army or the police. Another difficulty which was brought to the notice of the Committee was that the periods of training, which consist at present of two months in the first year of service and one month in each subsequent year, are totally insufficient to enable the Force to attain to a standard of efficiency high enough to justify the expenditure upon it. It is one thing to offer to patriotic Indians an opportunity of training themselves in their spare time to serve their country, but it is a very different matter to ask an already overburdened Army Budget to bear the cost of a force which is unlikely to prove of any real value in time of emergency, in its rôle of a second line to the Regular Army. As matters stand, the Committee have expressed the opinion that "scarcely one of the existing units would be fit to take the field, even after a period of intensive training, in an appreciably shorter time than it would take to raise an entirely new unit." That is to say, much of the money which has been spent in the last few years on the training, organisation, and administration of the Force, as at present constituted, has been wasted.

The only practicable solution of this problem of efficiency is the obvious one which the Committee have adopted, by recommending the lengthening of the periods of training to three months in the first and two months in each subsequent year. But this recommendation, simple as it appears on the surface, raises two fresh and serious difficulties, as the Committee fully realised. On the one hand the type of man, who at present forms the bulk of the rank and file of the Force, is an agriculturist in ordinary life, like his brother in the Regular Army: and, while it may not be difficult for him to spare one month in the year from his fields for the purpose of carrying out military training, it is not by any means every one of this class who can spare two months, and still less the three months advocated for the initial period of training. The increasing of efficiency thus carries with it an

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appreciable diminution in the number of potential recruits of the only type which so far has been obtainable. On the other hand, the lengthening of the periods of training makes it even more difficult, than it is at the present, for the educated classes to take their share in this form of training. While it is doubtful if an agriculturist can spare two months a year for military duties, it is certain that the professional man cannot spare even as much as one. Indeed, it is generally declared that the sole reason why Indians of the professional classes in India have taken little or no interest in the Territorial Force is because it is an absolute impossibility for them to carry out the periods of training now prescribed, by reason of the fact that they cannot leave their ordinary work for so long a period at a stretch. Yet these are really the classes for whom the force was originaly created, in order to give them a means of satisfying their aspiration to train themselves to serve their country in her hour of need.

There is only one system of training which is suited to the requirements of men who cannot be spared for any length of time from their civil avocations, and that is the system, at present in vogue in the Auxiliary Force in India and in the Territorial Army in England, of continuous training throughout the year combined with a short period of training in camp. In order, therefore, to cater for those men who cannot spare the time to carry out the more lengthy training recommended for the units raised from among the agriculturists of the country districts, the Committee have recommended the formation in large centres of special units which will be trained on the less exacting system. These units would be drawn entirely from the educated classes, and would give the professional man the opportunity of undergoing military training, if he so desired. They would also act as a guide to the extent to which the desire for such training, so widely advertised in the Press and on the platform, does in fact exist among educated Indians to-day.

PROVINCIAL AUTONOMY IN INDIA.

Mapmaking and Politics.

By Janus.

The correspondence on this subject which has recently appeared in The Near East and India suggests that a short cut to the millennium can be found in the expedient of re-drawing the political map of the Indian Provinces. It seems to me that the present juncture is particularly unfavourable for undertaking that operation, or even talking about it. The existing map is, of course, unsatisfactory. Some of the provinces are far too big, some of them are heterogeneous, all of them could be improved, but it is at once too late and too soon to tackle the question. Looking back, we can see that it could have been done easily enough in the last century, by Dalhousie, for instance, or by Lawrence, when neither politicians nor vested interests counted for much; but India has moved since then, the interests are powerful, the politicians are vocal, and any suggestion of alteration will certainly rouse a hornet's nest. It is true that twenty years ago a Curzon could split Bengal, but it is also true that a greater than Curzon had to be called in to heal the wound. The pigeon holes are full of excellent schemes for altering administrative boundaries, dropped in deference to, or for fear of, popular clamour. You can scarcely move a police-station without bringing agitators into play. Let us admit that the interests are real, though they ought not to be decisive. The centre of administrative power is, by old tradition, the happy hunting-ground for State employment, the thing that still matters most to the political classes: shift the centre, or even talk about shifting it, and the fat is promptly in the fire. Again, legal business tends to concentrate at the Capital: propose to make a new Capital and, though you may get a little support from the second-rate lawyers there, you drive all the first-rate lawyers at the old Capital into active, though not necessarily open, opposition. If indeed the opposition of these and other interests was frank and open, it could be met effectively; but, as things now stand, that is not to be expected, and it is as nearly certain as anything can be that the interests will elect to fight mainly on the religious front. Almost any alteration which can be proposed will in fact make some difference from the communal standpoint. The division of Bengal produced two provinces, one Hindu, the other Moslem, in place of one where the religions were about evenly balanced; to split the United Provinces would weaken Moslems in the East and strengthen them in the West; and, in Northern India at least, the roll of the "drum ecclesiastic" may be expected to follow any proposal for a change. Now that is precisely what India does not want at present. Feelings, in part at least genuine, are very bitter as it is, and to bring interests in to reinforce them would be very bad statesmanship indeed. That is why I think it is unwise even to talk about political mapmaking just now.

On the other hand, I suspect we are not a very long way from the point where the provinces will readjust themselves almost in their sleep. The power of these interests for evil is a temporary phase, due to the fact that in the practice of politics the towns have got far ahead of the country. When the villages decide to take up the heritage which is waiting for them, their first act will be to call the towns sharply to heel: and, in the consequent readjustment of perspective, these urban interests will shrink to something like their proper size. Suppose a province gets a Legislative Council of the type contemplated by the present constitution but not yet realised in practice, with more than half the elected members bound to interpret the wishes of the countryside. They may find that a division of the province is desirable in the interests of their constituents and, if so, they will be forced to put it through over the heads of the urban minority, under penalty of losing their seats. It is also quite possible that they may find that their province can get along as it is, and that the idea of dividing it on racial or linguistic lines is an urban idea which does not interest the villages in the least; but in any case the question will come up for decision on straight-forward political grounds. Surely then it is best to wait. The existing machine is cumbrous, but it works: at the moment it is, at the least, doubtful whether any real improvement could be effected: readjustment, or reconstruction, will be much easier by and by, when the whole province has learned the trick of expressing its wishes and insisting on their prompt translation into facts.

At this point, however, I find myself brought up against Lord Meston's dictum that, "Vitality in popular government cannot, in the present position of the Indian masses, be looked for unless the unit of government is an area which possesses the maximum of common interests." That may be read as arguing that the map must be re-drawn in order to produce the conditions which, I contend, will lead to the re-drawing of the map; but I think it can be shown that this reading is incorrect. Let us take Lord Meston's example of the Jat and the Purbya, both of them good friends of mine as well as his. It is true that the Jat doesn't worry about the Purbya's domestic affairs; but surely in this case, as in most of the others, we have precisely that maximum of common interests which Lord Meston postulates. Both of them are peasants, and the interests of peasants are well enough known in every part of the world, except the present centres of Indian politics. High prices and free markets for their produce, low prices and an organised supply of what they need to buy, cheap capital, an efficient agricultural department, a sound tenancy system, rural education of the right sort, serviceable means of communication for carts, not motors, the maximum of help and the minimum of interference from the organised administration—that is a platform on which the Jat and the Purbya may stand side by side: and there is room on it too for the Bandelkhandi, the Kumaoni and all the other elements that go to make up the heterogeneous agglomeration facetiously styled the United Provinces. The agglomeration is, of course, too big for the most effective administration; but, so far as politics are concerned, it does in fact possess the maximum of common interests on which Lord Meston rightly insists. The thing that matters now is to bring these common interests quickly into play. Later on, Jats and Purbyas may bicker over

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details, and may even decide to split; but, for the present, their obvious course is to make common cause against the townsmen who are frittering away the resources of their province on matters of secondary importance.

Will they do so? To my mind it is too soon for pessimism. In the whole history of India there have been only two elections. The first was a sort of dress rehearsal, and everyone concerned was anxious only that the polling booths should not be swamped: they had their wish. The second was effectively "crabbed," partly by the action of the Extremists, but much more by the fatuity of the Liberals, who neglected their chance of organising the constituencies until it was too late, and who still seem to prefer the easy game of "hatching vain Empires," as constitution-mongering was aptly described in a familiar discussion. The third election lies some way ahead. To make it a better one than the last is the work now before Indians: the most that we, in this country, can do is to help it on with interest and sympathy, and refrain from throwing new apples of discord into an arena where there are already too many.

Correspondence.

"To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—Few will be found to disagree in principle with Lord Meston's complaint in your issue of September 10, as to units of Government in India. His statement that vitality in popular Government cannot be looked for unless the unit of Government is an area which possesses the maximum of common interests, supports the contention of those who argue that what is needed above all in India is a revival of the Panchayat or village council. There appears to be one contradiction in Lord Meston's letter: namely, when he speaks of a parliamentary commission of 1929 considering the propriety of fixing smaller areas of legislative and administrative activity than those now operating; whereas, later on in his letter, he questions whether our parliamentary and electoral models are those which India can best employ. Surely it all points to the necessity of Indians working out their own constitution in accordance with their own national genius.

In this connection, it is interesting to observe that the Commonwealth of Indian Bill, issued by the National Convention of India for presentation to the British Parliament, re-establishes the village council as a unit of self-government. So far as the provinces are concerned, there is a provision in the Bill whereby the Indian Parliament, to be set up under it, may, with the consent of the provincial legislature and the approval of the majority of the electors in the area to be affected, alter the limits of the province.—I am, etc., D. GRAHAM POLE.

(Hon. Sec., The British Committee on Indian Affairs.)

THE INDIAN MAIL.

Trade Returns for July.

The trade returns of British India for the month of July, for the first time for several months, show an increase in the value of imports of private merchandise and a decrease in that of exports. The total imports, valued at 1,774 lakhs of rupees, increased by 141 lakhs (just over a million pounds): though this improved figure is still 120 lakhs less than that of May. Exports fell by no less than 590 lakhs—nearly 4½ million pounds—to 2,720 lakhs, the lowest total for a long time past. A large proportion of this fall is due to reduced exports of raw cotton, of which 55,000 tons were exported in July, against 80,800 tons in June. The net imports of treasure rose by 106 lakhs, and the visible balance of trade in India's favour was only just over six crores of rupees (4½ million pounds) in July, compared with more than 14½ crores in June.

Jute Prospects.

The most recent forecast of the jute crop puts it at 3,800,000 bales. Practically no stock was carried over from last year, and it is estimated that the overseas demand will be over four million bales, if the liberal buying last year by Continental Europe, especially Germany, is maintained. If these estimates are correct, it seems likely that the price of raw jute will rise to an unusual figure. India has, at present, a monopoly in the production of jute—attempts that have been made to grow it, in various other parts of the world, have all ended in failure. The latest suggested competitor is Mesopotamia, where it is believed that jute could be successfully grown in the neighbourhood of the Marshes; though, from what is known of the Marsh Arab, it may safely be asserted that indigenous labour would be unobtainable, and that imported labour would need military protection. Jute merchants in India therefore treat the suggestion with scepticism; but, as *Commerce* (Calcutta) points out, there is an economic tendency that is slowly resulting in a redistribution of the staple raw materials of the world. For example, the world's cotton supply is at present practically in the hands of the United States, Egypt, and India; but there is little doubt that, if the necessary labour were available, equally good varieties of cotton could be grown in Western Australia: and that it is merely a matter of time before Australia enters the world's markets as a large cotton producer. Similarly, before the War, Great Britain was the world's principal producer of coal and iron, a position from which the existence of other extensive and valuable deposits had failed to oust her. But, during and since the War, circumstances have conspired to relegate British coal and iron to a position subordinate to those of the United States and Central Europe.

The Depressed Classes.

Much has been written regarding the depressed classes—the so-called "untouchables"—in India, who number more than fifty millions and who are, especially in Southern India, denied association with their caste superiors in many of the ordinary amenities of life. For instance, they have to draw water from wells set apart for them, and may not use other public wells: in local schools, when they are admitted at all, they are segregated from their fellow students: and streets, inhabited by caste Hindus, are closed to them. This latter disability, it has been elicited by a recent question in the Council of State, even debars them, in some parts of the Madras Presidency, from access to post and telegraph offices situated in, or only to be approached by, such streets: and it has been found necessary to move no fewer than 112 offices from their previous positions, to new ones where they will be accessible to "untouchables." One of the planks in Mr. Gandhi's programme is the removal of "untouchability," and many of the advanced politicians of India do lip service to the idea, though with practical results that, if not altogether non-existent, are certainly negligible. Those who, in India, talk so glibly of extending democracy to their country are fully aware of the state of affairs regarding the untouchables: and it would be a good thing if people, who profess similar sentiments in England, could be brought to realise the vastness of the problem and the difficulty of its solution.

Indian Jails.

The report on the administration of Bengal jails during 1924 contains at least one arresting passage. It complains of the practice of sentencing prisoners convicted of "bad livelihood" to simple imprisonment—i.e., without hard labour. These men consist of the dregs of the criminal world, but they cannot be made to work unless they volunteer to do so. "They are sent (to jail) to idle for six months or a year. They are provided with free board and lodging, have congenial companions to plan mischief for the future, and generally have a pleasant time. They enjoy the advantages of a residential club without the drawbacks of paying a subscription and monthly bills."

As a matter of fact, it is not only in "planning mischief for the future" that the inmates of Indian jails can occupy their spare time. It is only a year or two ago that a jail (not in Bengal) was found to include a quite fairly complete plant for producing forged currency notes, which was being worked by one of the prisoners in his cell.

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A Government Bill, brought in during the present session of the Legislative Assembly, contained a clause intended to remedy the defect complained of in the report: under the provisions of which magistrates would be allowed the option of sentencing such prisoners, at their discretion, to rigorous (hard labour) or simple imprisonment. It was explained that the Bill had received the unanimous support of the Local Governments, that it involved no political issue, and that its sole object was the protection of law-abiding people. Nevertheless, the Assembly defeated the clause, by a single vote; whereupon the Leader of the House announced that, if the Assembly proposed to reject every measure providing for the maintenance of law and order, it had better say so at once.

Smuggling of Drugs.

The difficulty of preventing the trade in smuggled drugs was referred to in a recent note. The latest report of the Bombay Customs Department gives an account of the ingenious methods adopted by some of the smugglers: instancing a Chinese washerman who was found to have concealed a quantity of contraband drugs in a bundle of washing which he was bringing ashore from a vessel in harbour. A passenger on a steamer bound for the Far East was seen to be in possession of a package which, when he found himself an object of suspicion, he threw overboard. It was recovered by a diver and proved to contain 23 pounds of opium. The smuggler turned out to be a candidate for employment in the Customs Department; but, in spite of the well-known adage, it must be supposed that his exploit has prejudiced his chances of selection.

Free Railway Travelling.

In the course of his evidence before the Public Accounts Committee at Simla, an official witness stated that, in one year, $2\frac{3}{4}$ million railway passengers travelled without tickets. The Railway Board had sent a recommendation to the Central Advisory Council, for the strengthening of the law, but the latter had not accepted it. The Railway Board feared that, if they took strong action, it would lead to innumerable questions in the Legislative Assembly: as things were at present, most of the people found to have travelled without tickets merely gave a false address and went away.

This is only one of the difficulties that railway administrations in India are up against. Pilfering from railway waggons had reached such enormous proportions that most of the great railways found it necessary, two or three years ago, to institute a special Watch and Ward service, at considerable expense: which has, however, been amply justified by results. Along at least one of the great railways, villages had sprung up, near convenient sidings and crossing places, the sole means of livelihood of whose population was the contributions that they levied on passing goods trains: and, at one large station, an officer conducting an inquiry into pilfering found that the coolies, engaged in shifting goods, were in the habit of carrying away baskets full of coal from the loaded trucks. The (Indian) station master, when appealed to, declared that it was impossible to obtain the necessary labour except on condition that they should be allowed to help themselves to a reasonable amount of coal: and that the procedure had crystallised into a "custom" that he was powerless to prevent.

INDIAN EXCHANGE.

London, September 21.

During the past week in India more business has been reported in the Calcutta market, where rates have been quite steady at 1s. 6 5-32d. for T.T. with buyers at 1-32 higher. A fair amount of sterling transfers have again been fixed between the banks and Government at the higher rate; but towards the end of the week signs were manifest that the pressure on Government had to a certain extent been relaxed. Some of the Banks were inclined to be better buyers than sellers, and, after business had been done at 11-64 by the leading Japanese Banks, latterly they came into the market as buyers at 5-32, which was done to a moderate extent. The rate was still offering on Monday in both Calcutta and Bombay, but markets were quieter.

The temporary weakness may, no doubt, be associated with the adverse reports regarding the monsoon which were cabled from Bombay early this week. It is hoped that the situation may yet be saved, but the scarcity of rain is now causing anxiety.

In the London market although 1s. 6 3-16d. has been the general quotation, some business has been done at 1-64 lower, and the tendency appears to be rather on the weak side.

December fixtures have been done at 1s. 6 7-32 and January at 1s. $6\frac{1}{4}$d. Further forward rates are 3-16d. March and April.

The usual weekly Bank return indicates that the Imperial Bank of India have been further heavily drawn upon during the past week, and the trade demand is up 110 lakhs of rupees.

The final forecast for the jute crop for all India is reported to be round about 7,850,000 bales and much of the demand for money has arisen in consequence of activity in the Calcutta jute market, where a large amount of business has been booked.

Although no mention has yet appeared in the Press on this side, cable advices have been received that the Finance Minister stated in the Legislative Assembly that the India Government would take measures to prevent exchange rising beyond 1s. 6 3-16d. pending the Currency Commission report. This should have a steadying effect upon Exchange.

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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

170, *Strand, London, W.C.2.*
Tuesday Morning.

Wireless in the Balkans.

It will come as a surprise to many to learn that private wireless receiving installations do not yet exist in Bulgaria. For one reason or another the Government has felt obliged hitherto to prohibit this now world-wide indulgence; but, no doubt, one of the earliest symptoms of renewed confidence in the established order of things in the country will be the removal of the present ban on "listening-in." Wireless telegraphy which celebrates its thirtieth anniversary this year, has existed in Bulgaria since 1912. There are four stations, at Sofia, Varna, Shumla and Kustendil, the last two being receiving stations only. In contrast with Bulgaria Yugoslavia can claim 627 private wireless receiving sets, the distribution of which is not without significance. The largest number, 226, is in Zagreb; Novi Sad has 133, Belgrade only 126; Liubliana and Serajevo 51 each, Split (Spalato) 35, and Uskub 5. In other words nearly four-fifths of the total are to be found in the old provinces of Austria-Hungary.

After Wembley.

The best proof that Wembley has been an overwhelming success is the circumstantial report that our friends across the Atlantic and other countries are proposing to start a strenuous campaign to capture the United Kingdom and other Empire markets as soon as the Exhibition ends. The rumour finds support in a questionnaire which has lately been sent to British firms by a foreign representative in London, asking for information on a variety of matters. There is, after all, nothing to be surprised at if our trade rivals seek to discount Wembley by a concentrated commercial campaign. We should do the same if we were in their place, and our business is to see that the intensive attack does not succeed. The Government can do much to assist in this matter, and our business houses can do even more by making it quite clear what are British goods and what are not.

A Dried Fruit Campaign.

Report has it also that the Near East dried fruit trade proposes shortly to institute a campaign to consolidate its position in the United Kingdom market. In this case, of course, it is not a reply to Wembley but to the attacks that have recently been directed against the methods of preparing the fruit for the market in the Near East. Obviously as production in the Empire is at present limited we shall have to depend on Smyrna for much of our dried fruit for a very long time to come, and it would be just as well therefore that timely steps should be taken to correct erroneous impressions with regard to the trade. As I have already pointed out the British consumer has taken the fruit for many generations without serious consequences, so that were conditions as bad as they have been made out to be (and they are very far from being so) it would be rather late in the day to raise the cry of wolf.

Ottoman Railway Progress.

A marked improvement took place in the results of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin in the second half of 1924, and the half-yearly report which has just been issued shows that the progress has continued in the first six months of this year. The gross receipts were £192,802, which compares most favourably with the figures for the corresponding period of 1924, when, however, it must be pointed out, conditions were exceptionally bad. The net result was a balance of £62,476 as compared with £15,975. The improvement was due almost wholly to larger receipts from the goods traffic, the increase under this heading representing 62 per cent. The general manager states that this result is accounted for by the largely increased tonnage carried and the higher tariffs in force. He points out, however, that during the latter part of the period much traffic was lost through the new transportation tax, to evade which produce was moved by road.

The Egyptian Market.

In view of the disadvantages under which British trade has to contend at present (disadvantages which are beginning to pass and, it may be hoped, will disappear altogether before very long), it is not surprising that British exports to Egypt in 1924 were not maintained at the level of the previous year. Actually the figures were £E13,993,584 as compared with £E14,771,677, but there is little reason for pessimism on that account, for the trade of our nearest rival is no more than £E5,230,772, and if in unfavourable conditions our trade is maintained as well as it is, we can look to the future with confidence in the assurance that, once the existing handicaps are removed, we shall be able to regain the last ground. The figures for Egypt's export trade make very interesting reading. The United Kingdom continues to be far and away Egypt's best customer, and with imports (mainly, of course, cotton) valued at £E31,955,625 may be said to dominate the trade, the total of which is £E65,733,935. Thus Egypt in her commerce with the United Kingdom in 1924 had a favourable trade balance of £E17,962,041. I lay stress on this fact because British traders look to the Egyptian market for a greater outlet in the future, and the fact that the United Kingdom bulks so largely in Egypt's export trade gives this country a claim for special consideration in regard to imports.

The Drachma.

So much has been heard of the strength of Greece's economic position that the adverse movements of the drachma in recent months have come in the nature of an unpleasant surprise to those who were looking to Greece to give a lead to the Near East in the race to recover from the effects of the War. In the first half of 1924 the fluctuations of the drachma were very pronounced, but the measures taken to stabilise it were successful, and the end of the year found the drachma fairly steady round about 260. To-day it presents a very different picture,

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for recent months have seen the drachma steadily depreciating, and now it is no better than 335. It may well be asked how this sudden and most unpromising change has come about. It must be said at once that it has no connexion with the country's economic picture which is admittedly good and will gradually improve as the refugees contribute an increasing quota to the national endeavour. Nor has the question of political stability or the converse had any marked effect. When we come to consider the question of the financial policy followed in Greece it is, however, a different story, and it is to this factor that the recent weakness of the drachma is to be attributed.

Financial Policy.

Prima facie the financial position in Greece would seem to be steadily improving. The revenues have continued to go up, a point on which stress was laid by the Greek Minister of Finance in a statement recently laid before the League of Nations, in the course of which he drew attention to the burden of taxation borne by the Greek people. The Minister further maintained that the Government's policy was directed to promote the stability of the exchange and to bring about an improvement in the gold value of the drachma. With regard to the increase in the revenues it must be pointed out that inflation has had a great deal to do with it. Greece has not hitherto succeeded in attaining a balanced Budget since the War, but it is estimated that there will be a surplus on the Budget for 1925-26. In view of the fact that not until now has this been the case would suffice of itself to explain the depreciation of the drachma. To find the reason for the movement we have to look to another cause. There is not space here fully to go into the matter, and it must therefore be stated briefly that the issue resolves itself into the question of continued inflation in the sense that the reserve for foreign exchange is inadequate. In the recently issued report of the International Financial Commission approval is expressed of the imposition of a surtax, the proceeds of which are allocated to the reduction of the floating debt, and of the Government's intention to have no further recourse to issues of uncovered notes. But what has happened since the period covered by this report has not been such as to inspire confidence, and it is obvious that nothing short of a complete change of policy will put the financial situation of the country on sound foundations.

The Rubber Position.

Fluctuations continue in the rubber market, as must be expected when supplies have reached such a low level. The most interesting feature in connection with rubber now, however, is not the price of the commodity, but the fact that the share market has obtained a separation from it. The commodity may decline, but the shares, which are at present influenced solely by the prospect of large dividends for the next few years, continue firm; and it would not be surprising if before long the separation became a divorce, so that when rubber is 2s. or under the shares will stand considerably above their present level.

COMMENTATOR.

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A SERVANT OF CYPRUS.

(From a Correspondent.)

Mr. A. K. Bovill, I.S.O., whose death is announced in another column, and whose funeral took place at South Walsham on September 18, will be universally regretted in Cyprus, where he was Principal Forest Officer for over thirty years. In the early days of his administration the Forest Department, like all the other Departments of the Island, was starved for want of funds, and Bovill had little scope. But the increased prosperity which followed on the visit of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, when Colonial Secretary, and which was largely due to his foresight, enabled money to be gradually devoted to development and Bovill took full advantage of it. The results of his work were seen in the War, when the Cyprus forests supplied nearly the whole of the timber and firewood requirements of the Army in Egypt and Palestine, and the forest revenue increased from £10,000 in 1915 to nearly £120,000 in 1918-19. For his services in this connexion Bovill was mentioned in dispatches by Lord Allenby.

His long residence in Cyprus, the intimate knowledge he had of every corner of it, and his simple and forcible personality made of Alfred Bovill an institution in the Island. Although his duties were always bringing him up against the natives—for nearly every Cypriote has stock and is therefore the natural enemy of the forester—the people liked and trusted him, and very few Englishmen can have understood them better. His knowledge and experience were always at everyone's disposal and must have been of immense value to successive Governments.

When his time for retirement came a few years ago he had the satisfaction of knowing that he left the Island much in his debt.

The Greek Constitutional Commission has unanimously accepted a resolution for the suppression of decorations. Henceforth no Greek or foreign decoration can be bestowed on a Greek subject. Greek decorations, however, will continue to be bestowed on foreigners.

The Press Conference of the countries of the Little Entente, which was held last month in Bucharest, is to be followed this week by a visit of Greek journalists to Roumania. A party of Roumanian journalists and writers will be the guests of the Greek Government at Christmas.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses :—

Anchor Line.—S.s. California for Bombay (Liverpool, October 7). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Dorsetshire for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 3.

Bibby Line.—S.s. Herefordshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, October 7).

British India Line.—S.s. Domala for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 26); s.s. Madura for Bombay and Karachi (London, October 9); s.s. Manela for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 10).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Phrygia for Gibraltar, Oran, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, October 10).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Hong Kong for Calcutta (Birkhenhead, October 1).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Vedamore for Galatz and Braila only (Liverpool, September 30); s.s. Dromore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, October 17); s.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, November 6). (The last steamer of the season for Sulina, Galatz, and Braila.)

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Ranchi for Bombay (London, October 2); s.s. Nyanza for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 3).

Prince Line.—S.s. Lancastrian Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, and Haifa (London, October 3); s.s. Egyptian Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, and Haifa (London, October 24).

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AREA

96,133 sq. miles

POPULATION

(1921)

12,020,000

IMPORTS, 1924

Dinars

8,221,743,552

EXPORTS, 1924

Dinars

9,538,774,432

Rate of Exchange £1 = 270 dinars approx.

Monthly Supplement of "The Near East" : No. 8.

ABUNDANCE OF MONEY IN YUGOSLAVIA.

An interesting economic paradox has arisen in Yugoslavia during the last month. All the banks are full of ready cash, but cannot place it suitably. The National Bank's current account shows about a milliard dinars of private deposits, and the accounts of the Postal Savings Bank and other banks about the same amount. Yet at the same time, business is unable to obtain credit on any terms, particularly for capital expenditure or long term loans.

This paradox can only be explained by an analysis of this sudden and relative overflow of money. The harvest this year is unusually good, and it was estimated that large sums would be needed for the financing of export. In order to avoid paying high interest at the critical moment or being without credit altogether, exporters began early to collect the necessary capital, which they placed in the banks under the strict and essential condition that the money could be withdrawn on demand. Deposits were, therefore, accepted at a very low rate, or without any interest at all. The banks, on the other hand, cannot place the money suitably for short periods, and are literally flooded with cash. Many of them are even refusing new deposits.

This overflow of money was largely accentuated by foreigners who speculated on the increase of the dinar, which indeed is most likely to occur in consequence of a fruitful harvest and large exports. Many Italian banks especially, both on their own and their clients' accounts, sold large quantities of liras, the rate of which was steadily falling, and bought dinars, the rate of which was as constantly improving. The same game was played also by Viennese and other foreign banks, including one British house. Speculation engaged large sums, and these banks consequently now hold large quantities of dinars in cash at Yugoslav banks, waiting for the increase of the dinar before returning once more to their own currency.

Many Yugoslav capitalists are similarly speculating on the increase of the dinar, and prefer to have large cash accounts at the banks than to tie up their money in capital expenditure. Their calculation is quite sound, for if they tie up money in buildings and machinery, its value will automatically decrease in a few months by a certain percentage. If, on the contrary, they keep their money in cash, their capital increases with certainty.

Thus, in view of a probable improvement of the dinar following an excellent harvest and favourably stabilised political circumstances, financial capital in Yugoslavia avoids capital expenditure, and seeks current investment. Many regard this attitude of monetary capital as injurious or even parasitical towards national economic life, and this dissatisfaction is the stronger, because Yugoslavia still lacks money for capital outlay. The country is in the full swing of development and there are great prospects of further prosperity. Many business men wish to make use of this progress by founding new, and enlarging old factories. During the last five years many buildings and factories have been erected, railways constructed, and mines opened and forests exploited. Great quantities of home capital were thus tied up, and since no foreign credits were to be had, there was soon felt a great lack of liquid capital on the money market, while the rate of interest on loans rose to 25 and 30 per cent., being sometimes unobtainable even at this figure.

This state of affairs on the money market still exists to a large extent, and it is very difficult to obtain home credit for the completion, extension, or foundation of enterprises in the country, even in the case of quite safe and profitable undertakings. Everyone wishes to retain the unfettered disposal of his cash, in order to be ready for any emergency.

This being so, manufacturers still look abroad for the necessary capital. It is expected that the radical stabilisation of politics by a close alliance of the larger Serbian and Croatian parties will greatly increase foreign confidence in Yugoslavia. The extraordinary development in economic life should have a similar effect, since it will result in a financial strengthening of the State and increase its credit capacity. As a positive example of this strengthening of Yugoslav credit abroad may be cited the rate of the 2½ per cent. War Reparation Bonds. These have increased by over 100 per cent. during the last three months, while the dinar also has improved 42 per cent. in the course of this year. It is also interesting in this connection that the Municipality of Belgrade is receiving more and more offers from abroad for a municipal loan, and that more liberal credits are being offered abroad to Yugoslav banks.

All these signs have resulted in a generally optimistic outlook in the Yugoslav business world.

DR. MILORAD NEDELJKOVITCH,
University Professor and General Director of the Post Savings Bank.

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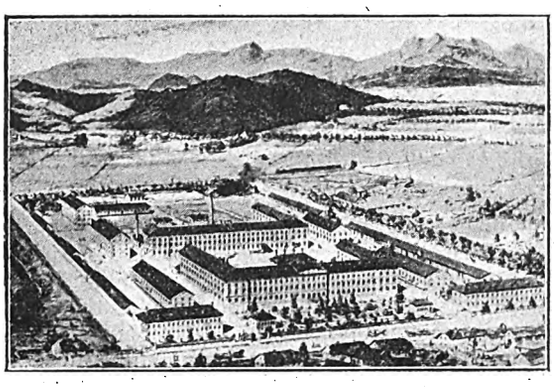
State Monopoly Administration of the Kingdom of Serbs Croats & Slovenes



State Tobacco Factory in Liubliana.

Tobacco Culture

The 1924 harvest will yield about 27.000.000 kgs. of leaf. Of this amount about 10.000.000 kgs. will be set aside for export. The tobacco is from Serbia, Macedonia, Herzegovina and Voivodina.

Fermentation and preparation of the crop will be completed in October, when negotiations for sale will begin.

All information can be obtained from:—

The State Monopoly Administration, — BELGRADE —

STATE MONOPOLIES.

With Special Reference to the Tobacco Monopoly in Yugoslavia.

In Yugoslavia there exist State Monopolies of tobacco, matches, cigarette-paper, salt, petroleum and saccharine. All these monopolies are under the "Independent Monopoly Management." This has six departments:—for administration, for cultivation and fermentation of tobacco, for accounts, for production, for sale and for industry. At its head is the Executive Committee of six members appointed for four years by the King, on the recommendation of the Minister of Finance. In addition to the Executive there is also a Supervisory Committee of five members, elected by the Executive, and appointed by the Minister of Finance. The supreme head of the Monopolies is the General Manager with executive, managing and directing power. He is helped by the Assistant Manager, while at the head of the departments are their respective chiefs.

Under the Tobacco Monopoly Management are eight tobacco factories, about fifty raw tobacco stores, a number of stores for manufactured tobacco, two brine pits on the Adriatic (Pag and Ston), a salt mine (Krek), a petroleum depôt and a modern duty-stamp factory. All these monopolies represent a very important source of State revenue. In the budgetary year 1924-25, receipts from State Monopolies exceed one quarter of the total revenue of the State, while for 1926-27 the estimates are as follows:

I.—Ordinary Receipts.

From Tobacco	1,637,000.000	dinars
„ Salt	366,650.000	„
„ Petroleum	122,250.000	„
„ Matches	142,800,000	„
„ Cigarette-paper ...	128,700,000	„
„ Saccharine	2,000,000	„
Total	2,399,400,000	„

II.—Receipts from Duty Stamps.

From Duty Stamps and Papers of value (forms, documents, etc) ..	530,000,000	dinars

III.—Extraordinary Receipts.

From Fines on Smuggling ...	3,500,000	dinars
„ Various Unforeseen Sources	4,000,000	„
Total	7,500,009	„

The total revenue, therefore, from Monopolies is estimated at: 2,936,900,000 dinars. If from this sum are deducted the expenses, which are estimated at 991,231,000 dinars, a net revenue remains of nearly 2,000 million dinars for the budgetary year 1926-7.

Monopoly revenue represents the safest State guarantee for foreign loans, and it is from monopoly receipts that the services of the following loans are being met:—

4 per cent Loan of	1895
5 „ „ „ „	1902
4 „ „ „ „	1906
4 „ „ „ „	1909
5 „ „ „ „	1913
8 „ „ „ „	1922

The total amount of annuities from these loans represented less than one seventh of the net monopoly receipts, i.e., 252,000,000 dinars.

Of all the State monopolies the tobacco monopoly has always been, and still is the chief. In the budget estimate for 1926-27, its receipts form 55.2 per cent. of the whole Monopoly revenues. (See page 387.)

The State, therefore, pays the greatest possible attention to this particular monopoly, although in the near future the salt monopoly will also play an important part in emancipating the country from dependence on others.

The tobacco monopoly is also very important from the social point of view. Over 25,000 workers of both sexes were employed, besides a large number of officials and civil servants, in handling this year's tobacco crop. This number does not include the employees in the eight factories. Moreover, besides its economic significance to the country, especially as regards rational cultivation, tobacco has the additional importance of being, in some parts, notably in Herzegovina, Dalmatia and parts of South Serbia, the one means of subsistence.

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The amount produced is sufficient not only to meet the demands of home consumption, but by reason of its excellent quality, to compete seriously and effectively with Oriental tobaccos on the world markets.

The best-known tobacco districts in the country are:—

1. South Serbia.—Here, where both cotton and rice can grow, tobacco flourishes. Near the Greek and Bulgarian frontiers in particular, and especially aromatic, small-leaved, and light coloured variety of Thracian origin is abundant. This yields from 600-800 kgs. per hectare. The varieties grown further north are larger-leaved, darker and stronger.

2. Herzegovina. Here a special type of tobacco flourishes, aromatic, light in colour, and with large, fine, silky, elastic leaves, which in cutting give long unbroken threads. It burns excellently. Its fine colour and long thread make it a kind selected for packing, but it is not so aromatic as South Serbian tobacco. It yields 1,000 to 1,200 kgs. per hectare.

3. Voivodina.—The extensive, fertile plain of the Voivodina (Banat and Backa), the granary of Yugoslavia, produces a thinner, strong and large-leaved tobacco of a Virginian variety. The somewhat colder climate here does not permit the production of fine, aromatic tobacco for cigarettes, only of kinds similar to those of Java, Brazil, Sumatra and Virginia, for pipe tobacco and coarser cigarettes. The yield varies from 1,500-2,000 kgs. per hectare.

Herzegovinian tobaccos are classified and bound in bales while those of South Serbia are packed in prints. The bales are firm and wrapped in linen, so that no harm occurs in transport. Export is duty free.

Fermentation is effected in State warehouses. The method of treatment is classified according to the quality, in six classes:—Export, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

A package of the small-leaved tobacco weighs from 20-35 kgs; bales of Herzegovinian 50, and of Voivodina tobacco about 150 kgs.

In the last few years, tobacco production has enormously increased. The following table gives the progress in figures:—

Year.	No. of Producers.	Hectares Sown.	Total Crop. kgs.	Yield per Hect. kgs.
1920	87,455	12,515	9,023,654	752 5
1921	90 037	15,341	11,924,860	807 2
1922	83,249	13,010	10,000,864	816.5
1923	120,317	20,072	18,0 2,900	809.1
1924	162,602	31,238	33,695,281	1078.6

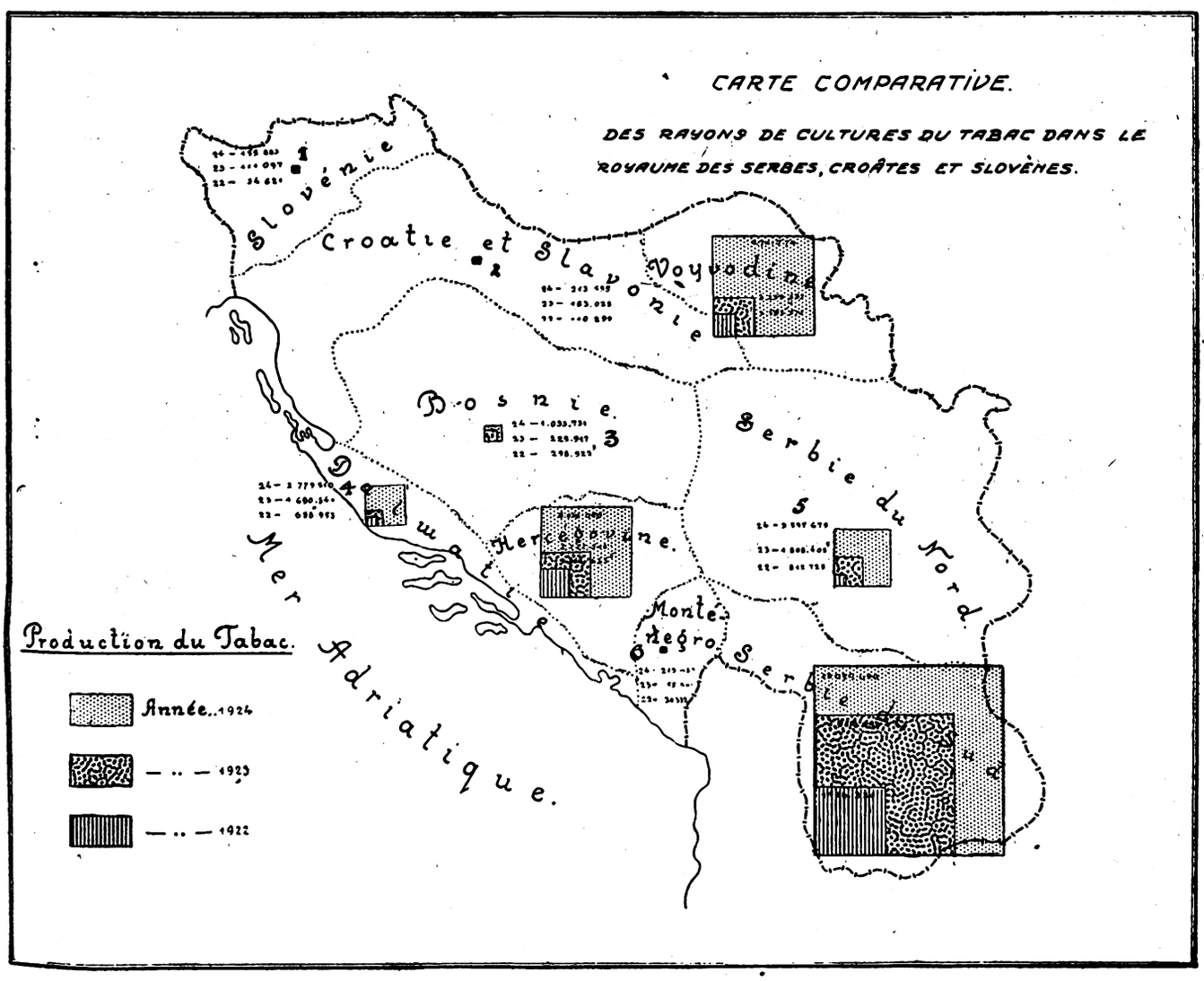
There are eight factories which are engaged in the preparation of the tobacco. The capacity in 1923 was as follows:—

Factory.	Cigarettes.g	Coarse Tobacco.	Cigars.	Plug Tobacco.	Value manuf. in Dinars.
Nish	670,312,827	2,090,335	—	—	476,539,839
Sarajevo	640,1f0,940	1,376,845	—	—	382,510,839
Liubliana	638,437,000	1,301,878	12,189.260	169,659	358,921,585
Mostyr	215,679,000	391,395	—	—	111,172,050
Travnik	112,463,209	405.809	—	—	102,610,070
Banjaluka	250,692,143	616,474	—	—	151,219,883
Zagreb	—	—	9,434.000	—	13,048,500
Senj	—	—	13,990,000	—	10,349,000

Thus, the total production of the eight factories in that year (1923) amounted to a value of 1,606,371,766 dinars, a fairly considerable figure.

The large increase in production last year, which in round figures amounted to 33,000,000 kgs, against which there was a home consumption of 12,000,000 kgs., not only allowed the security of good reserves, but also left a considerable quantity for export.

For this the way is open. The Monopoly Management



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sold the Czecho-Slovak Tobacco Control 1,700,000 kgs. of earlier crops of various varieties, and also effected last year a large transaction with the Polish Tobacco Control, by which the latter bought about 4.500,000 kgs of the 1923 crop of various varieties.

It is only when we realise the renown of Oriental (Thracian) tobaccos on the world market and the difficulty of competing seriously against them, that the qualitative value of our tobaccos can be estimated and the significance of this sale in connexion with the further development of our tobacco trade in the future.

To what should be ascribed the steadily increasing success of our tobaccos abroad and foreign interest in them?

In the first place there is the question of the types of tobacco. The tobaccos grown in South Serbia are practically all just those famous Oriental or Thracian tobaccos, while the conditions under which they are grown are just as good.

We have, therefore, the opportunity of becoming really serious competitors in the production of those Thracian varieties.

The Monopoly Management, conscious of this, has set itself the task, not only of maintaining the types, but also, where possible, of improving them. With this end in view it has established a testing and selection station, whose chief work it is, first, to maintain the purity of the existing types which comparison tests show to be the best. Only those varieties are to be grown in future which best answer to the needs of the country's tobacco industry and commerce.

Further, the Monopoly Management is endeavouring to make fermentation which is the final process undergone by the tobacco before it is ready for manufacture or trade, a process to be rationally effected, for it is only by careful fermentation that the good qualities of the tobacco can be retained, or its quality improved.

Finally, the Management is aware that the handling in the stores must be such as is demanded by the world markets, where there is a high stand of taste. In the world commerce æsthetics are not an empty idea. The markets requires representative classification and packing of the tobacco, and consequently a number of experts have been engaged and are already at work who understand this matter in every detail. This must certainly bring fruitful results.

The foregoing facts are sufficient to give a fair picture of the work of the Monopoly Management in Yugoslavia, whose motto is: Work is progress and standstill retrogression.

There is every reason to expect that Yugoslav tobacco will very soon take an important place in the world's tobacco trade, a place which by reason of its kind and value it should long ago have held, but which it must one day finally attain.

We believe that other countries will follow the example of Czecho-Slovakia and Poland and instead of going to the East to buy their tobacco will come directly to Yugoslavia, a policy which, we feel convinced, will be of advantage both to themselves and us. Good quality must make itself felt. J. ALEKSANDROVITCH.

FOREIGN TRADE.

In 1924 the commercial balance of the S.H.S. Kingdom showed imports of 578,588,568, and exports of 671,271,951 gold dinars. The value of exports as compared with imports was in the relation of 116.02 per cent; 100 per cent.

IMPORTS DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1925.

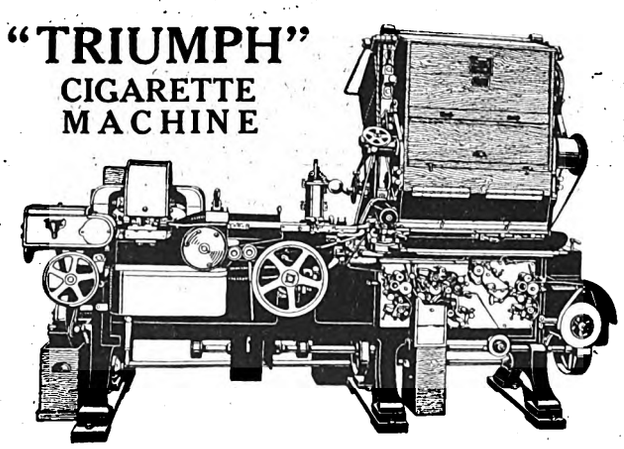
During the first quarter of the year imports amounted to 177,959,472 and exports to 189,816,626 gold dinars.

UNITED
CIGARETTE MACHINERY
KNOWN AND USED THE WHOLE WORLD OVER.

Output 800-1,000 Cigarettes per — Minute —

For pasted or Crimped Cigarettes, round or oval, with gold or cork mouthpiece, printed in two colours or one colour and bronze.

"TRIUMPH" CIGARETTE MACHINE



WORLD'S RECORD

established on this Machine, equipped with the new GEAR DRIVEN STEEL-BAND CUT-OFF, dispensing with Belts, Chains, Cams and Circular Knives

215,000 OVAL GOLD-TIPPED CIGARETTES IN 3 HOURS.

This trial was carried out by one of our customers expressly to test thoroughly the construction, design and reliability of the "TRIUMPH" Machine.

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The relation therefore of exports to imports was 106.82 per cent.: 100 per cent. In the second quarter foreign trade was: imports 210,599,682, and exports 189,883,189 gold dinars, with a relation of 90.24 per cent exports against 100 per cent. imports.

Thus the commercial balance of the Kingdom for the first half of the year was:—

	Tons.	Value in Gold Dinars.
Imports	801,483	388,559,154
Exports	2,145,337	379,699,815

The relative value of exports for six months was therefore 97.90 per cent. to 100 per cent. This small deficit in the balance is a result of abnormally large imports during the first two quarters, arising from the fact that importers wanted to take the fullest advantage of the favourable rates of the old customs tariff, which ceased to be valid on June 20, and was to be followed by a new general tariff with much higher duties. But since the year is a fairly favourable one for trade, and exports will doubtlessly be considerably greater in the second half of the year than imports, it is safe to predict a favourable trade balance for the twelve months.

The chief import articles in the first half of the year were:—

Article	In millions of Paper Dinars	Percentage
Cotton textiles	808.3	17.6
Woollen textiles	250.9	5.4
Cotton yarn	219.0	4.7
Hardware	187.8	4 1
All kinds of flour	184 0	4.0
Machinery and apparatus ...	183.7	4 0
All kinds of coal	144.9	3.1
Raw coffee	127.1	2.8
Raw cotton	100.6	2.2
Raw skins of domestic animals	88 1	1.9
All kinds of wheat, rye, spelt	86.6	1.9
Crude and half-wrought iron	64.1	1.4
Petroleum	63.5	1.4
Rock salt	63.1	1.4
Sacks	62.1	1.3
Shelled rice	60 0	1.3
Electrical material	59.2	1 3
Copper sulphate	54.4	1.2
Rails, railway material for for bridges, roofs and sheds	51.3	1 1
Vegetable oils of all kinds ...	50 8	1.1
Sheet iron	47.1	1.0
Cotton socks and gloves ...	46.0	1.0
Benzine of all kinds ...	37 0	0.8
Sole and similar leather ...	36.7	0.8
Various	1,441 3	31.3
Total	4 602 9	100%

The chief countries from which Yugoslavia imported during the first half-year of 1925 were the following:—

Country	In millions of Paper Dinars	Percentage
Italy	963.9	20.9
Czechoslovakia	818.6	17.8
Austria	793.8	17.3
Great Britain	440.2	9.6
Germany	421 4	9 1
Hungary	238.9	5.2
U.S.A.	192.3	4.2
R umania	153.1	3 3
France	144.2	3.1
Greece	137.4	3 0
All other countries	299.1	6.5
Total	4.60.29	100%

II.—EXPORTS DURING JULY.

During July the S.H.S. Kingdom exported goods to the amount of 291,494 tons, valued at 51,388,111 gold dinars. The chief articles of export in this month were:—maize, timber, eggs, cattle, fresh meat and meat products, and raw copper as well as the other usual Yugoslav export articles.

Thus the total exports for the first seven months of 1924 and 1925 amount to:—

	Tons.	Gold Dinars.
1st 7 months of 1924 ...	1.920.879	333.203.588
„ „ „ „ „	2.436.831	431.087.926
Increase in 1925 ...	515.952 (26,86%)	97·884 338 (29.37%)

YUGOSLAV STATE MONOPOLIES.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure of the Autonomous Administrations of Monopolies for May, 1925.

Revenue.

MONOPOLY REVENUES, MAY, 1925.	Dinars.	Dinars.
Tobacco	131,952,368	
Salt	26,501,828	
Kerosene	13,183,767	
Matches	11,933,644	
Cigarette Paper	11,513,150	
Other Revenues	761,359	
		195,846,125
OTHER PLEDGED REVENUES.		
Customs	153,311,239	
Stamps and Stamp Duties ...	104,427,205	
		257,738,444
REVENUES IN APRIL.		
Monopolies	188,020,691	
Customs	136,311,527	
Stamps and Stamp Duties ...	99,760,956	
		424,093,174
Total		877,677,743

Expenditure.

SERVICE OF THE PUBLIC DEBT.	Dinars.	Dinars.
Annuity payment on 4½ per cent. Loan, 1909	9,932,541	
Annuity payment (paid in full)...	2,926,811	
		12,859,352
Interest and Commission Blair Loan ...		6,242,742
Administration and Operation Expenses	60,523,364	
Administration and Operation Expenses (April payments) ...	64,523,029	
		125,046,393
Current account with Ministry of Finance ...		712,717,941
Sundry Current Accounts and Cash in Hand ...		20,811,315
		877,677,743

THE NATIONAL BANK OF THE S.H.S KINGDOM.

August 8th, 1925.

ASSETS		
Cash—		
Gold ...	73.449,806 —	
Silver	17,481,862 —	
Foreign Bank Notes ...	2.518.318 —	
At Call in Foreign Countries	420,541,537 —	
		513,991,523 —
Portfolio Bills	977,306.735 —	
Advances on Securities ...	184,351,498 —	
		1,161,658,233 —
Account for the Conversion of our own Bank Notes ...		1,186 867,907 —
Account of the Prov. Exchange		367,040,298 —
Advances to the State—		
Treasury Bonds discounted for Budgetary purposes	966,355,034 —	
Extraordinary advances guaranteed by Treasury Bonds ..	2,000,000,000 —	
		2,966,355,034 —
State Domains—		
For cover of Bank Notes issued for conversion of Crown Notes ...		2,138,377,163 —
Sundries		1,203,708,534 —
		9.537 498,692 —

LIABILITIES.		
Capital — Dinars 50,000,000 in gold of which paid up ...		27,982,900 —
Legal Reserve		6,262.658 —
Bank Notes in Circulation ...		6,129,135,980 —
Account of the Prov. Exchange		367,040,298 —
Government's Accounts—		
Sundry Accounts ...		25,326,538 —
Sundry Obligations—		
Deposit Accounts	675,319,905.09	
Sundry Accounts ...	93,710,818 92	
		769.030 724 —
Account of the State Domains		2,138,377,163 —
Agio for the purchase of gold for capital and funds ...		74,342,430 —
Sundry Accounts		
		9,537,498,691 —

Under the heading "Cash" a gold dinar is reckoned as a dinar.
Discount rate: 6 per cent. Loans on securities: 8 per cent

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

MANCHESTER COTTON MARKET.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended September 19 states:—

The rise in raw cotton values which commenced last week has been continued without any break worth mentioning and has affected a considerable change in the outlook. As was anticipated, most prospective buyers failed to get in at the bottom, and there has been a certain amount of activity due to the covering of commitments by such parties.

There has also been a little more evidence of customary seasonal developments for some foreign outlets.

Yarn.—Probably for the reasons mentioned above more business has been on offer both for American and Egyptian yarn. The improvement is more pronounced in some qualities than in others and quotations still display much irregularity, but on the whole the feeling is more cheerful. Prices are increased approximately to the extent of the rise in raw cotton.

Cloth.—A larger business has been transacted but buyers are by no means reconciled to the higher price which have to be quoted, and it appears rather doubtful whether they will be prepared to pay them except for urgent requirements. India has done a fair business principally in light and fancy goods again, but inquiry on behalf of China has fallen away. For Egypt and South America there has been a slightly improved demand. Purchases for the Continent have been, for the time, quite noteworthy.

Raw Cotton.—The news from the United States this week has been almost uniformly of an unfavourable character. In addition to this, or perhaps because of it, sales in Liverpool have been considerably higher than for some time past and prices are consequently higher, as already mentioned. Estimates as to the Bureau Report to be published on Wednesday next are all tending towards a reduction in the total crop. The reports from Egypt continue satisfactory, but prices are higher in sympathy with those of American. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows:—American Middling, 13.57; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 28.85.

THE EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company in their report for the week ended Setember 10, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has been rather firmer both for Sakel and Ashmouni; the net changes on the week are as follows: Sakellaridis, 0.58 dollars up for November, 0.75 dollars up for January, 0.60 dollars up for March; Ashmouni 0.55 dollars up for October, 0.70 dollars up for December, 0.82 dollars up for February. A better feeling has been in evidence; it may be attributed to the advance in New York and to the improved turnover on the spot market. On the 8th inst., the following figures on the American crop were published by the American Bureau: Condition 56.2, estimated yield 13,740,000 bales, against 62,00 and 13,990,000 a fortnight ago. These figures were much below the market's expectation and since their publication New York has been rising steadily due, we understand, to short covering. The demand from abroad has again been rather poor for Sakel but fairly good for Ashmouni, the Continent being the principal buyer. Some exporters who consider the present premiums for Extra Uppers reasonable, have been buying these qualities and putting out hedges; in all probability this cotton is intended for consignments to Liverpool. We are of the opinion that the future course of the Ashmouni market will be more or less governed by that of New York, and for the time being we do not expect much change in the present difference between these two markets; with regard to Sakellarides, the tendency at present is weakish owing to the dull demand; however, the markets are more or less bare of stocks of this variety and this should act as a brake to any abnormal depreciation in its value. The week's receipts amount to 91,856 crs. against exports 42,081 crs.; the stock stands at 353,668 crs.

Spot: Minet-el-Bassal has been considerably more active this week and sales amount to about 8,600 bales of which we estimate 1,200 bales Sakel, 6800 bales Uppers, 450 bales Zagora, 100 bales Pilion, and 50 bales White.

Sakellarides: Rather more interest has been shown in this growth this week but the demand is still very moderate. Limited quantities of all grades have changed hands and small arrivals of new crop Sakel have been absorbed fairly readily at good prices. Spot differences are generally a little easier.

Ashmouni and Zagora: A good business has been done in all styles. With the exception of Fully Good Fair, which is rather dearer, spot differences are unchanged.

Pilion: A small business has been done in new cotton. Spot differences are inclined to stiffen for the good grades.

White: A retail business has been done. Quotations are nominal and have eased considerably.

Crop 1925: No feature of importance to mention. Picking is general in Upper Egypt and has commenced in the Delta. Prospects are good and point to a total production substantially bigger than that estimated by the Government.

The report of the Ministry of Agriculture for August reads: Weather was on the whole favourable. The harmful over-watering of cotton usually practised by many of the small cultivators has resulted in some bollshedding besides favouring vegetative growth. The attack of bollworms (Gelechia Gossypielle and Earias insulana) is general; in severity it is not more, if not less, this year than at the corresponding date last year. The wilt disease Aphis and Boll-rot, have caused certain damage to the crop. The crop is still considered about one week later than last year especially in basin lands where unnecessary over-manuring with nitrogeneous manures was practised. In Upper Egypt picking is general in basin lands and has actually begun in perenially irrigated areas. It is expected to begin picking the Upper Egyptian varieties in Lower Egypt about the middle of September.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97 15/32—17/32
Athens	Drachmæ to £ ...	25 22½	328-330
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	271—273
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.35—20.36
Berne	Francs to £.....	25.22½	25.10-25.11
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 5/32—18 3/16
Brussels	Francs to £..... ...	25.22½	110.15—.20
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	995—1,005
Budapest	Kronen to £	24 02	345-347,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 5/32—18 3/16
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	850—865
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.84⅛—4.84⅜
Paris	Francs to £.....	25.22½	102.30
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	163⅜
Rome	Lire to £	25 22½	118½
Sofia.....	Leva to £	25.22½	665
Teheran	Krans to £	50	42¼
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	34.40-34 45
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	29*

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British Consular Reports

IV.—EGYPT.

(*Concluded.*)

British Trade.

On the whole the year could not be regarded as satisfactory from the point of view of British trade. But Mr. Mulock states that although the decline in value of imports from the United Kingdom was very much greater from 1923 to 1924 than it was from 1922 to 1923, viz., £E778,000, as compared with £E39,000, some consolation may be derived from the fact that whereas the latter figure was the result of varying decreases in a large number of articles, the former is accounted for in the main by a very few goods, with the result that those which have appreciably increased in value are in the majority. The total imports from the rest of the British Empire have risen from £E4,046,040 to £E4,541,931, thanks principally to increases on the part of Australia and other British Possessions in the Far East. The increase in imports from Australia and New Zealand is largely due to wheat flour, which accounts for £E230,000 out of a total increase of £E280,000, and contributes all but £E180,000 of the total imports from Australia in 1924.

The value of Egypt's imports in 1924 was £E50,736,918 as compared with £E45,276,963 in 1923, while that of the exports was £E65,733,935 as against £E58,387,327. The following table shows the share in the trade of the United Kingdom, the rest of the Empire, and the principal foreign competitors.

	Exports to Egypt. £E	Imports from Egypt. £E
United Kingdom	13,993,584	31,955,625
Rest of Empire	4,541,931	418,029
Italy	5,230,772	4,069,082
France	4,688,718	8,614,073
Germany	2,946,739	3,971,656

This table emphasises very clearly the overwhelming advantage of the British market to Egypt.

Foreign Competition in Textiles.

The United Kingdom lost ground in several lines of textiles during the year. Competition from Italy was particularly keen, and it is stated that it is now exceptional to find any large importer who does not stock some regular lines of Continental manufacture. While the total volume of cotton piece-goods absorbed by Egypt during the year under review fell by about 9 per cent. below that of the year 1923, the United Kingdom's share of this trade decreased by a fraction over 14 per cent. The high prices ruling on the cotton market were not reflected in increased sales of piece-goods, but the satisfactory financial position was undoubtedly responsible for the healthier lists of book debts with which merchants were able to close their year. Although, perhaps, it is not quite an accurate estimate of the year's trade in the five main categories of cotton piece-goods to consider too carefully the actual value of imports compared with previous years, owing to the fact that prices have fallen very considerably since the boom year, and that foreign competition has also become more acute, it must nevertheless be admitted that the results of the year's trading from the point of view of United Kingdom firms cannot be considered to have been very satisfactory, as, with the exception of bleached goods, light printed goods, and light goods dyed in the yarn, the volume of goods supplied by the United Kingdom decreased very considerably, while in many of the principal lines Italian firms made extraordinary headway.

On examination of the various causes to which may be attributed the steadily increasing strength of competition from Italy, the heavy fall in the lire exchange must be considered as having contributed very largely to the successful sales of her goods in the Egyptian market. The grouping under a central control of the several industries which combine to turn out the finished article, thus eliminating many costs of production, and the low cost of labour as compared with industrial wages in the United Kingdom, must inevitably contribute to the advantage of Italian firms. Further, the fluctuations in the exchange have led to the investment of Egyptian currency in lire when the latter have been cheap, and this money has frequently been used for the purchase of goods when prices were relatively high as the result of subsequent rises in exchange. In this connection it must not be overlooked that the element of gambling appeals irresistibly to many local merchants, with the result that recourse to these methods of business has been fairly widespread.

Further, the methods of merchanting adopted by Italian houses and their local representatives may be worth examination. The goods are normally sold c.i.f. Alexandria at a price quoted in lire with varying discount rates, according to the standing or importance of the client. In the case of the larger importing houses these discounts generally amount to 3 per cent., with two to three months' credit, but in special cases discounts have been offered at as much as 8 per cent., and even 11 per cent. This, of course, is seldom done. There are no extras to the prices quoted, as these include packing, patterns, shipment, Customs and relevant dues, etc. Owing to the credit facilities offered by Italian exporters, local merchants have been buying Italian goods for choice, as they are able to sell to the dealers in many cases before they actually pay for them themselves. Thus every facility is offered to the local merchant to trade with the minimum of cost or investment on his part. An added advantage enjoyed by Italian firms lies in the regular and frequent steamship communication and the comparatively short voyage between Egypt and Italy.

It is pointed out that United Kingdom trade has fallen away very considerably in the supply to Egypt of the following commodities: (*a*) iron and steel bars and billets; (*b*) iron and steel girders and joists; (*c*) non-galvanised sheets and plates; (*d*) axles, wheels, and springs; (*e*) rivets, nuts, and washers. There was also a certain reduction in the United Kingdom's trade in constructional iron and steel cables, chains, anchors and grapnels, wrought-iron pipes and fittings. The decline in the United Kingdom's trade in so many lines is almost entirely due to price conditions and high freights, and until these can be reduced very considerably future prospects for increasing trade are not very bright.

The satisfactory position of the United Kingdom in the matter of the supply to Egypt of stationary combustion engines is worthy of some notice. The great bulk of this trade was in low-powered engines, mostly cold-starting four-cycle engines of up to about 50 h.p. for use in connection with artesian wells in Upper Egypt. There was also a wide sale for vertical two-cycle engines. The market for high-powered engines is naturally limited to large power installations, mostly for Egyptian Government use, but those for private use are, owing to Govern-

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ment control of the Nile, necessarily limited to a few estates. Swiss and German firms have been most successful in the market for these goods, and during the year, with but one exception, all Egyptian Government contracts for power installations were obtained by Swiss or German houses, in many cases working in collaboration, e.g., the Swiss supplying the motors and the Germans the electrical appliances.

Exports.

Exports from Egypt increased by £E7,346,608, or nearly 12.6 per cent. in 1924. The principal decreases were in sugar, which accounted for nearly £E600,000, and cottonseed oil, which further reduced the gross increase by nearly £E140,000. The decrease of sugar was due partly to the high price of the Egyptian product as compared with those of other countries, and partly to the fact that local stocks had been largely exhausted during 1923. That in cottonseed oil appears to be due to the fact that Germany whose purchases in 1923 constituted 40 per cent. of the total exports, prefers to crush Egyptian cottonseed at home (as is evidenced by her largely increased consumption of that commodity in 1924).

Raw cotton was, as usual, responsible for the great bulk of the total increase in value of exports, but so far from a rise in value of £E7,038,000 being accompanied by a rise in quantity, the volume of exports decreased by 220,000 cantars. Cottonseed and cottonseed cake both decreased in volume, but in each case the rise in cotton prices was reflected in increased values.

Substantial increases in value and quantity occurred in eggs, onions, phosphates, raw flax and wool, rice, and cotton piece-goods, grey, the last-named being purchased principally by Greece, Syria and Turkey, and amounting in all to 460 metric tons.

The decline in the export of cigarettes continues, and although this amounted to less than 9 per cent. in 1924, as compared with 50 per cent. in 1923 (i.e., in relation to the volume exported in 1922), the total quantity of 170,000 kilos. in 1924 is only 20,000 kilos. in excess of the total import of cigarettes, which were supplied almost entirely by the United Kingdom, and which incidentally, decreased by 10,000 kilos. In spite of an increase in the import of leaf tobacco, the 1924 total of 6,900,000 kilos. of the raw material is from one to two million kilos. below what is considered as Egypt's normal consumption, and the sales, both local and overseas, of cigarettes made in Egypt will probably continue to be adversely affected so long as no attempt is made to remove one or more of the various obstacles which beset this important Egyptian industry.

With the exception of Mesopotamia, Palestine, Syria, Turkey, and the Empire overseas, which are not purchasers of cotton, the rise or fall in the annual value of Egyptian produce exported to the principal purchasing countries corresponds, as a general rule, fairly closely to the increase or decrease in their respective purchases of cotton. Cotton was mainly responsible for the increase in exports to the United Kingdom, Czecho-Slovakia, France, Germany, Italy and Switzerland, and for the decrease in the case of Austria, Japan, Russia, Spain and the United States of America. The most noteworthy feature of the exports of raw cotton to the nine principal purhasing countries is that a small decrease in the purchases of the United States of America and a large increase in those of France have raised the latter country to second place after the United Kingdom, and ousted the U.S.A. from a position that she has held annually for some time.

With the exception of rice and sugar, the United Kingdom is again the principal purchaser of Egypt's chief exports, viz., cotton, eggs, cottonseed, cottonseed cake and oil, and onions.

The Salonika Fair, which was to have been held from October 18 onwards, has been postponed until May 15.

Of the 653 exhibitors at the Liubliana Fair this year, 442 belonged to Slovenia, 54 to Croatia, and 14 to Serbia. There were also 37 exhibitors from Czecho-Slovakia, 30 from Germany, 23 from Italy, 13 from the United States, 7 from Great Britain, and 6 from France.

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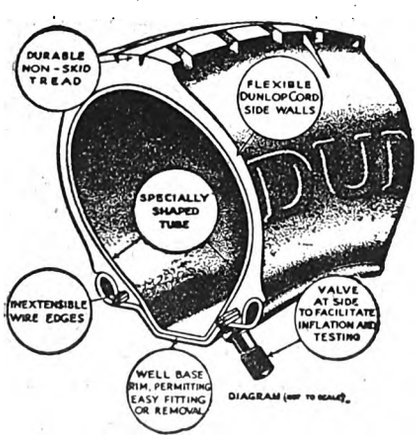
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Near East Markets.

SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended September 12:—

Sultanas.—The arrivals on the Smyrna market since the opening of the season are estimated at 7,185 tons; sales to date are put at 6,760 tons. Closing prices, Smyrna; London-Liverpool are types 12, 60s.; types 13, 63s.; types 14, 66s.; types 15, 68s.; types 16, 72s.; types 17, 76s.

The market closed strong at an advance of 2s. to 3s., over last week's level. Buying has been active throughout the week. Shippers have found themselves obliged to start covering in September engagements, and the market has toned up under the pressure of forced purchases. Arrivals keep reaching the market very slowly and the impression is gaining ground that the crop is likely to prove short of the general estimates.

Figs.—The arrivals are estimated at 49,734 bags, and the sales to date are put at 40,134 bags. Notwithstanding more liberal arrivals all through the week, the market has shown considerable strength. A determined effort by the larger shippers to reduce the level of prices has been countered with an immediate stoppage of supplies to market. The close is firm with a tendency to advance. The shortage of choice fruit suitable for packing the best grades of Layers, Locoums and Pulled begins to tell more as we get into the season. Good genuine naturals are likewise scarce.

SUDAN EXPORTS INCREASING.

The figures of the external trade of the Sudan for the first six months of this year show an increase of practically half a million pounds on the total for the corresponding period of 1924. Government imports amounted in value to £E913,616, a decrease of £E132,304, while public imports at £E1,761,497 show an increase of £E116,173, the total being £E2,675,113 as compared with £E2,691,244.

The value of the exports was £E2,820,941 as against £E2,392,087, an increase of £E428,854. Re-exports amounted to £155,792 as against £E99,619, while the value of the transit trade was £E54,279 as compared with £E24,145.

The principal increase in the public imports was in cotton piece-goods, the value of which was £E652,341, an increase of £159,594. Increases were also recorded in imports of soap, spirits, tea, and petroleum. There was an increase in the value of most of the chief exports. Ginned cotton rose from £E1, 261, 575 to £E1,468,272, this being due to the increased price of the commodity, while dura showed an increase of £E108,153 as a result partly of the higher price, partly of the increased demand for the Egyptian markets. Sesame and ground nuts showed increases respectively of £E42,437 and £E42,666. There was, on the other hand, a decrease of £E34,062 in the value of the exports of gum.

Great Britain is first in both imports and exports. The Sudan took 34 per cent. of her requirements from this country, or £E988,796, while Great Britain took 65.3 per cent. of the Sudan's exports, the figures being £E1,842,186. Egypt occupies the second place in both categories with 35 per cent. and 17.4 per cent. respectively.

THE GEZIREH IRRIGATION SCHEME.

The report of the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government, dated August 28, gives the following notes on the Gezireh Irrigation Scheme:—

The beginnings of the Gezireh Irrigation Scheme have overshadowed everything in the Blue Nile Province throughout the month of July. At the beginning of the month everything was ready at Makwar, but the canalisation position was less satisfactory. A great many odd jobs remained to be done and very few canals had been filled from the pumps in accordance with the programme. On July 1 a beginning was made in raising the water upstream of the Sennar Dam—filling of the main canal between Kilom. 77 and Kilom. 99 from the Wad el Nau pumps began about the same time. On July 5 water was turned into the main canal beyond the Kilom. 77 regulator in small quantities, and on the 8th the level had risen sufficiently for the water from all three Wad el Nau pumps to be turned into this reach of the canal. On the same day the water level upstream of the Sennar Dam came up to the level of the main canal and a beginning was made with filling this reach from Makwar to Kilom. 57. On the morning of the 11th the water was approaching the Kilom. 57 regulator from both sides and an interesting race was won by the water from the Wad el Nau pumps, which reached the regulator at 9.00 a.m., 50 minutes before the Makwar water. Actually a large fish touched the regulator a second before the Wal el Nau water. From that time the testing of canals went on steadily, the work being much facilitated by the Sudan Plantations Syndicate taking over the testing of a large number of the canals. Later on they took over the whole area to be irrigated this year.

On July 15 the main canal was opened for irrigation. Water in the Shukaba canal was high enough for a very small area to be watered on the 17th, but very little watering was possible until about the 23rd. This was due to the necessity of bringing the canals gradually up to watering level, and the large number of breaches which occurred. None of these was important, but they all tended to put back the time when the whole Gezireh Irrigation Scheme would be in working order.

During the last week of July things had been going much better, and at the end of the month it was estimated that 33,000 feddans had been watered. There had been no heavy rain in the area up to the end of July, which is fortunate, but there have been several storms of from 1 to 3 inches which have done little damage. Luckily the first of these was not until the 24th, by which time the worst of the early difficulties had been overcome. It is hoped now that the system is well enough set for a really heavy rain to do comparatively little damage.

It has been decided to allow 5 feddans instead of 4 feddans of dura to each tenant on the Gezireh Irrigation Scheme, sufficient water to mature the crop being guaranteed from the canals. The balance of the 10 feddan block will normally be under lubia, but will be fallow this

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year owing to the necessity of reducing water demands as much as possible until detailed methods of running water distribution have been worked out and thoroughly tested.

It is interesting to consider the effect of the above dura decision. Last season dura was planted and guaranteed water given for the first time. The first estimate of the yield was 2 standard ardebs per feddan, but later information made it clear that this estimate was too low. On that estimate 4 feddans per tenant would give a total production in the Gezireh Irrigation Scheme of 80,000 standard ardebs (300 rottles or 135 kilos) or 48,000 local ardebs against an average production before the Scheme of 140,000 standard ardebs or 84,000 local ardebs. On this basis the annual production would have been as great as the pre-scheme production in any year of moderate rains. It would have been less than in years of good rains when there is surplus dura, and greater than in bad years. In effect it would mean that less dura would have been available for export, but that the supply of dura for the Sudan would not have been reduced by the Scheme.

But the increase from 4 feddans to 5 and the latest information as to probable yields make the situation more favourable. It is probably safe to assume an average of at least 2 1-5 standard ardebs per feddan, which would give a total of 125,000 standard or 75,000 local ardebs, and it is probable that the yield will be $2\frac{3}{4}$ standard ardebs, which give a total of 137,500 standard or 82,500 local ardebs, which is practically the average pre-scheme production. It should be remembered that an average production maintained every year is worth far more to the Sudan than the old varying production, as it means less dura in years when we should have had more than our requirements and more when we should have had too little.

The Roumanian maize harvest is expected to be a record. The prospects are particularly good in Bessarabia.

IMPORTS & EXPORTS

The financing of the world's commerce has become one of the most intricate of machines ever constructed, and under the banker's hands lie all the cogs and controls necessary for its efficient running. It is of the utmost importance that the merchant should clearly understand the working of its mechanism in order that he may make the fullest use of the bank's facilities, not only for his personal benefit, but also for the increased commercial prosperity of the country. To assist its customers, the Westminster Bank has now prepared a booklet explaining the many ways in which the commercial man may use the bank for the furtherance of his business, and how he should proceed so as to take the utmost advantage of interest, rebate, discount, rates of exchange, etc., and combine with progress and enterprise the necessary security and caution.

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PROJECTED SOFIA MUNICIPAL LOAN.

The Sofia Municipal Council is negotiating for a loan of £500,000 to be devoted to road paving and the installation in Sofia of a complete canal system. Details are given in the current issue of the monthy report of the Bulgarska Banka of the terms of an offer by a group of English and German bankers which is prepared to advance this sum at 8 per cent., the price of issue being 85 per cent., and redemption to be made in 1946 by annual payments. The terms of repayment are that £14,000 is to be paid annually during the first four years, and this amount is to be gradually increased until the annual payments representing interest on the loan capital and the annual reimbursements reach the sum of £50,000. These payments will take place twice yearly, on September 30 and March 31. The loan will be guaranteed by municipal taxes. The money will be issued by the group of bankers in four instalments in 1926, 1927, 1928, and 1929, at the rate of £125,000 per issue. The paving of the streets and the canalisation of Sofia will be spread over a period of four years, from 1926 to 1929 inclusive, and the work will be under the supervision of the group of bankers. It is understood that three other foreign groups are offering to the municipality similar propositions, which are now being considered. A loan project will be drafted and submitted to the Chamber next session.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at July 31, 1925, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes. Banking Department:—Liabilities: share capital, £E2,925,000 (300,000 fully-paid shares of £10 each); reserve fund: statutory reserve, £E1,462,500; special reserve, £901,875; current, deposit and other accounts, £E13,652,281; Egyptian Government, £E20,183,022; Sudan Government, £E300,818; Mixed Tribunals, £E1,628,673; bankers' accounts, £E424,288; cheques and bills payable, £E339,696; sundry other accounts, £E778,755—£E42,596,908. Assets: Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government, £E26,382,680; sundry securities, £E315,509; advances on merchandise, £E566,897; advances on securities, £E2,363,205; advances otherwise secured, £E438,568; sundry other advances, £E1,193,227; bills of exchange, £E1,814,430; local bills discounted, £E409,558; buildings and furniture, £E230,714; money at call and at short notice, £E872,625; bankers' accounts, £E5,620,160; sundry other accounts, £E193,733. Cash: Notes, £E1,588,172; gold, £E33,336; silver, nickel, etc, £E574,094—£E2,195,602—£E42,596,908. Issue Department: Notes issued, £E29,900,000—£E29,900,000. Gold, £E3,339,576; *British Treasury Bills, £E11,610,424—£E14,950,000. Securities: Egyptian Government securities and securiites guaranteed by Egyptian Government, £E420,105; British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds, £E14,529,895—£E14,950,000—£E29,900,000.

* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See *Journal Officiel* of October 30, 1916.)

The traffic receipts of the South Indian Railway Company for the week ended August 22 amounted to Rs.8,96,526, making the total from April 1 Rs.2,10,30,726.

The name of The Colonial Bank has now been changed, by special resolution and with the consent of the Board of Trade, to Barclays Bank (Dominion Colonial and Overseas).

The Mysore Gold Mining Company announces an interim dividend of 9d. per share, payable October 10, to shareholders on the books on September 16. Tax at the rate of 2s. 1.3d. in the £ (after allowing for relief in respect of Dominion tax) will be deducted.

It is reported that the Yugoslav Government is to guarantee a 500,000,000 dinars loan to Zagreb City.

The report of the Indian Peninsula Rubber and Tea Estates for the year ended June 30 states that the company's reorganisation scheme has been sanctioned. Issued capital is reduced from £110,324 to £71,385. Accounts show profit of £8,651. It is proposed to pay a dividend of 8 per cent. for the year, leaving £5,711 to be carried forward. No dividend was paid in the previous year.

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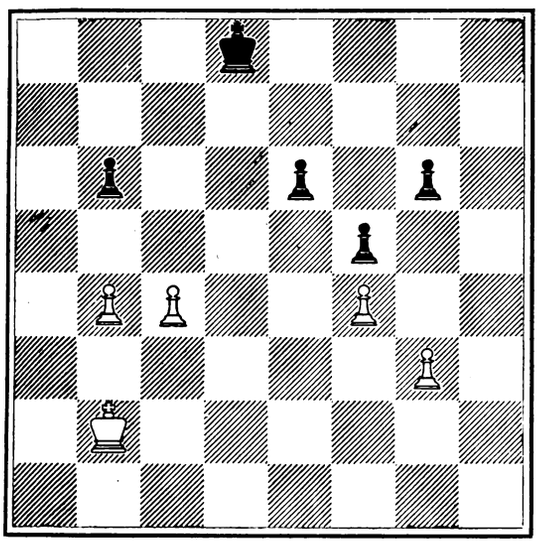
CHESS.

By "CARO-KANN."



PROBLEM No. 14.

White to play. What result?

Solution to Problem No. 13:—1,K—B3 (K—K3 is dealt with subsequently), K—K; 2, P—Kt5, K—Q2; 3, K—B4, PxP (ch); 4, KxP, KxP and wins. If 1, K—K3, K—K; 2, K—K4, K—Q(!); 3, K—K5, K—Q2; 4, P—Q5 (there is nothing better), KPxP; 5, P—Kt5, PxP; 6, KxP, P—Kt5; 7, K—B4, KxP and wins.

We are now nearing the end of the dead season in the chess clubs, and very shortly the entries will be made for the winter tournaments. But apart from the usual quick-time tournaments with which most clubs invariably open the season, there will be nothing to relieve the tedium of the impatient player until the end of next month. I have often thought that this interval might well be shortened, and conversely that more vacant weeks should be provided in the tournaments. A game a week does not sound much, but in practice the strain is very appreciable.

The following game was played between Mr. H. E. Atkins and Mr. T. H. Tylor in the British Championship, the first-named player having white:—1, P—Q4, P—Q4; 2, P—QB4, P—QB4; 3, Kt—KB3, Kt—KB3; 4, Kt—B3, Kt—K5; 5, P—K3, P—K3; 6, KtxKt, PxKt; 7, Kt—Q2, P—KB4; 8, B—K2, B—Q3; 9, P—QKt3, Q—Kt4; 10, P—Kt3, P—KR4; 11, P—KR4, Q—R3; 12, B—Kt2, Kt—Q2; 13, Q—B2, Kt—B3; 14, P—B5, B—B2; 15, Kt—B4, Kt—Q4; 16, P—B3, O—O; 17, Kt—K5, P—KKt3; 18, B—QB, Q—Kt2; 19, B—QKt2, BxKt; 20, PxB, B—Q2; 21, B—Q4, B—K; 22, QR—Kt, P—QKt4; 23, QR—Q, Q—KB2; 24, R—R, P—QR4; 25, R—Q, P—R5; 26, P—QKt4, Q—KKt2; 27, K—Q2, Q—R3; 28, K—B, R—R2; 29, K—Kt2, K—R2; 30, R—R2, QR—KB2; 31, R—K, B—Q2; 32, B—Q, B—K; 33, K—R, K—Kt2; 34, B—K2, K—R2; 35, QR—R, K—Kt; 36, Q—Q2, K—R2; 37, P—B3, PxP; 38 BxP, B—Q2; 39, Q—K2, B—K; 40, R—Q, Kt—K2; 41, R—KKt, K—R; 42, K—R2, Q—Kt2; 43, B—QKt2, Q—R3; 44, P—K4, PxP; 45, BxKP, Kt—Q4; 46, R—K, R—KKt2; 47, K—R, R—(Kt2)—KB2; 48, R—Kt2, Q—R2; 49, K—R2, Q—R3; 50, BxKt, BPxB; 51, B—B, Q—R2; 52, B—Kt5, R—B4; 53, B—B6 (ch), K—Kt; 54, Q—K3, B—B3; 55, Q—Q4, K—B2; 56, R (K sq)—KKt, R—KKt; 57, R—KB2, Q—R3; 58, K—Kt2, K—K; 59, K—B2, K—B; 60, K—Q, K—K; 61, K—K2, K—B2; 62, B—Kt5, Q—R2; 63, Q—K3, R—KR; 64, K—Q2, R—KKt; 65, B—B6, K—K; 66, P—Kt4, PxP; 67, RxP, Q—R4; 68, R—Kt5, Q—R2; 69, Q—KKt3, K—B2; 70, R—B4, K—B; 71, P—R5, PxP; 72, R(B4)xR, PxR; 73, RxR (ch), QxR; 74, B—K7 (ch), resigns.

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Mr. Albert Abid, of Dulford House, Cullompton, Devon, who died on July 23, aged 77, left estate "so far as at present can be ascertained" of the gross value of £30,148, with net personalty £16,866. The testator left £200 and his picture "The Lord's Supper" to the Armenian Church at Julfa, Ispahan, in which he was christened; £100 to the village church at Julfa, Ispahan.

BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY CONFERRED UPON THE COMMITTEE OF **THE IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK** BY A RESOLUTION OF A GENERAL MEETING OF THE SHAREHOLDERS OF THE BANK HELD ON THE 16th DAY OF JULY, 1924, THE COMMITTEE HAS DECIDED TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE BANK TO

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The NEAR EAST AND INDIA

A Weekly Review of the Politics and Commerce of the Balkan Peninsula, Turkey, Egypt, and the Sudan, Syria, Palestine, Arabia, Iraq, Persia and India.

No. 751.—Vol. XXVIII. Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1925. Price 6d. Postage 1d.

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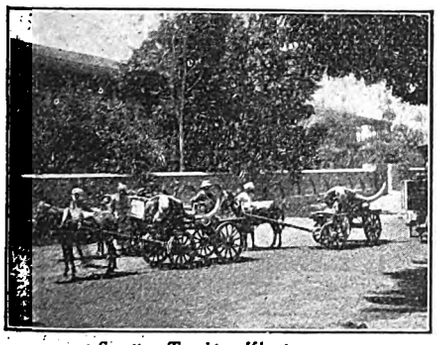

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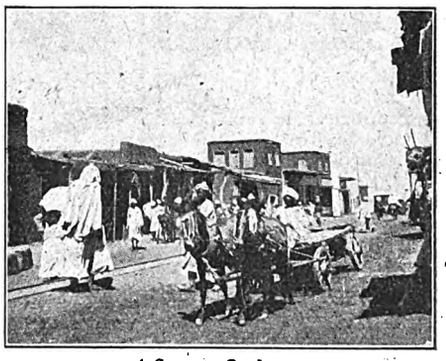

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THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

No. 751.—VOL. XXVIII. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1925.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	Page
NOTES OF THE WEEK	395
SPECIAL LETTERS—	
Egypt	398
Albania	398
Roumania	399
Cyprus	400
SPECIAL ARTICLE—	
In Western Thrace	408
LEADING ARTICLE—	
The Wahhabis and Islam ...	397
BOOK REVIEWS	403
THE WEEK AT HOME	405
PERSONAL AND GENERAL ...	407
INDIAN AFFAIRS—	
Mr. Gandhi and the Indian Congress	409
Current Topics	409
Special Letters: Calcutta ...	411
Bombay	412
The Indian Mail	413
Indian Exchange	414
COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
Notes and News	415
Cotton and Cotton Goods ...	418
British Consular Reports—	
V.—Persia	419
Shipping Intelligence	421
Engineering Topics	422
Chess	423
Tenders Invited	423

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

Mosul: A New Phase.

Until The Hague Tribunal has delivered its judgment on the points submitted to it by the Council of the League of Nations, no progress can be made in the settlement of the Mosul controversy. Before leaving Geneva, however, the British Colonial Secretary called upon the League Council to obviate the unsatisfactory situation along the Brussels Line, which was the subject of charges and counter-charges between the British and Turkish Governments, by appointing a Commissioner who, with a British and a Turkish assessor, would be able to keep watch and ward on the provisional frontier until such time as a definite decision could be reached. The debate on this question afforded another object lesson of the wide gulf that still divides Turkish mentality from that of Europe. On behalf of the British and Iraq Governments Mr. Amery gave the undertaking that every facility would be afforded the Commissioner for the purpose of his investigations in territory under their control, that is to say, south of the Brussels Line. When the Turkish delegate, who had already protested against this attempt on the part of the League to mix up the question of minorities in Turkey with the Mosul dispute, was asked to give a similar assurance that the League's Commissioner would be accorded help and freedom of movement north of the Brussels Line, he tried to evade the question. Ultimately, when forced into a corner on the subject, Rushdi Bey pleaded that he must ask for instructions from Angora. The Chairman of the Council at this stage declared that the resolution for sending a Commission to the Mosul frontier had been passed, and he expressed the hope that the Turkish Government would give for north of the Brussels Line the same assurance as had been given by Great Britain for south of the Line.

Turkey's Embarrassment.

This very simple matter of safeguarding peace on the Iraq frontier seems to have thrown Turkey into a state of profound perturbation. Not content to await a reply from his Government, Rushdi Bey decided that he must return post-haste to Angora for instructions, and left Geneva the next day. Whether this anxiety was personal or reflected the concern of the Turkish Government does not appear. The fact that, before leaving, he informed the Council that Turkey would not allow investigations north of the Brussels Line, throws responsibility on the Government. Turkey is accused of deporting, under particularly harsh conditions, a number of Christians settled in the region between the Brussels Line and the frontier claimed by Great Britain. The first answer of the Turkish Government was to deny the statement; the second was to the effect that if the deportations have taken place, they are no concern of Great Britain's or the League's, as the people in question are Turkish subjects. Now, in spite of the comparative indifference of the Mosul Commission towards the sufferings of the Assyrians, it may be expected that the Council of the League, which is strongly actuated by humanitarian motives and by idealism, albeit a chastened one, will interest itself in their fate, and the persecution of these unhappy people at a moment when the Council can be said to be settling their future status is a very deliberate rebuff administered by Turkey to the League. Incidentally the Turkish action makes the recommendations of the Mosul Commission appear particularly inept; for, after pointing out that the Assyrians within the Ottoman Empire were rather better off than the other Christians, it was "led to conclude that the most satisfactory solution would be for the Assyrians to accept the offer made by the Turkish delegate at the Constantinople Conference, that they should be allowed to return to their former homes." Even the proviso that the Assyrians must continue to enjoy the same local autonomy as formerly and that their safety must be guaran-

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ceed by a complete amnesty seems, in the light of what has happened, to emphasise the Commission's failure to appreciate the facts of the situation. It would appear, therefore, that the Turkish Government has made up its mind for the present to refuse to have anything more to do with the League. Turkey has been out of her depth at Geneva, and her rulers at Angora are evidently too sensitive, and too uncertain of themselves, to face a diplomatic defeat with indifference or with a wise sense of relief that a tiresome question was out of the way. They may consider that their dignity requires them to flaunt the League of Nations and to throw down the gauntlet to Great Britain. If they do, it will not matter overmuch. The people of Great Britain, who have not allowed their feelings of innate friendliness towards the Turks to be affected even by the Great War, will not take to heart a few pin-pricks from a discomfited Turkey. If only two or three British newspapers can be prompted, either by more knowledge of the question or by shamefacedness at the mischief they have already done, to hold their peace on the subject of Mosul, the Turkish phase will pass. Those who have tears to shed should save them for the Assyrians.

The International Aspect.

Attempts are being made to apportion blame among the sub-Committee of three that recommended the Council of the League of Nations to submit the question of its competence to The Hague Tribunal. The fact that already the views attributed to one or other of the members of the sub-Committee are said to have been diametrically opposed to those that he actually held suggests that the effort to allocate responsibility is as idle as it is superfluous. Responsibility rests with the Council and not with the sub-Committee. It is more than likely—in view of the composition of the Council—that it was actuated more by concern for Western Europe than by knowledge of or concern for the Middle East. A striking feature of the Mosul controversy has been the very marked interest taken in it by Soviet Russia. The Moscow Government is generally credited with having been responsible—together with certain English newspapers—for the stiffening of the Turkish attitude. Certainly the well-dragooned Soviet press has for a long time past devoted the major part of its attention to Mosul. The League Council may have argued to itself that a decision unfavourable to Turkey at this particular moment might commit Russia to make good her intrigues at Angora; Germany in turn might be involved to the extent of being distracted from worthier causes, and consequently the Security Pact might be jeopardised. On the other hand, given the Security Pact signed, sealed and delivered, any threads uniting Russia and Germany would be at once snapped, and the Soviets would have to decide whether Turkey offered a sufficient substitute for Germany, or whether it might not be a shrewder move to affect a new outlook on life and try to qualify for membership of the League, in order to carry on subversive doctrines from within. In the latter case, Turkey would be dropped by Moscow and be left to carry on her quarrel against Great Britain herself. If the League Council has adopted this line of argument, it is a subtle one and, from the Council's point of view, would justify it in exposing the two disputants to immediate complications for the prospective advantages to be reaped by Europe as a whole.

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M. Pashitch: Unifier of the Balkans?

Much will be forgiven the League of Nations, if it is found that its sixth session has been the means of laying the foundations of a better era in the Balkans. What has happened is that the meeting in Geneva has provided an opportunity for Balkan statesmen to come together without the necessity of preparing, for the benefit of their respective countries or of the political Opposition, formal agenda. Consequently, they have been able to emphasize points of agreement rather than to feel obliged to signal homewards their resolute stand on points of difference. This is an eminently sound beginning—far too good to be spoiled by foolish anxiety to build too rapidly upon it. If the respective Governments are satisfied that a Balkan *rapprochement* is possible, their first task should be to convince their own people of the fact, before making any attempt to convert the better understanding into a concrete agreement. The experience of the Greco-Bulgarian Protocol and M. Rendis' Security Pact endorses this warning. The key to the whole situation will be found in Yugoslavia. If M. Pashitch should have decided that there can be no better climax to a long and strenuous life of public service than to go down in a halo of glory as the Unifier of the Balkans, then much can be accomplished in a short time. He has already brought Serbs and Croats together. If the visit of the King and Queen to Montenegro should be followed by the despatch of M. Raditch with plenipotentiary powers to make peace with the Macedonians, there can be no doubt that Yugoslavia could at once establish a lead in the Balkan Peninsula, which all the States would immediately follow. The settlement of the Macedonian question would convince the Yugoslavs that there was no obstacle to an agreement with Bulgaria; Greece is waiting to be allowed to conclude a Greco-Yugoslav alliance; Roumania is the one country that can truthfully declare that she has nothing but feelings of neighbourly relations with and friendship for the other States of South-Eastern Europe. A diplomatic word from the Belgrade Government would enable Greece and Bulgaria to settle the outstanding question of a Bulgarian port on the Ægean Sea. Failing, however, a settlement in Yugoslavia itself, the goal of Balkan unity must still remain at a distance.

The Montenegrin Visit.

Now that Serbs and Croats have been officially reconciled, and King Alexander and Queen Marie have visited Montenegro, there is only one thing needed to complete a trilogy of welcome surprises for a country as weary of strife as the rest of the world—the pacification of the Macedonians. Let us hope that even this the veteran Prime Minister has now up his sleeve. It was a happy inspiration to time the Royal visit to Montenegro so that it coincided with the festivities in connexion with the restoration to the mausoleum on the summit of Mount Lovchen of the remains of Vladika Peter Nyegosh, which had been removed to Cettigne during the Austrian occupation. Peter II., who died in October 1851, was the last of the Prince-Bishops of Montenegro, a ruler who combined in his own person the triple rôle of priest, lawgiver and military commander; he was also one of Montenegro's poets and, as great-uncle of the late King Nicolas, is an ancestor on the maternal side of King Alexander himself. The official accounts of the festivities leave nothing to be desired, and we can but hope that the sore-tried Montenegrins will have seen in the pious act of their Sovereign taking his place among the Bishops in carrying the remains of Vladika Peter out of the Cettigne Church an earnest of his Government's desire to let bygones be bygones and to establish a new era for the little country. A still more convincing indication of a changed attitude in Belgrade was the King's proclamation of a complete amnesty to Montenegrin political offenders, made known in a speech in which he called upon all Montenegrins to collaborate for the common welfare of Yugoslavia. It remains only for the Yugoslav officials on the spot to give effect in the daily routine of Montenegrin life to the good intentions of the Government and the sincere and unremitting efforts of the King for the internal harmony of Yugoslavia.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1925.

THE WAHHABIS AND ISLAM.

Only fitfully, and almost by chance, are we allowed to look under the veil that from the beginning of this year has enshrouded affairs in Central and Western Arabia. Occasionally a stream of light is thrown from Syrian or Egyptian sources, but more often than not the Hashimite Agency at Cairo merely denies what has been said by the Nejd Representative at Damascus. It is all, at least to the dispassionate observer—such as the British Government in this internecine quarrel between Sultan Ibn Saoud and King Ali—very tantalising. Sometimes, it is true, Riyadh breaks the monotonous sequence by denying what Jeddah asserts, but for the most part this making of charges and counter-charges is just a diverting account of the happening of nothing. Recently, for instance, we have been regaled with circumstantial stories of the violation of holy places in Medina by the *Akhwan*, and only after a considerable time was the defence made by Ibn Saoud that no gunfire had been used upon the walls and buildings of Medina, and that the Wahhabis had no intention of defaming the tomb of the Prophet Mohammed. Still more recently we were treated to a report that Medina had at last capitulated before the Wahhabi invaders, and that Ibn Saoud hiself had broadcast the news of its capture from the wireless station in Medina. For repudiation of this apparent legend, however, Hashimite circles did not behave in so laconic a manner as the Wahhabis when charged with the sacrilege of Medina: they promptly issued a denial of the surrender, and announced that their two chief possessions, Medina and Jeddah, were yet in wireless communication with each other. As far as can be seen, therefore, the local situation in Arabia has altered but little in the last few months; either because he has insufficient reserves, so far from his native Nejd, or, more probably, because the taking of Medina and of Jeddah except by the most peaceful means would involve him in conflict with fellow-Moslems, Ibn Saoud has stayed his hand, and has allowed King Ali at Jeddah and the Emir Shakir at Medina to continue in their challenge of defiance.

But although the local situation may not have changed, it is possible now more clearly to delineate the attitude of Islam towards the Wahhabis. For the first time for a century, a *haj* has been held under Wahhabi auspicies, and although few really reliable accounts are available of the conditions prevailing at Mecca and on the routes to Mecca, it does seem to be a fact that since the pilgrimage Moslems generally have been more ready to look on the actions of Ibn Saoud with suspicion. The Puritans of Nejd may or may not have insulted the Holy City of Medina—in our view, the probability is that the extraordinary power of Ibn Saoud has been sufficient to prevent their doing so—but at all events the mere rumour that the tomb of the Prophet and of his uncle had been fired upon was sufficient to project a considerable part of Islam into the deepest grief. Egypt, it is true, indulged in no manifestations of sorrow pending the receipt of Ibn Saoud's satisfactory reply to King Fuad's inquiry—and then such manifestations were unnecessary; nor have we heard of any lamentation in Sunni Turkey. But in many quarters of India the official apologists of the Wahhabi régime, the Ali brothers, have been treated with contumely, and meetings of protestation at the violation of Medina have been numerous. Throughout Persia, also, the report that these fanatical Bedouin of the desert had repeated the offence with which their ancestors first shocked the Moslem world in 1810, was sufficient to cause a general strike of protest to be called; and in certain of the Shiah parts of Iraq there have been processions of indignation at the reported conduct of the Wahhabis. It would appear, therefore, that whatever the conquests of Ibn Saoud may mean, there is in them no immediate probability of a tightening of the bonds of Islam. In the Arabian Peninsula itself he may be completely successful in drawing laxer Moslems to his powerful creed, but in lands less subject to Bedouin influence a feeling of repulsion rather than of attraction seems to be dominant. Certainly his eclipse is not yet in sight; yet one cannot help comparing his present activities with similar Puritan activities, and reflecting upon their common, barren end.

At the same time it need not be supposed that, however limited geographically and politically the potentialities of the Wahhabis may be, a fresh spiritual impulse may not be sent through Islam. Assuming that Ibn Saoud has not really given offence to Shiah susceptibilities in the matter of Medina, would it not be possible that, by an astute (and probable) good-treatment of the numerous Shiahs in and about Medina, he might modify this traditional antagonism between the "Puritan" and the "infidel"? The Sultan of Nejd is a man who has immense notions of the power of Islam, and it is unlikely that he will confine his proselytising endeavours to those of the Sunni faith. If, for example, he could so persuade his followers that they should regard Shiahs as, say, Sunni and Shiahs regard each other in the Yemen, his position in Islam would be infinitely more commanding than it now is. Obviously there is no one to stop his making an attempt at religious unity in the Peninsula—the appeal the other day of King Ali calling upon King Fuad of Egypt to imitate the exploits of Mohammed Ali being a pathetic indication of how hopeless at the moment is the Hashimite cause—and the circumstances are in many ways much more favourable for a return by Moslems to the simple faith of the desert than they were during the last Wahhabi interregnum between the taking of Mecca (1801) and of Medina (1810). For one thing, the Wahhabis' objectives are in this century strictly limited by the presence of the R.A.F. between Palestine and Iraq; for another, they are now led by a man whose sagacity equals his sincerity. But how exactly they mean to take the rest of Islam into their confidence it is difficult to discover. The project of a general Moslem governance of the Holy Places which at one time Ibn Saoud was credited with entertaining appears to be very slow in materialising; nor have we seen any indication that the *Akhwan* would not like permanently to incorporate the Hejaz into their dominion. If, however, the Wahhabis aim at nothing better than political and consequent religious conquest, the end of their régime may be prophesied with confidence: upon the death of Ibn Saoud they will roll back to Central Arabia whence they adventurously and so gloriously came. But if, as we prefer to believe, Ibn Saoud is a man whose statesmanship is equal to the task which the fervour of his men has set it; if he can inform each *hajji* with some kind of Hanbalite zeal; if he can temper the effect of the ardour of his Nejdis upon the conquered tribes with the benefits of strong government, he will have left upon Islam an impress more considerable, perhaps, than any made since the advent of the Turks in Western Asia.

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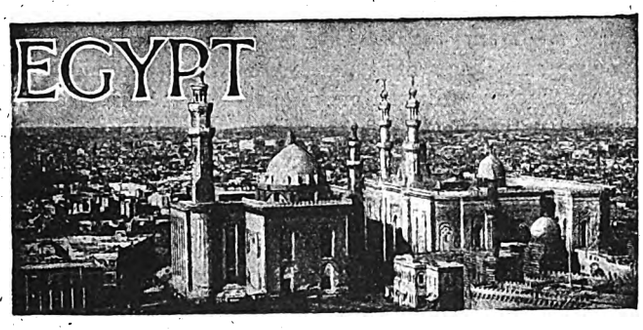
The Near and Middle East*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, September 20.

The Coalition Split.

Hopes that the Coalition split of ten days ago might still leave room for toleration, if not co-operation, between the former partners have now proved to have been ill-founded. The Unionists and the Liberal Constitutionals are now, if their respective newspapers, the *Ittehad* and the *Siyassa*, are faithful mirrors of the views of the parties which support them, almost as hostile to each other as to their oldest enemy, Zaghloul Pasha. The *Siyassa* is particularly skilful in attack, having spent almost its whole existence of three years in spirited offensives against the Wafd and its leader, and having behind it large party funds, is not compelled to trim its sails to suit every changing breath of popular opinion. For this reason it is able to support causes which are sometimes definitely unpopular, such as the religious issue over which it has lately defied all the sheikhs of Al Azhar. And, as the clever tactics of an infinitesimal opposition in the Chamber of Deputies showed last year, a bold front and a critical tongue, if judiciously employed, can upset the equilibrium of an overwhelmingly strong Egyptian Government. The present Ministry is far from being in the position of that of Zaghloul Pasha, and from the speeches which some of the Ministers have made during the past week it is evident that they are concerned over the opposition which they are now encountering. The Unionist Cabinet's expectation of life is, indeed, a poor one, and yet, since it is impossible, in present circumstances, to see where a better Government than that now in office is to come from, it must be hoped that anticipations of an early break-up of the present Ministry will not be realised.

Constitutional Irregularities.

Such an outcry as that raised over the arrest and subsequent treatment of Major Sheppard would not be possible in Egypt, since it is the custom here to arrest and detain pending trial persons who, similarly placed in Great Britain, would be bailed out immediately. The police and the Parquet exercise powers that would shock British ideas. In some cases these powers are illegally exercised, as, for example, in the case of fines which the police levy on drivers of public vehicles who are alleged to have broken traffic regulations. The police declare that their action is in the interests of the driver themselves, since taking the case before the Court would involve loss of time and, probably, a larger fine. This contention is probably correct in many cases, though it does not lessen the enormity, in British eyes, of the police acting simultaneously as prosecutors and judges. But it is a small matter compared with the astounding irregularities of almost every Government department.

Journalists' Duress.

A singular inconsistency in the matter of granting bail is now attracting the attention of local newspapers. The Editors of the newspapers *Minbar* and *Mahroussa*, together with a free-lance journalist, were recently arrested and cast into jail on a charge of publishing an article defamatory of the King, in his capacity of nazir of the Royal Wakfs, and also offensive to the judge who tried the now notorious Kaha Wakf case. These men have now been in prison for two months, and will have to remain there for at least another month before their case can be heard at Assizes. One is in hospital, while the other two, except in the matter of clothing, undergo the same treatment as any other prison inmate. The accused men have wealthy friends, and bail in any sum up to £1,000 apiece has been offered, but refused.

Bail of Alleged Murderer.

About the same time as these men were arrested three others were also thrown into prison, but their alleged offence was different, for they are accused of having murdered a woman, cut her body into four pieces, and dispatched it by train to a destination in Upper Egypt. One of the accused men is a dentist, and he, with the other alleged murderers, has been sent for trial, which will also take place at the October Assizes. But, in his case the committing magistrate has seen fit to release him on bail of £50. Is it surprising that the local Press has found some slight inequality in the treatment of the accused in these two cases?

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ALBANIA.

Tirana, September 24.

A Ministerial Crisis.

Parliament was to meet this week; but its reassembling has been postponed in consequent of a sudden and unexpected ministerial crisis, the reasons for which have not yet been made public. MM. Cotta and Poga, Minister of

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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Public Works and of Justice respectively, have sent in their resignations. The Minister of Finance (who is also Minister *ad interim* for Foreign Affairs) and the Minister of the Interior are both still abroad, the one in Paris, the other in Belgrade; and it is not yet known what attitude they will assume in the crisis.

The probable reason for the resignation of MM. Cotta and Poga is the extremely doubtful reception which, it is anticipated, Parliament will give to the measure for the ratification of the Agreement by which Sveti Naum and Vermosch are to be ceded to Yugoslavia. There is, as already reported, considerable resentment felt at Scutari over the cession of Vermosch; and public opinion has evidently been equally aroused on behalf of Sveti Naum, in the neighbourhood of Koritza. M. Cotta, it should be observed, is a Koritza man; and M. Poga is also from the South. It is quite probable, therefore, that they may be unwilling to identify themselves any longer with a measure which would lose them the support of their constituencies.

If Parliament refused to ratify the Agreement with Yugoslavia, an awkward situation would arise, and the position of the President would undoubtedly be weakened.

Resignation of M. Frasheri.

Another significant event has occurred in the contemporaneous resignation of M. Eshref Frasheri, Chairman of the Senate and ex-officio Vice-President of the Republic. M. Pandeli Evangheli, an ex-Prime Minister, has been appointed in his place.

M. Frasheri is the old leader of the Clique and, as already reported, he has been attempting to reconstitute this Society and to reconcile with the present régime those members of it who have hitherto been opposed to Ahmet Bey Zogu. M. Frasheri's resignation, therefore, is probably due to deeper reasons than those actuating the two Ministers. It is without doubt part of a political manœuvre which may have important consequences resulting in a broadening of the basis of consent for the present régime. If sucessful, however, it will entail inevitably the making of some concessions by the, at present, all-powerful President.

Return of M. Konitza.

Colour is lent to this view of the situation by the arrival in Albania this week of Mehmet Bey Konitza, the ex-Minister in London and Paris, who resigned his post after Ahmet Zogu's *coup d'état*. At the time he felt he could not serve under Zogu Bey, though he was never one of the latter's bitter opponents. He has always remained in close touch with M. Eshref Frasheri, who is a great friend of his. His return to Albania consequently is of considerable significance, when read in conjunction with the actions of his friend.

Mehmet Bey Konitza has had a long and varied experience of foreign affairs. He has already once been Foreign Minister. It will not be surprising if he is seen again in that capacity before long in a reconstituted Cabinet.

The Dowager Countess of Carnarvon.

Lady Carnarvon, the mother of the Hon. Aubrey Herbert, whose memory is gratefully preserved by all patriotic Albanians for the help he gave to the cause of Albanian independence, has arrived at Valona, bringing with her medical aid for sufferers from malaria, which assumes in Albania a very virulent form.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, September 17.

The Political Situation.

There is no apparent change in the political situation. The Opposition parties still continue to discuss in turn their chances of accession to power in the near future, while the Government Press from time to time protests mildly that the succession is not yet open, and that although the desire to come into power may be a very natural sentiment, yet, as Shakespeare has it, "they hold it not honest to have it thus set down." The Liberals are still determined to carry out their whole programme before retiring, and it seems very doubtful indeed whether anything is likely to put them out of office before the general election time in February next. It is true that they have not yet succeeded in obtaining any of the loans they wanted to help to re-establish the economic situation generally, and the railways in particular, and a good deal of popular criticism is directed, more especially against their foreign policy, on that account. On the other hand, most people are found to admit that it is more than doubtful whether any other party would have succeeded better, and that in all probability the country would have fared worse under the government of any of the other parties in the country.

Standardisation of Cereals.

One of the bills on the Liberal programme, which has not yet been passed is that for the standardisation of cereals. If this is carried, it will no doubt bring in its train many improvements, and will necessitate the building of silos and a general re-organisation of the grain trade. The bill, however, is not universally favoured, and it will be interesting to follow its fate through the Legislature.

Roumania and the League.

Great gratification is expressed in the Press at the election of M. Duca, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, to be Vice-President of the League of Nations, and it is felt that this gives Roumania a place of honour at the side of the Great Powers in this international body. When the question of the complaints of the Roumanian Minority peoples was raised at a recent meeting of the League M. Duca stated that he was able to give facts and figures to show that Roumania was treating the Minority populations with the greatest tolerance. In some respects this may be true. Unfortunately, however, with a population so little advanced as the Roumanians in the art of administration laws which appear moderately equitable on paper are apt to become harsh in the manner of their interpretation and execution, and it is this that gives rise to so much friction and bitter feeling. It may, therefore, fairly be said that a great deal of the fault lies not with the Government of Roumania but with the general backwardness of her people, who have not been accustomed, as have the minority populations, to live for centuries under the ordered rule of a power like Austro-Hungary.

The Bessarabian Exhibition.

The Chisinau exhibition has excited some popular enthusiasm during the last few days. It was opened by the King on September 8. The exhibition is intended to illustrate the fruitfulness of the Province of Bessarabia, which is principally devoted to the growing of cereals and tree fruits. Bee-keeping is also very common in this province, and considerable quantities of honey are produced, though mostly with rather primitive methods. It seems unfortunate that the exhibition should have been arranged in a year when the Bessarabian crop is probably the worst in the country, from lack of rain.

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CYPRUS.

Nicosia, September 15.

End of the Summer Season.

Visitors have begun to leave the island. September 27, the date of a great annual fair and horse show at Omodos, one of the large wine-producing villages, is considered to mark the breaking up of summer and beginning of the rainy season. Many sojourners leave about this time, but those who can do so should stay on well into October, when the weather is still delightful, and the heat often still oppressive in the plains. Platres, a village a few miles below the Troodos camps, has grown into a large and fashionable resort, with many hotels. Visitors, chiefly Greek, devote themselves to card-playing, dances, concerts, etc., far more than to the attractions which nature offers in abundance. The Government offices are to return to Nicosia on the 15th or 16th, much earlier than usual. The Acting Governor, Mr. Fenn, is to leave on the 24th, when Sir Malcolm Stevenson is expected in time to take over, or soon after that date.

A New Wine Company.

A company has been formed by Greek and Cypriot capitalists for the manufacture of wines and spirits at Perapedhi, a village a few miles below the Platres and Troodos summer quarters. Here a factory was established and carried on for some years by Messrs. Chaplin, of London. They built extensive works, laboratories, and stores, and an attractive residence: and wines of very superior quality to those generally produced in the island were manufactured, grapes being bought from neighbouring villages. The new company proposes to develop the factory and to spend very considerable sums. There are some excellent wine and spirit establishments, especially in Limassol, and it is to be regretted that better arrangements could not be made for exhibiting and testing them at the Wembley Exhibition.

The Water Supply of Nicosia.

The Evkaf Department, to which reference was lately made, sank a series of wells in its property near the town hospital, Nicosia, and the use of the water has been allowed by the Evkaf to the town during the summer months. But it was found that there was simultaneously an appreciable diminution of the town supply, and in the opinion of experts—shared, it is said, by the late Director of Public Works—the opening of the Evkaf wells was the cause of the diminution *pro tanto*. It is hoped that some amicable and satisfactory arrangement may be come to regarding the rights. Otherwise it may be necessary to refer the matter to the law courts.

General News.

Voting for the new members of the Legislative Council for non-Moslems and Moslems is to take place on October 9 and 12 respectively.

The large American house of A. C. Stocking, New York, has established a department for the sale of Cypriot products, locust beans, raisins, and many other goods and sales on commission. It will be under the direction of a Cypriot, named Plato Myrianthopoulos.

A Belgian company engaged in work connected with artesian borings in Egypt has offered to carry out work in Cyprus on certain terms, which, it is said, are not likely to be accepted.

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THE REFUGEE SITUATION IN MACEDONIA.

[We have received from the Save the Children Fund the following report upon relief work in Macedonia.—Ed.]

General Survey.

The refugee situation in Salonika and its environs has not shown any marked change during the past three months, but owing to the great concentration of people here both in the town itself and in the camps in the immediate neighbourhood, the need for general relief is still very pressing on account of the fact that the majority of the refugees remaining in this area are town dwellers who, unfortunately, are in a much worse plight than those belonging to the agricultural class. The latter, poor as their resources may have been, have at least had the advantage of going on to the land, of having a home in which to live, and the opportunity to work, while the urban class—small tradesmen, labourers, merchants and others—are having the greatest difficulty in establishing themselves in some sort of business or other. As the town of Salonika is now being re-built and new shops and offices, houses and public buildings are being erected in every quarter, it is true that many of the men refugees have found employment as carpenters and bricklayers; but the total number of refugees here is so great that hundreds of others seek in vain for some permanent work which will help them to get established and to lead normal lives again. Given health and strength, the younger men are able to find at least some work from time to time, but there still remains the great problem of the women and children, thousands of whom are solely dependent on charity. It is roughly estimated that in Salonika alone there are 80,000 refugee widows and children—a small army of poor unfortunates for whom life has become but one continual and arduous struggle to gain sufficient even for daily existence. The only assistance given by the Government is a small grant of one drachma per diem to all widows and orphans, and in families certified as "very poor" this grant is made only to children under 16 and to adults over 65 years of age. The drachma to-day is equivalent to 0.72d. only, and with the principal article of food, bread, at 8 drachmas a loaf, it is readily seen what a very short way such an allowance can be made to go.

With no other means at their disposal, thousands of refugees are daily finding it increasingly difficult to live. What possessions they had on their arrival in Greece have now dwindled down to but a few personal belongings, chiefly clothes which, through long usage, have now become in most cases so threadbare that they will afford practically no protection against the bitter cold which usually prevails in this region during the period, November to February.

While the agriculturists are, for reasons stated above, better off than the urban refugees, yet there are numbers of families in the country districts who are leading, and will be leading for some considerable time to come, a very precarious existence. We refer here chiefly to those refugees who have been sent to outlying districts in western Macedonia, where land was not received in time for the new tenants to sow a crop for this year's harvest. Last year the Government distributed in this area a great deal of grain as a food supply for those refugees who having arrived too late to sow, had to wait until 1925 before being able to reap a harvest, but this year no such distribution is taking place, and in consequence numbers of refugees who are not yet properly settled will have a very difficult struggle to carry on through the winter months. Then again there are several groups of refugees who, although

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they sowed this year, lost all their crops in a severe hail-storm which took place in the Lepsista area just before reaping began. These people are now in particularly straitened circumstances, for any means they had at their disposal when they received their land were all used up in expenses in connexion with cultivation.

The Save the Children Fund, which is the only organisation undertaking the rationing of refugees in this area, can deal with but a fraction of the number of people who are in urgent need of help. For the moment we are economising our rations as much as possible in order to be able to increase during the winter weather, which is exceptionally severe in western Macedonia.

Refugees from Bulgaria.

By the end of October the exchange of refugees between Greece and Bulgaria is to be completed, and there now remain about 4,000 people to be returned from each of the respective countries. Refugees from Bulgaria come either by boat from Varna or Bourgas, or by train direct to Salonika where they are immediately concentrated in the large refugee camp at Harmankeuy. As the barracks in the camp are all full, many of these people are put under canvas until such time when they are sent inland to be settled. The refugees from Bulgaria are allowed to bring with them most of their personal belongings, and some even arrive with their cattle, carts and agricultural implements. Owing to the large influx during the past fortnight, we have had temporarily to increase our food issues at Harmankeuy by 1,000 rations, the majority of which will be given to the women and children in the poorer families. The health of the Greek refugees from Bulgaria is on the whole very good, but many go down with malaria on their arrival in Salonika.

Housing.

Although the Colonisation department is still pushing forward the construction of houses for the agriculturists in the country districts, the shortage of houses for the refugees in the town is still very acute, and large numbers of people are still crowded together in mosques, schools, and warehouses. Every available building is full. In the camps the barracks are taxed to their utmost capacity, and hundreds of families are living under the most trying conditions. Very often a family of six or seven members will have to occupy a floor space of not more than three or four square yards, the walls of this so-called room being marked off by strips of old blankets hung from the ceiling. At Kalamaria, one of the largest camps, we have frequently spoken to refugees who have been living under these conditions for the past three years. "When are we going to have a home?" they ask wearily. "How long are we to live like this? There is no comfort, no privacy here," and indeed it is comfortless existence for these poor unfortunates, the majority of whom were accustomed to live in good houses built on their own properties in Asia Minor. Let it be remarked here that the local authorities are straining every effort to deal with the housing problem, and are constructing new dwellings as fast as local conditions will allow. As soon as a new house goes up it is immediately taken, and there are still thousands of refugees on the waiting list.

Health of the Refugees.

Although there are many cases of malaria in some of the camps, the ravages caused by this dread scourge—for such indeed it is in this part of Greece—are not so great as they were last year, when the mortality among the refugees was particularly high. At Lembet camp, on the outskirts of Salonika, there are at present some 400 to 500 cases of malaria and about 150 cases of dysentery. This is the worst camp for sickness, and the hospital is usually full with fever cases. Last year the mortality in this camp was very heavy; but now, owing to improved sanitary conditions and to the reconstruction of the barracks (many of these buildings were without either doors or windows during the severe winter of 1923), conditions of living are much better. Our hot milk issues from the "Ione Stavridi" milk station to numbers of young children and to many of the sick women in the barracks are greatly appreciated.

Need of Clothing.

One has but to pay a visit to a camp like Lembet to realise how badly off hundreds of the refugees are for clothing. It must be remembered that most of the refugees from Asia Minor, and in particular those from the Pontus, arrived in Greece with no other clothes than those in which they stood up, and since there has been no money to purchase such things as clothes, the only garments these unfortunate people possessed have, after two, and in many cases, three years' wear, been reduced literally to rags. In the winter months the need for more clothing and blankets will be still greater, and it is to be hoped that further shipments will be forthcoming so that our issues may be increased during the cold weather. In the mountainous districts of western Macedonia there are numbers of refugee women and children who will tramp in bad weather over rough country for seven or eight hours to one of our clothing distrubutions in the hope of being one of the lucky ones. The gift to these people of even one or two warm garments is just as valuable as the issue of a month's rations.

Recommendations.

Although we are at present feeding some 9,000 people in Salonika, we still receive daily numerous applications for help, and now that the winter is approaching there will be an urgent need to increase our ration strength in some of the districts where there is a high percentage of women and children refugees without support.

It is particularly hard for us to turn away many of the old people who wait at the kitchen doors in expectation of getting something to eat, people who are so poor that they are reduced to asking alms in the street.

It is most important, too, that our milk stations continue functioning throughout the winter months, for the issues made from them are of particular value to the sick women and undernourished children.

In view of the approaching winter we would make a special appeal for more clothing and blankets, for many of the refugees are still in tents and dilapidated barracks, where there is but little protection against those bitter winds which sweep across Salonika from the Vardar Valley, winds which bring in their wake a temperature so intensely cold that, during the winter of 1923, it was no uncommon occurrence for refugees insufficiently clad and living in old barracks and open buildings, to succumb from exposure. (Signed) H. W. H. Sams.

The Save the Children Fund Administrator,
Salonika.

PATRIARCHATE OF ROUMANIA.

The Bucharest correspondent of *The Times*, writing on September 27, states:—

The Œcumenical Apocrisiary, Mgr. Joachim, Metropolitan of Chalcedon, and Mgr. Germanos, Metropolitan of Sardis and Chancellor of the Phanar, sent by the Œcumenical Patriarch, Mgr. Basil III., to recognise the creation of the patriarchate for the Roumanian Orthodox Church, arrived in Bucharest from Warsaw yesterday. The delegates will be the guests of the Roumanian Patriach, Mgr. Miron Cristea, while in Bucharest. The Apocrisiary and the Chancellor officiated at a great ceremony in the Patriarchal Church this morning, and afterwards the *Tomos* of recognition, signed and sealed by the Œcumenical Patriarch, was read in Greek and Roumanian. Ecclestiaistical dignitaries and Cabinet Ministers were present at the luncheon given by the Roumanian Patriarch. The Patriarchate of Roumania was created by an Act of the Holy Synod last February and was subsequently recognised by the Roumanian Parliament.

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CORRESPONDENCE

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MOSUL: A SUGGESTION.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—I had several opportunities, when in Turkey lately, of discussing the Mosul question with very important Turks. It was made quite clear to me that the young Turk Republic wants England's friendship and help while building up the new nation.

The present Turkish Government is founded, and lives, on Nationalism. The Government has promised its supporters that Turkey, which has already lost so much territory, shall not lose Mosul. Hence the fight for Mosul is really one for its own existence—the existence possibly, of the Republic as such, with its desire for progress and the benefits of Western methods, for it must not be forgotten that there is an old Turk Party still in the country awaiting its opportunity, a party with supporters amongst the fanatical, who abhor progress, and many who have lost position and power.

If we are satisfied that this New Turkish Republic should be supported, then, rather than a fresh period of chaos in Turkey, we must recognise its serious difficulty if its Government should fail to retain Mosul for Turkey.

The English refusal to allow a referendum has been noised abroad in Turkey as proof that England knows that Iraq could not retain the territory by a vote of the people, and this makes it more difficult for the Turks to give way.

Cannot a compromise be effected, beneficial to both parties?

The Mosul question has, to all intents and purposes, been withdrawn from the feeble hands of the League of Nations. The time is, therefore, opportune for direct negotiations and, provided our Government has the desire for a settlement, the Foreign Office could be instructed by the Cabinet to handle the matter on broad and generous lines.

Might I suggest that a solution should be possible, provided:—

(1) Turkey is given the area to N. and N.E. of the surveyed line for the Aleppo-Mosul-Baghdad Railway from Nizibin past Chilparat to Mosul and thence to the junction of the Great Zab River with the Tigris (this is only the continuation of the boundary between Turkey and French mandated Syria as far as Nizibin, and has similar physical and other qualities). The boundary to continue along the Great Zab River as far as its turn N.W. towards Rizan, whence it might proceed N.E. by E. towards the Kaleh Shin Pass on the Turco-Persian border as demarcated in 1913-1914.

The Turks would thus get Mosul and a large tract to N.W. and N.E. of it.

(2) A Treaty of Security is made between England, Turkey, and Iraq, defining boundaries and guaranteeing each from aggression by the other for, say, 50 years—longer, if possible. Persia could join in later. Nothing which might cause delays should be considered now.

(3) A Commercial Treaty is concluded between the three Governments providing security for the commercial interests of all the parties in each other's territory, thus stimulating trade between them, and new development.

(4) Turkey obtains a fresh loan to assist in settling outstanding claims and for definite works, such as the water supply and sanitation of Constantinople and Angora, rebuilding of Smyrna, harbour development, and so on.

(5) Early adjustment is made whereby portions of Turkey's pre-War borrowings will, in future, be carried by her former territories, such as Syria, Palestine, Iraq, the Hejaz, Transjordan, and so on.

I do not suggest that the proposed boundary is as good from a military point of view as that urged by Mr. Amery, but I do contend that a security pact with a friendly Turkey is a better safeguard against war than any scientific boundary line, however difficult its physical features may be.

I further urge that such a happy issue as is possible by again making a friend of Turkey would help in more ways than one towards the resuscitation of England's prestige in the East.

With the Turks, Arabs, and Egyptians knowing that we are their true and best friends, we should have gone a long way towards allaying the bitter feelings aroused amongst the millions of Mohammedans in India, who are still sore at the loss of the Caliphate and the break-up of the one great pre-War Mohammedan Power, and the uncertainty regarding the Holy Places in Arabia.—I am, etc.,

A. ST. JOHN COOKE.

Junior United Service Club, September 28.

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PROPOSED CAIRO-KANO FLIGHT.

The Air Ministry has made arrangements for the dispatch this autumn from Cairo to Kano, in Nigeria, of a flight of three Service aircraft from No. 47 Squadron of the Royal Air Force stationed at Helouan, Egypt. The flight is being undertaken for the purpose of gaining experience in long-distance flights over tropical countries where few facilities in the way of ground organisation required by aircraft exist, and with the object of allowing Nigeria to see the capabilities of British aircraft. The route to be followed will pass through the Sudan, French Equatorial Africa, and past Lake Chad to Kano, the capital of Nigeria. The places to be visited for refuelling, etc., will be Aswan, in Egypt; Khartoum, El Obeid, and El Fasher, in the Sudan; Abecher and Fort Lamy, in French Equatorial Africa; and Maidugari and Kano, in Nigeria. The flight over French Equatorial Africa has been rendered possible by the courtesy of the French authorities, who have assisted in the arrangements made.

The organisation of the flight is being undertaken by Air Vice-Marshal Sir Oliver Swann, Air Officer Commanding, Middle East. Squadron-Leader A. Coningham will be in command of the flight, which will start about the end of October.

MISSION TO ARABIA.

Sir Gilbert Clayton, formerly Chief Secretary to the Government of Palestine, left London last Thursday for the Middle East at the head of a Nejd-Iraq Frontier Mission. His departure in no way indicates any change of policy on the part of his Majesty's Government as regards interference in any religious dispute in that region. The task of Sir Gilbert is connected with the adjustment of frontiers as between Ibn Saoud, Sultan of Nejd, and the boundaries of the British mandated territories of Iraq and Transjordan.

THE PALESTINE ORIENTAL SOCIETY.

The *Journal* (Vol. V. No. 2-3) of the Palestine Oriental Society contains, among other things, a copy of the Presidential Address by Dr. Max L. Margolis, and interesting articles upon "New Light on the History of Jaffa," by S. Tolkowsky, and "Animals in Palestinian Folk Lore," by Stephan H. Stephan.

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Book Reviews and Notes.

MOSUL AND ITS CREEDS.

"MOSUL AND ITS MINORITIES." By Harry Charles Luke. (London: Martin Hopkinson and Company, Ltd. 10s. 6d.)

Mr. H. C. Luke wields a scholarly and attractive pen. In describing the many creeds that are to be found in Mosul he has ample scope for indulging both his scholarship and his gift of descriptive writing. The opening pages, indeed, may set the reader wondering whether poetic imagery is to take him not merely to Damascus, but all the way to Mosul. He need have no fears, however, for he is quickly brought up against a narrative that holds him to the end, impresses him with the knowledge and research on which it is based, and leaves him with almost as vivid a picture in his mind as if he had accompanied the author on his tour.

The Arabic form of Mosul, we are told, is a word meaning "the meeting place," and the town is, in truth, like the province, a meeting-place of languages and creeds. The League of Nations Commission in its report laboured hard to let the Turks down lightly in regard to their ethnical claim to Mosul. Mr. Luke is more brusque: the majority of the population, he writes, is Moslem and is composed of Arabs and some Kurds, but includes no Turks; the minority comprises Jews, an occasional Mandaean and Yezidi and, above all, a great variety of Christian sects. In connexion with the latter a striking phenomenon is the number of Christian bishops. Here are to be found the Patriarch of the Nestorians (except when he is at school in England), the spiritual head of the Chaldaeans know as the Patriarch of Babylon, a Jacobite bishop, a bishop of the Syrian Catholic Church, and a bishop of the sect of Mandaeans, or Christians of St. John. Chief among the Christian sects are the Nestorians, and three chapters of the book are devoted to the Assyrian Christians, who are now called upon to bear further persecution at the hands of the Turks. The growth of this Church of the East is traced in a most interesting way from the earliest times; the part played by a spirit of nationalism is well brought out, and provides a likely background to the great missionary efforts that established the Nestorians from China to Cyprus and Egypt. They kept the torch of Greek culture which they had inherited in Syriac translations, burning in the Middle East and, handing it on to their Arab masters, were thus the indirect means of imparting such of the culture of mediæval Europe that reached it through the Saracens. But the Nestorian Church, which once counted its bishops by hundreds, is now reduced to four, one of whom bears the title—pathetic memory of a great past—of "Metropolitan of India." The hereditary character of the Patriarchate is explained as being the means devised by the people for avoiding internal conflicts and enabling them to hold their own amongst hostile surroundings.

"Mosul and its Minorities" is a mine of information on the creeds of the Middle East, and not the least useful chapter is the historical survey of the separation of the Churches. A quaint instance of the human mosaic throughout the ages in this part of the world is given in the derivation of "Chelebi," the title of the Grand Master of the Order of Dancing Dervishes, now abolished by Republican Turkey. The word is said to be a Turkish or Tatar corruption of the Arabic *salib* (cross, crucifix), applied in the Middle Ages by the Turkish tribes of Central Asia to the only Christians with whom they were wont to come in contact, namely to the Nestorian missionaries and clergy; and as these were usually men of learning, the name was gradually given to cultured people in general and in this way came to be applied to the great Moslem dignitary who invested the Sultans of Turkey with the sword of Osman. Again it will be news to many that Lamaism owes its monasticism and its ritual to imitation of the practices of early Nestorian Christians. Of the Yezidis Mr. Luke has a more personal account to give than the members of the Mosul Commission, but he confirms their conclusion that these replicas of the bearded Assyrians are to all appearance of Kurdish stock and speak a Kurdish dialect.

Everyone who is at pains to approach the Mosul question from all points of view will do well to read this book, which makes no reference to the controversy but does give an indication of the wide moral responsibilities of the British Government. Some excellent photographs are included in the volume.

GOVERNANCE OF THE HOLY PLACES.

"COME VA RISOLTA LA QUESTIONE DEI LUOGHI SANTI." By Romolo Tritonj. (Rome: Edizione della "Rossegna Italiana." Lire 15.)

Signor Tritonj is a vigorous exponent of extreme Roman Catholic views on the steps to be taken to settle the old and, truth to tell, scandalous quarrels among the Christian sects over the Holy Places in Palestine, now that the country has come under the ægis of the League of Nations. His book is a remarkably well-sustained piece of propaganda, apparently intended to prove that, if any other sect has any rights at all, it can claim them only as a matter of grace from Rome. His knowledge of the last thousand years' history of Palestine is so thorough that he is able to bring out with perfect clearness all that sustains his brief, while concealing what can be said against it. This we take, from long experience of Near-Eastern propaganda, to be considered perfectly legitimate. Incidentally he falls into very curious errors about the aims of England, based on his ideas about the High Church party of the Anglican Church. He credits England with being ready to go all lengths to help the Orthodox Church to get the upper hand in the Holy Places with a view to gaining their favour and recognition of Anglican orders and finally to anglicanising the administration of these shrines. Even if the Anglo-Catholics had these ambitions and were willing to take part in the intrigues hinted at in this book, surely it might have occurred to Signor Tritonj that, in no circumstances would the British Parliament allow them to have their way.

As regards a solution of the problem, we cannot agree that the Mandate for Palestine ought to have been given to Italy, and still less can we conceive a successful internationalisation of the Mandate. Our author hankers after one or other of these measures, but realises that it is too late to apply either of them now. Still less can we see any hope from the remedy he actually proposes. A Commission, divided into two Sub-Commissions, each heavily weighted in favour of Rome, is to be set the task of deciding, by a majority of votes, how the ownership, administration and rights of worship in each shrine are to be distributed, after which the Commission is to become an international body for the administration of the Holy Places, entirely independent of the Mandatory Power.

Why anyone should prefer the terrible stirring up of mud and the reopening of old sores involved in proceedings of such violent injustice to the gradual working of wise statesmanship, it is hard to guess. We cannot, anyhow, believe that Signor Tritonj is speaking in any way as the mouthpiece of the Vatican. C. S.-W.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"More Changes More Chances." By Henry W. Nevinson. Illustrated. (London: Nisbet and Co., Ltd. 15s. net.)

"The Arab at Home." By Paul W. Harrison. With a frontispiece and 40 other illustrations. (London: Hutchinson and Co. 15s. net.)

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YUGOSLAV ROYAL TOUR.

The following details are supplied by the Belgrade Correspondent of *The Times* in connection with the Yugoslav Royal tour through Macedonia, Montenegro, and to the Adriatic coast:—

The King and Queen of Yugoslavia arrived at Spalato on September 29. They will remain in the Spalato district until October 3, when they will go along the Croat coast to Sushak, returning by train to Belgrade on October 7. The journey will be made on board the Karageorge. There will be great festivities everywhere, and naval manœuvres will be held off Cattaro Bay. In Cettigne, Ragusa, and Spalato there will be a parade of numerous troops collected from different parts of Yugoslavia.

THE DORSET YEAR-BOOK.

The twenty-first issue of "The Dorset Year-Book," is a most creditable production, finely illustrated, and exceeding, even, the standard of its predecessors. The Hon. Editor, Mr. Stanley L. Galpin, has brought together an astonishing number of readable articles by Dorset men, of which one in particular—"The Desert March," by Robert Harding, which describes an experience of the 1/4th Dorsets in 1916 in Mesopotamia will appeal especially to readers of The Near East and India. It is, by the way, satisfactory to notice India and Iraq so prominent in the membership list, but the Hon. Secretary (274, Gresham House, Old Broad Street, E.C.2.) will be glad to receive further names of "Dorset Men Beyond the Seas."

AN ENGLISH SCHOOL IN ATHENS.

An English High School for boys has been established in Athens (7, Rue Caplanon), under the headmastership of Mr. A. Mayor-Metcalfe, B.Sc., B.A., formerly headmaster of the English High School for boys in Constantinople. As special arrangements have been made for the instruction in the English language only—as distinct from the ordinary curriculum—the school should also serve the useful purpose of providing a centre for spreading a knowledge of English among the rising generation of Greeks.

IRAQ MILITARY COLLEGE.

The second year's training of cadets at the Iraq Royal Army Cadet College began recently, and a third platoon was added to those which began instruction last summer when the college was opened. The syllabus is based on Sandhurst, but the course is longer, being for three years. In due time the college will provide the new Iraq Army with young officers born, educated, and trained in the country. A certain number of vacancies will be reserved each year for the sons of tribal sheikhs. The new Army will have British instructors.

Ismail Pasha Sidky, who recently resigned office as Egyptian Minister of the Interior, has telegraphed his acceptance of the Egyptian Government's proposal that he should retain the presidency of the Western Frontier Boundary Commission, and it is expected that he will begin negotiations with the Italian Government in the middle of October.

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NEWS IN BRIEF.

Switzerland has signed a treaty of arbitration with Greece and a treaty of friendship with Turkey.

The Maharaja of Kapurthala left Kingston (Jamaica) on September 22 in the R.M.S. Oroya on his way to Europe.

A Poona telegram states that the King and Queen of the Belgians visited the famous Buddhist cave-temples at Ajanta on September 14.

The Shah of Persia and his suite have arranged to leave Paris to-day, sailing to-morrow from Marseilles for Bombay, *en route* for Teheran.

M. Carapanos, Greek Minister to Italy, has been appointed Minister to France in succession to M. Politis.

The new Greek Minister to Yugoslavia, M. Pelychronides, arrived in Belgrade to-day, and the Yugoslav Minister, M. Gavrilovitch, is expected to leave shortly for Athens.

Two Soviet destroyers, the Petrovski and Nosamojnik, arrived at Naples on Saturday from Constantinople, and will stay two days. Various entertainments have been arranged.

The members of Major Court Treatt's motor-car expedition from the Cape to Cairo have arrived at Kondoa, Irangi, Tanganyika, and are expected to reach Nairobi in a fortnight.

Ziwar Pasha, the Egyptian Prime Minister, arrived in Paris on September 22 from Aix-les-Bains. It is understood that he intends to stay about a month in Paris before returning to Egypt.

Mr. Bolton, Chief Commissioner of the North-West Frontier Province, is leaving India in December on six months' leave. Colonel W. J. Keen, Political Officer, will act as Chief Commissioner in his absence.

A Reuter's Patna message states that the working committee of the Central Khilafat Committee has decided to send a delegation of about six members to the Hejaz to confer with Sultan Ibn Saoud regarding the convocation of a Moslem World Conference.

The King has approved the appointment of Mr. E. L. L. Hammond, C.S.I., C.B.E., I.C.S., to be a member of the executive Council of the Governor of Bihar and Orissa, in succession to Sir Hugh McPherson, K.C.E., C.S.I., I.C.S., who is resigning his office early in December.

The Belgrade *Vreme* announces that Dr. Ninchitch, the Yugoslav Minister for Foreign Aairs, is going to Paris from Geneva, instead of M. Pashitch, the Prime Minister, who was to have gone from Monte Carlo. M. Raditch will also visit Paris.

The King has approved the appointment of Mr. Sidney Reginald Daniels, I.C.S., and Mr. Barzor Jamshedji Dalal, I.C.S., to be puisne judges of the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad in the vacancies which will be created by the retirement of Sir Theordore Caro Piggott, I.C.S., in October, and the appointment in November of Mr. Louis Stuart, C.I.E., I.C.S., to be Chief Judge of the Oudh Chief Court.

When sentence was awaited at Athens on Friday morning in the case of a former officer in the Greek Army named Anghelides, accused of the embezzlement of 1,500,000 drachmæ (£4,500) belonging to the Government, against whom the Public Prosecutor had demanded the infliction of the newly-decreed maximum punishment of hanging, it was announced that the accused man had committed suicide in his cell by taking cocaine.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Bogey of Communism.

"These be 'mazing times," as Baroness Orczy used to say, and the world seems upside down. People appear to be walking in their sleep, haunted by the spectre of Communism. Fearfully they whisper: "The Reds are after us," and, if they are Unionists: "Why doesn't the Government strike them down?" Retired soldiers and sailors bestir themselves to barricade their position and to ensure the continued supply of caviare and Oxford marmalade; and the *Observer*, with the most affecting flow of words, stumbles fondly in an attempt to follow the labyrinthine channels of the *Daily Mail's* sage counsels. Communism: the Reds: Bolshevism: the weakness of the Government—such are headlines which appear monstrously capital in the nightmares of the bourgeois. What is it all about?

A little light, perhaps, will be thrown on the temper of the country by the meeting this week at Liverpool of the Labour Party. There, it is said, the Communists, undaunted by their failure to gain admission the last time, will seek again to become members of the Labour Party, and those who are supposed to know imagine that their attempt will come very near to success. Such a contingency is, of course, extremely distasteful to the "constitutionals" of the Labour Party, such as Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, who has made a somewhat belated endeavour to rally bourgeois opinion around him by condemning the Communists, for were "the wild men" to succeed in gaining for the workers what such devotees of the proletariat as Messrs. Thomas and Hodges have failed to achieve, the job of the politicals would naturally be gone. Quite safely, therefore, it may be said that there are no worse enemies of the "direct actionists" than the ordinary humdrum Socialists.

The Unionst Party, again, has a meeting next week at Brighton, at which an attempt is to be made to ginger up the Government into a more repressive attitude towards the Communists. This foreshadowed condemnation of the revolutionaries is, in fact, the one red flush on a political programme of spotless placidity.

English Communism.

Quite frankly I do not believe in all this parade of fear and tirade of fulmination against the Communists in this country. Many readers, I know, will be grieved to hear it said, but my opinion is that there is no completer oxymoron in the world than is conveyed by the words "English Communism." The thing that is so often called Communism here is nothing of the sort. Mr. J. H. Thomas, who is distrusted by thousands of working-men in this country to an extent incredible to many of those who approved of his work when he was in office, was howled down the other day by simple trade-unionists of his own trade-union: and all the papers called this Communism! The very suggestion that one section of the proletariat may strike out of sympathy with another section is, again, called Communism! Do the journalists who write this, and the bourgeois who meticulously hang on every word that falls from these journalists' eversharp pencils, really see in their dreams every miner and transport-worker savagely forsaking the company of his wife and children for the less alloyed joys of Karl Marx? Do they seriously contend that every working-man who fought in the War (not heightening thereby his opinion of foreigners), and who since 1918 has had the misfortune to decline again into the ranks of the proletariat, is really moved by the taunting of Slav or Semitic lips? Is there among them no ex-officer to tell them of what stuff English soldiers were made, and who it is, they or the non-combatant politicians and leaders of industry, who should most be made to suffer in the inevitable post-War poverty?

This, I admit, is a treatment of the question on a purely general basis, but it is precisely on such a basis that many people are basing their extravagant anxieties. As often as not, the concrete fears of the bourgeois vanish into the smoky air of the suburbs on the first contact with real examination. A mental colour-specialist is what they need, to tell them that it is the greenness of their own vision which makes them so often see red.

The O.M.S.

It gives one a real pain, therefore, to see, not the formation, but a public appeal on behalf, of an already formed association called "O.M.S." (Organisation for the Maintenance of Supplies). This is an unofficial organisation, which would, in case of a serious trade dispute, immediately place its services at the disposal of the Government. Its object is to maintain supplies and vital services in the event of a general strike. Upon its executive committee are the names of Lord Jellicoe and Sir James Rennell Rodd, and others which one was very much less surprised to see.

The O.M.S. has been blessed by the *Daily Mail* and the *Observer*; it has had its back patted by the *Morning Post;* several papers have stroked the hair of its head up the wrong way; and others have successively declined in politeness towards it until the final comment of the Communist Party was reached—"the most definite step towards organised Fascism yet made in this country."

Quite patently the community is not so rabid over the spectre of Communism as these retired soldiers and sailors would have it. Broadly speaking, the community is perfectly content to see the Government of the day (and, incidentally, it does not fail to notice that the O.M.S. brings out its standard in the régime not of a Labour but of a Conservative Government, although it might naturally have been thought that the "direct actionists" would try their games on with a Labour Government in power) dealing with any emergency that may arise. It is inevitable that the O.M.S. should disclaim political or party aims, and aggressive or provocative intentions, but for how long is the oppugnance of its personnel to be kept at a requisite state of enthusiasm? It can be preserved only in the breasts of those who before the formation of the organisation were anti-trade-unionists. The pretence, therefore, that it is not an essentially class-movement is rather thin. It is, in plain effect though possibly with not plain intention, a strike-breaking scheme. It is the movement of a minority against a minority; and when and if a clash comes between them, it will be for us, the majority, to decide.

After all, the slogan of "the community comes first" is one that has meant many different things at different times in our history. Now there is, as far as one can discover, no obvious content with the way in which the great

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industries of this country are at the moment being managed, and it is certainly not for the unlearned in the conflict to say that this or that view of the management of industry should prevail. The time for volutary action against the strikers is after, not before, they have been proved wrong. To say that those who would join in a general strike must of necessity be wrong seems to me possible only to those who have very definite opinions upon the future of England, and, particularly, upon what social and political systems that future should rest. England was a great nation before she was a capitalist nation, but one would imagine from the words of some people that her future greatness was inextricably bound up with the preservation of the present system in every detail. Personally, I am reactionary enough to believe in the genius of the British people to deal with each social emergency as is arises.

The Mining Trouble.

Poor Mr. Baldwin is having a very rough time at the hands of the Rothermere and Beaverbrook Press because he has confessed that, just at the time when these two proprietors' creatures were wearing the muscles of their arms thin in throwing mud at him, he desisted from his habit of studiously hanging on every word which they wrote. Even the miners' latest squabble over what the subsidy agreement really meant is attributed to the Premier's weakness or stupidity. And the fact that he has stood up to Mr. A. J. Cook in the dispute has not diminished their horrid croaks in chorus.

This is by no means to say that the outlook in the mining industry is hopeful, or, indeed, that the prospect of a fresh election to test Mr. Baldwin's popularity is any too remote. Not only have the miners boycotted the Samuel Commission, but certain mine-owners in the North of England have also refused to have anything to do with it. The miners' step has been widely advertised, but unequal publicity has been given to these owners' action. That perhaps is natural enough; but does this partial boycott mean that the Royal Commission's recommendations will be disregarded by both parties? We shall probably know more of this when the Miners' Federation confers on October 9.

Conformity and Nonconformity.

So much has been heard of the reunion of the Churches in this country that the decision to discontinue the Lambeth meetings between the Anglicans and the Free Churchmen might be found the cause of great disappointment. From an official Free Church summary of the present position, however, it appears that the principals are agreed in most of the essentials, and that what remains to be done now is the persuasion of their congregations to these beliefs. "In vital and fundamental matters of faith," for example, a large measure of agreement was obtained, and the Free Churches are to join with the Anglicans in moral, social, religious, and evangelical work. The Joint Committee also agreed that, though an episcopacy (so long the stumbling-block of Nonconformist Churches) was essential in a united Church, it should be of a "constitutional" character, in which elements of presbyteral and congregational order were equal. In the matter of recognition, again, the Anglicans conceded "the explicit and considered recognition of non-episcopally ordained ministers as (a) evangelical, (b) sacramental, and (c) not schismatic but within the Church." But the snag appears at the last, on the question of "authorisation." The Anglicans still insist that Free Church ministers accept ordination—at least in the form known as *sub conditione*—at episcopal hands: upon which insistence the Free Churchmen split from the episcopal representatives.

What is happening now, therefore, is a developing in all the Protestant churches of this country of the spirit contained in the first three clauses of agreement, what time the best minds in both the Churches, Anglican and Nonconformist, cast about to find some means of obviating ordination for the question of "authorisation."

From an outside point of view (and one which even *The Times* supports), it would seem that the Anglicans' concession that "ministries which imply a sincere intention to preach Christ's word and administer the Sacraments as Christ has ordained, and to which authority so to do has been solemnly given, are real ministries in the Universal Church" leads straight to the Nonconformist conclusion that any re-ordination of such ministers is unnecessary.

The Liberals and the Land.

It appears that the presumption that Mr. Lloyd George's land campaign was a Liberal campaign was over-hasty, for several Liberals have already declared against it, in advance of its fuller (and, one hopes, more informed) exposition. One curious thing about both sides—pro-landlord and anti-landlord—is how they equally appeal to the authority of Lord Bledisloe. It was rather amusing, therefore, to see, in a letter to *The Times*, how flatly he disconcerted both sides, by declaring that his remedy has been and always will be, not the abolition of land-owners, but "in their large numerical increase and the encouragement and development of their productive activities"!

The most unfortunate thing about the campaign, however, is not whether Liberals do or do not approve of it, but in the tendency to make of it a party affair. There can be no solution of British Agriculture if party politicians get hold of it.

Theatrical Productions.

London at the moment has plenty of theatrical interest. An extremely interesting experiment in nerve-driving has just been launched at the Ambassador's by the American dramatist, Mr. Eugene O'Neill, whose "Anna Christie" so moved theatre-goers here a year or two ago. His "Emperor Jones," in which the chief part is played by a wonderful singer of negro-spirituals, Mr. Paul Robeson, has gained much praise from the best critics in London.

Of quite another, and much more disputable kind, is Mr. Caradoc Evans' "Taffy," a play in which the character of the Welsh is held up to far more scorn than ever Synge held the Irish character. Apart from its racial interest, however, it does not excite much attention.

There are other things, too. Mr. Nigel Playfair, for instance, has found it possible to lay his hand on his heart and to produce simultaneously such a sincere effort as Mr. Ackerby's "Prisoner of War," and Mr. Michael Arlen's noxious and pretentious version of "The Green Hat."

Mention of this last perversity reminds one that the dramatised novel is obviously to be the feature of theatrical productions for the immediate future. A version of Mr. Somerset Maugham's "The Moon and Sixpence" has just been produced; and, too, a revival by the Lena Ashwell Players of Mr. Arnold Bennett's "The Great Adventure" is shortly promised.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY

October 1, 1925 (New Style).
September 18, 1925 (Old Style).
Rabia I, 13, 1344 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Tishri 13, 5686, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Greek Minister has returned to London from Paris.

The Maharaja of Jhalawar left London last Thursday for Paris on his way to India.

Viscount and Viscountess Willingdon have returned to 5, Lygon Place from Geneva.

Ex-King George of Greece returned to London from Italy on September 26.

The Bulgarian Minister returned to London from Geneva on September 26.

The Roumanian Minister in London has returned to 50, Grosvenor Street from Geneva.

Sir George Lloyd, the High Commissioner-elect for Egypt, returned to London last week from Scotland.

The two sons of the Crown Prince of Persia have arrived in London from Paris for their education in England.

Mr. Amery, Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs, returned to 112, Eaton Square from Geneva on September 27.

Major General Lord Edward Gleichen and Lady Edward Gleichen, who are motoring from Scotland, have postponed their arrival at 35, Catherine Street till October 3.

A Private View is being held to-day (October 1) of Mr. Borough Johnson's water-colours and drawings of Jerusalem at the Goupil Gallery, 5, Regent Street, W.1.

Lady Birdwood, wife of Field-Marshal Sir William Birdwood, Commander-in-Chief in India, and Captain C. B. Birdwood, left London last Thursday by the P. and O. special train to join the s.s. Rawalpindi at Marseilles for Bombay.

The will of Mr. Philip Glynn Messent, C.I.E., M.I.C.E. (63), of Grosvenor Hill, Wimbledon, S.W., formerly Chief Engineer to the Bombay Port Trust and Consultant Engineer to the Trustees of the Port of Aden (net personalty £32,890), has been proved at £36,961.

The Begum of Bhopal, who has come to England to discuss the question of her successor, arrived in London last Sunday with her youngest son, Hamid-ullah Khan, whom she is anxious to have appointed as her heir. During her stay in London her Highness will stop in Portman Square.

PROMOTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

The King has approved the following appointments in the Diplomatic Service:—

Mr. William Edmund O'Reilly, H.B.M. Minister to Guatemala, to be H.B.M. Minister to Albania. Mr. O'Reilly has also served in Belgrade, Cettigné, and Sofia.

Mr. Edmund St. John Debonnaire John Monson, Counsellor at his Majesty's Legation in Teheran, to be H.B.M. Minister to Colombia. Mr. Monson was formerly at Constantinople and Teheran.

Mr. Archibald John Kerr Clark Kerr, Acting Counsellor in his Majesty's Diplomatic Service, to be H.B.M. Minister to Guatemala. Mr. Kerr has served in Teheran, Tangier, and Cairo.

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IN WESTERN THRACE.

By "Repat."

I.—The Musician.

It was at Demotika, in Western Thrace, that I came across the Musician. On a sweltering hot day in June and at the hour of the midday meal in a ramshackle open-air restaurant. For in Thrace, as in other neighbouring localities, the ordinary conveniences of life, as known to the true Westerner, are, and in my opinion will always continue to be, ramshackle. Not that in general prosperity the Greeks in Western Thrace are not far ahead of their Turkish neighbours just across the Maritsa in Eastern Thrace, but this does not apply to the comforts of life, which remain very, very awkward for want of the wish to alter.

We had entered the restaurant, I and some of my Greek colleagues engaged on refugee work. But I myself had little hope of getting much to eat beyond disguised lamb, which as a rule appears in about fifteen items of the twenty which may compose the bill of fare. However, there was good Salonika *beer*, and that made up for much.

Two or three other tables were there, one occupied by the eternal military and another by local employees of the town. Nothing was doing on my part until a long draught from the blessed Salonika brewery had trickled down, and then I turned at the sound of a piano tinkling. The music was good, and I wondered what enterprise brought such a thing to such a place and at that time of the day.

I saw a white-haired head bent down and almost touching the keyboard, under a wooden shanty exposed to the full glare of the sun. We listened for a quite considerable period, and then, after a pause, we beckoned to him. He did not, however, respond immediately, but said "wait," and whispered a few words to a small urchin (his son), who shortly after came back with a violin. Thereupon the musician performed two or three set pieces on the violin and accompanying himself at the same time with remarkable ingenuity on the piano. A third performance ensued, with a flute replacing the violin, the notes of the flute being entirely manipulated, and the flute held, by the left hand.

For three-quarters of an hour we listened, and then got the story, which can be condensed into a few lines.

A refugee from Adrianople and formerly the proprietor of three houses in that place. Now lodged in one room in an outhouse in the purlieus of the restaurant, with wife and no fewer than five little boys, who picked up odd jobs. Himself getting blind.

I suppose I must, during the course of my peregrinations of the last eighteen months, have seen some hundreds of thousands of refugee families, and the above is only a sample of many and even worse cases. Thanks to the loan (mainly subscribed in Great Britain), the whole aspect of Macedonia and Western Thrace is gradually being changed into a place of smiling and prosperous villages with a homogeneous population; but this takes time, and much suffering has ensued and will ensue until the task is finally regulated.

II.—Comotini.

When I arrived at Comotini (Western Thrace) and essayed to secure a room in the local "hotel," the fat proprietor confronted me from behind his backgammon board, where he was immovably fixed. As far as I could make out, amidst the rattle of the dice, I *could* have a bed. So I stumped up the staircase and saw "the bed," one of three in a room which could comfortably contain but one. As the sample of hotel "guest" in these regions does not make agreeable company for anyone fastidious, I had to submit to the usual rapacity hereabouts and "take" the three beds. Shortly after I reposed myself for the afternoon, to the accompaniment of some roomless ones snoring in the stifling and inferno-like passage outside.

Such an hotel. Ramshackle as ever, but filthy, indescribably filthy, as likewise most of the other occupants.

At about five o'clock I sallied forth to my lawful occasions, that is, to see how the local refugees were faring in this place, Comotini, formerly and more generally known as Gumuljina. In Balkan and semi-Balkan (and by the latter term I include much a quite long way west round the Adriatic) countries, it is necessary to obliterate traces of former nationalities. Thus if we were Balkan, it might, to exaggerate somewhat, be appropriate to re-shristen Baghdad—Georgetown, and Jerusalem—New Canterbury. However, that is as may be, and when I sallied forth, the fat man was still backgammoning with his comrade. He was obliging and wanted to arrange dinner for me suitable to English tastes; so said he had got beef and would send round to a local store at once for pickles, or, as he called them, *picklees*. I said it was too hot for pickles, and suggested some bug powder as more fitting the occasion.

He rattled his dice, and his very large paunch shook the table with applause.

After satisfying my lawful occasions, I did return to dinner, and there, lo and behold were our brave backgammoners still enduring; I even went to so-called "bed" to the chuckle of the beloved dice, and I suppose that they are still hard at it.

I imagine that the management of the hotel was mainly left to the wife and two rather stout-calved daughters, who, however, as soon as the guests were served, rushed off, very elegantly gowned, to the local cinema and promenade, where they probably remained till all hours. As for mine host's day, I calculate it rather like this:—Midnight to 4 a.m., backgammon; 4 a.m. to midday, sleep; midday to 2 p.m., an enormous meal: 3 to 6, sleep; 6 to midnight, backgammon. Cigarettes, coffees, *oozoo* (mastica), and odd scraps of food throughout the day.

I happily stopped only one night in Comotini, and then journeyed on to Xanthi (old name Eskiji), where in that prosperous tobacco land I fortunately found a Bosch pension, clean and well-ordered. So we do really like to come across the Bosches sometimes; they *are* efficient.

KING FAISAL.

King Faisal of Iraq, whose health has much improved during the last few weeks, is now able to take fuller advantage of his stay in England. Last week His Majesty paid a visit to Eton College, in company with Sir George Lloyd, and Ja'afer Pasha, Iraq representative in London; Friday he spent at Wembley, and on Saturday he was present at the football match between West Ham and Arsenal at Upton Park. King Faisal was profoundly impressed with the British Empire Exhibition; any one of the units composing the Exhibition, he imagined, might have its counterpart at other exhibitions, but for the general conception and in its setting he could picture nothing finer, nothing more impressive. His Majesty was present at the Zeebrugge model display and at the Tattoo.

King Faisal expects to leave London for the Continent next week, as soon as it has been decided where is to take a "cure."

MEDITERRANEAN FLEET CRUISE.

The stay of the Mediterranean Fleet, under Admiral Sir Roger Keyes, at Volo, was extended until September 28. On leaving this anchorage on the western side of the Ægean, the Fleet will carry out a revised programme for the rest of its cruise. The Queen Elizabeth goes to Jaffa from October 2 to 6, and then to Alexandria and Suda Bay. The First Battle Squadron, First Cruiser Squadron, and the Seventh Destroyer Division go to Milo from October 1 to 4, and will return to Malta on October 6. The Third Battle Squadron and First Destroyer Flotilla will visit Nauplia from September 30 to October 7, afterwards going to Suda Bay. The Third Cruiser Squadron, Third Destroyer Flotilla, and the hospital ship Maine, depot-ship Greenwich, and repair-ship Assistance will proceed to Ægina Island on the same dates, afterwards rejoining the other battleships and destroyers at Suda Bay. The whole Fleet will be back at Malta on October 22 with the return there of the Queen Elizabeth.

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Indian Affairs.

MR. GANDHI AND THE INDIAN CONGRESS.

The Indian National Congress was started in 1885, with the declared object of making India a nation and of cementing firmly the union between England and India. In 1907 the extreme wing revolted against the leadership of the older men, and a free fight ensued at the Congress meeting at Surat, with the result that the Congress passed wholly into the hands of the extremists: until, in 1920, it appointed Mr. Gandhi as its virtual dictator.

Elsewhere in this issue, appear comments on the most recent decision of the Executive Committee of the Congress. This is not to be confused with the Congress itself which meets annually, during the Christmas holidays, at a centre selected in the course of the previous year's meeting. The annual meeting is attended by a large number of delegates, generally about 3,000 in number, who are elected by the various "Provinces," the boundaries of which were given in THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA of September 17. The committee consists of a small number of the leaders, who carry on the executive work of the Congress between the annual meetings; but, until the rise of the Gandhi era, their decisions were not binding on the Congress, except in routine matters, and they had to be confirmed in full meeting. During the height of the non-co-operation movement, the power of the Committee to speak for the whole Congress was formally affirmed: and Mr. Gandhi was appointed dictator: any order given by him, or any decision arrived at by him, was binding on the Congress—except that he was forbidden to enter into negotiations for co-operation with the Government of India. Mr. Gandhi's power was first seriously shaken by the "Council Entry" party of the late Mr. C. R. Das: and all that Mr. Gandhi could accomplish was the passing of a resolution which, while continuing to assert that abstinence from taking any part in the councils of Government was still the true ideal, yet permission was granted, to those who were unable to reconcile this ideal with their conscience, to follow their own methods: and thus to adopt active non-co-operation, from inside the Councils, in place of the passive method of refusing to recognise their existence. Mr. Gandhi, however, succeeded in pursuading the Congress to adhere to his policy of the "charka"—the spinning wheel: and altered the electoral qualification for selecting delegates to the Congress, from the money contribution of four annas a head, to the production of a certain amount of hand-spun cotton yarn, which was to be collected monthly and used for the manufacture of hand-woven cloth. Even here, however, Mr. Gandhi's success was incomplete—a saving clause was put in, under which persons "unable or unwilling" to contribute their quota of yarn might be exempted: Mr. Gandhi suggested that, in such an eventuality, they might get other people to spin the required amount of yarn for them. Even this pretence has now gone by the board: the Committee have definitely decided to abandon the "spinning franchise" and to return to the monetary contribution of four annas a head.

This resolution marks the final defeat of Mr. Gandhi. His enormous personal ascendancy, the belief in his saintliness—even in his power to work miracles: it was confidently asserted, when he was put in jail a few years ago, that no jail could hold him against his will; but his continued presence in jail, after the death of a preliminary belief that the person in the jail was not Gandhi himself, but a simulacrum representing him, led to the irresistible conclusion that he was there willingly, until such time as it should suit him to pass the bolts and bars of the prison: these have given him a longer run than is customary with Indian reformers. While he was in jail, there were some murmurings, even among the elect: if, as was believed, he could effect his exit at any moment, why did he not do so? There were not wanting suggestions that, having got his movement into such an unholy mess, he thought that his absence from the scene would be the best way of trying to let it right itself, without the risk of exposing his own reputation to some damaging blow. Now that he is out of jail, though he has put up a brave fight, he must acknowledge himself beaten. He has often asserted that, if he found that his policy failed to command assent, he would abandon the area and "retire to the Himalayas," there to spend the rest of his life in meditation; but, among the Mahatma's many admirable qualities, a certain mundane vanity is observable. He, who has been in the limelight so long, cannot bring himself to abandon the stage. His saintliness remains, and the personal veneration of the simple—one may except the more prominent of his political followers from that category: and these he will doubtless continue to enjoy, even if his political leadership passes from him. It is not clear whether the Committee still wields plenary powers, or not, since their withdrawal from Mr. Gandhi: probably not; but, in that case, it is quite certain that the annual meeting will approve of the Committee's resolutions, and Mr. Gandhi's last remaining rampart will have fallen.

CURRENT TOPICS.

The Maharaja of Kashmir.

The Maharaja of Kashmir died on September 23, at the age of 75, after a titular reign of forty years. Two years after his accession in 1885, he abdicated and a Council of Regency was formed, under the Presidency of his younger brother and presumptive heir, Sir Amar Singh, to carry on the government of the State. In 1891 the Maharaja was himself made President of the Council of Regency of his own State—Sir Amar Singh becoming Vice-President: a peculiar arrangement that continued till 1905 when, with certain restrictions, the Maharaja's ruling powers were restored: the restrictions being finally withdrawn towards the end of the War. Sir Amar Singh died in 1909 and the heirship presumptive descended to his son, Sir Hari Singh: the Maharaja having no son of his own. The Hindu religion lays down certain religious ceremonies, including the lighting of the funeral pyre, that must be carried out by a son: so that it is usual, among Hindus of position, to adopt a son when a man has none of his own. A few years ago, the Maharaja followed this custom and adopted a connection of his own—the brother of one of his feudatory princes—as his "spiritual" son: and is known to have wished to revoke the acknowledgement of Sir Hari Singh as his heir, in favour of the boy so adopted. This aspiration, however, was not fulfilled, and the succession of Sir Hari Singh remained undisturbed and has now been formally confirmed by his accession.

Kashmir is the most notable instance in India of a predominantly Mohammedan population being ruled by a Hindu dynasty: as is Hyderabad of the reverse. Well over eighty per cent. of the Nizam's subjects are Hindus: and about seventy per cent. of the Maharaja of Kashmir's subjects are Mohammedans. They have, however, been described as "tepid" Moslems, whose religion includes a strong undercurrent of Hinduism: this is observable to a greater extent than in other parts of India, though there is no doubt that hundreds of years of association with Hindus have, in many districts, tinged Indian Mohammedanism with Hindu ideas: there are still, for instance, Mohammedan villages in the United Provinces whose inhabitants keep Brahmin priests and consider themselves benefited by their prayers. The Hindus of Kashmir are almost entirely concentrated in the province of Jammu, the most southerly province of the State, whither the Maharaja and his Court migrate, from the summer Capital of Srinagar, to spend the winter.

Indian Appointments.

It is announced that Mr. S. R. Das, the Advocate-General of Bengal, has been selected to succeed Sir B. N. Sarma, whose tenure expires in October, as a member of the Viceroy's Executive Council: and that Mr. E. L. L. Hammond, Chief Secretary to the Government of Bihar and Orissa, will succeed Sir Hugh McPherson, in December, as a member of the Executive Council of the Province.

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Mr. S. R. Das is a first cousin of the late Mr. C. R. Das: and, as was the latter, is an eminent and successful lawyer. He never agreed with his cousin's politics, and has been a prominent advocate of co-operation between British and Indians. He also showed himself particularly active in attempting to wean the old Bengal revolutionaries from the error of their ways, and is persuading some of the most prominent among them to devote their undoubted talents to the work of combating Mr. Gandhi's propaganda. The Advocate-General of Bengal holds a rather peculiar position in the legal world of India, since he is the official adviser, not only of his own Government, but also of the Government of India, on points of law. To the layman, it would seem natural that the Legislative Department of the Government of India should perform this function; but, in practice, they do not do so; their explanation being, that it is their business to draft laws, but not to interpret them. Mr. Das seems to be marked out for the Law Membership of the Executive Council; but, if so, this will involve a shuffling of the present portfolios.

The appointment of Mr. Laurie Hammond will be universally welcomed, not only in his own Province, but among the host of friends and admirers whom he owns throughout India; who will hope that it foreshadows his succession as Governor to Sir Henry Wheeler, whose tenure will expire, in the ordinary course, in April, 1927.

Assembly Resignations.

In last week's issue, it was stated that the Nationalist members of the Legislative Assembly were considering a proposal that they should resign their seats and seek re-election, as a protest against the action of the Council of State in rejecting their amendment to the Government resolution on the Reforms and accepting the original resolution. A cable from India says that it is understood that 35, out of the 36 members of the Swaraj Party who were present at the last session of the Assembly, have agreed to tender their resignations: and that fourteen members of the Independent Party have reached a similar decision. There are, altogether, 29 Independents in the Assembly: and it is said that, if twenty consent to resign, the decision of the party will be in favour of resignation. Though the total strength of the Swaraj Party in the Assembly is 45, nine members not having attended the Simla session, the practical unanimity of those who did attend it leads to the presumption that all the Swarajists will resign: and, if the ultimate decision includes the Independents as well, the result will be a general election in miniature, doubtless with the effect of leaving things exactly as they are: it is unlikely that the re-election of the resigning members will be even opposed, and practically certain that no opposition can be successful.

It was originally reported that Mr. Patel, the recently elected President of the Assembly had resigned his membership of the Swaraj Party on election to that post: but this seems to have been incorrect. Later reports say that he resigned the Vice-Presidency of the Party, but not his membership of it. Presumably, therefore, he is the one exception to the otherwise unanimous vote, in favour of resignation, of the members who attended the Simla session: and he will doubtless adhere to his decision, even if all the other members of the party should resign.

The National Congress.

The All-India Congress Committee, which has been sitting at Patna, in Behar, has passed a number of resolutions; some of which will doubtless be welcome to its supporters, though others will be less so. In the former category one may include a resolution sympathising with the Chinese and protesting against the employment of Indian soldiers in the suppression of their "movement for freedom": as well as a resolution condemning the United States Government for having refused a passport to Mr. Saklatvala. In the latter category may be placed the decision finally to abolish the "spinning franchise" for the Congress, which will be a blow to Mr. Gandhi: and the rejection of Mrs. Besant's "Commonwealth of India Bill," which will be a set-back to her hope of being able to represent it as a scheme commanding the support of political India as a whole. It is, indeed, significant that the resolution in favour of the Bill, when brought before the Committee, failed even to find a seconder; so that, if not unanimously rejected, it seems that the minority in its favour cannot have been more than a single vote.

The "Indian soldiers," whose use against the Chinese was condemned, are, of course, the Shanghai municipal armed police, who are recruited in India. They are mostly Sikhs, though they also include—or, at any rate, did, a few years ago, include—men of other Indian races. It is a common belief, at any rate in India, that there is a British Concession in Shanghai and a garrison of Indian regular troops—as is the case in Tientsin; whereas the fact is, of course, that the Shanghai Municipality functions in the International Concession, and is not by any means exclusively British: while its armed police, though they happen in fact to consist of British Indians and to be commanded by a British officer, are an "international" force and take their orders from the international Municipal Committee.

Communal Tension.

A serious Hindu-Mohammedan riot occurred at Aligarh, in the United Provinces, on September 23. The population of Aligarh is about three-fifths Hindu and two-fifths Mohammedan: but the latter have an importance beyond their actual numbers owing to the existence in the town of the famous Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College founded fifty years ago by Sir Sayid Ahmad. Several persons are reported to have been killed, and the total casualties are put at from 170 to 200: the cabled reports say that "details are lacking in consequence of the censorship."

The belief, that appears to obtain widely outside India, in the existence of a perennial censorship in that country, is one that is constantly in evidence. The censorship instituted at the outbreak of the War continued for some little time after its close, but finally came to an end in August, 1919: since when, there has been no censorship in India at all: and it is absolutely certain that none exists, in Aligarh or elsewhere, at present. During the "Bolshevik" trial at Cawnpore last year, Communist writers in Europe made a great parade of the facts having "leaked out in spite of rigorous censorship"; whereas the fact was that the trial was very fully reported in the newspapers of India, from day to day, and its proceedings were open to everyone who wished to hear them. The truth is, no doubt, that the authorities are awaiting a trustworthy report on the occurrence and its results, before publishing an official version: and that, until inquiry has been completed, it is impossible to give any reasonably accurate estimate of the casualties. It is equally certain that both parties to the dispute are doing their best to obtain publication of their own version, not only of the origin of the riot, but of its effects on their "peaceful and oppressed" co-religionists, with the object of obscuring, in the interests of their own community, any successful attempt at an impartial estimate of the real facts. In such an effort, the pretence of a "censorship" is a useful asset: but it is remarkable that it should be accepted, contrary to what ought to be perfectly well-known facts, by presumably impartial observers transmitting information to England.

The Bombay Mill Strike.

When we went to press last week, the reported number of strikers out, in Bombay, was 45,000: at the time of writing, it is 145,000 and only five of the 82 cotton mills in Bombay are working. It can evidently only be a matter of a day or two before these also follow suit, and the strike becomes complete. The accuracy of our belief that the strike was originally engineered as a political manœuvre is rendered more probable by the fact, reported by cable from Bombay, that no attempt is being made to initiate any discussion between the mill owners and the operatives: it would, indeed, seem that both sides have decided to leave things as they are, and to leave the question of a resumption of work to the Government: if the

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latter consent to abolish the Excise duty, the mills will resume, but not otherwise. The owners appear to view the situation with equanimity, owing to the existence of unprecedently large stocks on hand: and the operatives are reported to be leaving Bombay in thousands, for their villages, rail and steam accommodation being taxed to the utmost to cope with the exodus. As was to be expected, a cable has been received in India, purporting to be sent by the Soviet Textile Workers' Union of Moscow, containing fraternal greetings to the strikers and announcing the dispatch of money for their assistance; but, if the true position is as it appears to be, this particular Bolshevik gesture seems likely to be a cheap one, and it is improbable that it will be thought necessary to make any attempt to implement the promise of a subsidy.

Development of Burma.

An article in the Trade Supplement of *The Times* says that the potentialities of Burma are probably greater than those of any other province in the Indian Empire. For the development of her wealth two things are particularly needed—capital and improved means of communication. As regards the latter, an elaborate road programme is in hand and an extensive railway scheme has lately been sanctioned, including a main line from Moulmein through the mineral and rubber bearing districts of Tavoy and Mergui and then on to the frontier of Siam, where it will link up with the Siamese system and thus establish railway communication with the Straits Settlements and Singapore.

Had it not been for the enterprise of the European firms established in Rangoon, Burma would have been in a bad way; in a recent speech, the Governor (Sir Harcourt Butler) produced statistics to prove that, without them, taxation of the population of Burma would have been very near breaking point. Though the advanced politicians in Burma do not appreciate this fact or desire its further improvement, the future prosperity of the Province demands plenty of outside capital: and this is likely to be provided as soon as the road and railway programmes approach completion. Prospects for commercial and industrial enterprise in Burma are bright, and well organised and well managed concerns will earn a good return.

At an Agricultural and Co-operative Conference recently held in Mandalay, two industries—out of the many awaiting development—were specially recommended for attention: the cultivation of sugar and coco-nuts. Parts of Burma are thoroughly suitable for the cultivation of sugar cane; but the industry, to be really profitable, needs to be conducted on the central factory system, and for this much capital is necessary. India is the largest importer of sugar in the world, so that a market for all the sugar that could be grown in Burma seems to be assured. The coco-nut palm thrives to perfection along the coast line of Burma, but at present there are not enough home-grown nuts to meet the demand, and about £150,000 worth are imported annually. India also imports large quantities of coco-nuts from Penang and Singapore: and, if Burma produced a sufficient quantity, her favourable geographical position would enable her to undersell both. To grow coco-nuts on a wholesale scale requires capital, for the palm takes from six to ten years to come into bearing; but it is considered certain that, if the capital could be found, the profits would be large.

Bomb Explosion at Simla.

The startling news of the explosion of a bomb near the lines of the Gurkha detachment at Simla, by which three persons were killed and six or seven others injured, three of them very seriously, has been followed by further information which seems to show that the occurrence was accidental, and not the result of a premeditated outrage. Examination of the fragments proves that it was a Mills' grenade that exploded; and this is a form of missile that might well have been in the possession of one of the soldiers, either as a curiosity or as an article of commercial value. Since the War, a regular trade in Mills' grenades has sprung up along the North-West Frontier of India: not only in the British Army pattern, but also in imitations of it, made in the Kabul workshops. It is unlikely that a Gurkha, whose home is far removed from the N.W. Frontier, would have kept a Mills' grenade, if he had managed to make himself the possessor of one, for purposes of sale; though possible, for the Pathan rifle thief has a wide range which might well include Simla, and all is fish that comes into his net: at the same time, it is difficult to believe that any soldiers could have kept a Mills' grenade as a curiosity, for it is no novelty to the present-day soldier. A Mills' grenade breaks, on explosion, into such small fragments that it is always difficult to be sure that a few may not have remained unaccounted for, after bombing practice: and this presents an opportunity that the thrifty soldier is not always slow to recognise.

As a matter of fact, however, grenades are not particularly popular weapons beyond the frontier: they are useful for attacks on British picquets, or in close range actions, such as sometimes occur in frontier warfare; but the Pathan usually prefers to carry out his operations, particularly when the matter in hand is a personal blood feud, at long range. One calls to mind the dictum of a Pathan soldier who told his officer that he had made a good score on the rifle range—five bull's eyes, an inner and an outer. The officer said that he supposed the marksman had begun with the outer and progressed to the bull's eye, having once found which he did not leave it: in which case, his score was a proper matter for congratulation. But the Patham did not agree: he said his first shot had been a bull's eye, and that this was the only useful way to shoot—"In my country, unless you make a bull's eye with your first shot, you are unlikely to have a chance of firing a second."

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, September 10.

Bolshevist Menace in India.

Although the political atmosphere of Bengal has been unperturbed by any new development during the past week, the politically minded have found food for thought in a debate in the Council of State on a motion for consideration of a Bill to repeal special enactments, including the Bengal State Prisoners' Regulation of 1818. The Council is usually spared the tedium of long harangues, but on this occasion it was called upon to listen to a dissertation on "repressive" legislation. Repression, a tag of the Swaraj Party, has been found very effective in raising enthusiasm among the student classes, and has been laboured in connection with the Bengal Ordinance; but, in a meeting of some fifty substantial gentlemen, it is not surprising that these tactics left them cold. Sir Maneckjee Dadabhoy vigorously opposed the motion and said that the Acts were essential for the preservation of the State from anarchy. Weight was added to his words by facts put before the Council by the Home Secretary, Mr. Crerar. Government, he said, had documentary proof to show that attempts had been made and were being made by Communist elements in China to secure connexion with India: and the German Government had requested the Government of India to take back Indian Communists whose activities were proving dangerous to the German State. This they were compelled to do, but he asked whether Government would be right in allowing them to continue their propaganda in India. Reason prevailed, and, on the motion being put to the vote, it was defeated heavily. Once again the bluff of the Swarajists is called; the political arrests in Bengal had been turned into capital by the extremists and while the wisdom of the legislation is apparent from the cessation of anarchical practices since it was introduced, the Simla debate will make it clear to the doubters that the action of Government was something more than the high-handedness of bureaucracy. It is time India realised the difference between law and order and the blandishments of the revolutionary element in their midst.

The Answer.

The promised debate on the future of the Reforms took place during the week in the Legislative Assembly. Sir

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Alexander Muddiman, in a short but powerful speech, moved a resolution that the Assembly recommend to the Governor-General in Council to accept the principles underlying the Majority Report of the Reforms Enquiry. To this Pandit Motilal Nehru mover an amendment requesting the Governor-General to move Parliament to make a declaration embodying fundamental changes in the Indian Constitution. Summarised, these changes stipulate that all powers regarding the revenue and property of India should be vested in the Governor-General; the India Council to be abolished and the position of the Secretary of State be reduced in status to that of a Colonial Secretary, with the exception that for an indefinite number of years he should retain extraordinary powers with regard to expenditure under Military, Foreign and Political heads, and would be empowered to meet liabilities already incurred. In India, unitary responsible Government is demanded for the Provinces, subject only to residuary powers vested in the Central Government. Franchise is to be widened, but no details are given as to how this is to be accomplished. The Central Government will have full powers in all matters except the Military, Foreign and Political Services, which, for a number of years, will vest in the Governor General. In the meantime, however, the Indian Army is to be nationalised as soon as possible: and, at the end of a given period, the Indian Legislature will be in a position to revise the Constitution as it deems advisable. The amendment is the outcome of a compromise between the Swaraj and the Independent parties which was reached the day before the debate took place, which may perhaps account for its nebulous nature. It is designed to unite the scheme of the Independents and the Swarajists and, under the clever management of the Pandit, there is little in it which is repugnant even to the Liberal Party. As a piece of vote-catching, it is one of the smartest things that has been seen for a long time. Despite the indulgence of the Pandit in heroics in the shape of threats that, if the bureaucracy did not assist India in securing its freedom, they would have the unpleasant spectacle of India wresting its freedom from their unwilling hands, several Liberals voted with the independents and Swarajists when the Government motion was defeated by 72 votes against 45. The Extremists are loud in their insistence that the majority vote is the voice of India, but what is the significance? As a reply to Lord Birkenhead's speech, the amendment will carry matters no further; if anything, a set-back will result. The *Bengalee* deplores the amendment which it describes as inconsistent and futile. It is sheer bluff and should be treated as such.

Markets.

After a steadier tendency at the beginning of the week, the Jute market closed strong on publication of the forecast figures which, contrary to general expectations, showed a distinct decline over last year's returns. Hessians, in sympathy, have advanced through a brisk demand for September and October deliveries, for which a large business has been concluded. The indications previously reported, that a revival in the Piece-Goods market might be looked for at some not too distant date, show further signs of fulfilment, as stocks are steadily being liquidated through demand on account of the coming "Puja" festival. A slightly more hopeful view may be taken of the future of the Tea market if the steps to restrict outturn materialise and, in view of this, the interest displayed for certain of the better qualities at this week's sales resulted in an advance in prices, though the tone generally was irregular. The August returns show a decrease of one million maunds over the same month of last year. Another dull week on the Stock Exchange is to be reported: Jute shares have eased further as a result of the high price of raw Jute and unless a drop occurs or an improvement in finished goods takes place a still lower level of share values appears probable. Teas have been marked down and at the lower rates a fair inquiry has developed; but, with the heavy surplus stocks now being carried, the prospects of the industry cannot be said to be bright. A limited interest has been apparent in coal shares, but cottons have been neglected; in neither of these shares may any immediate improvement be expected.

The quiet but steady demand for Rubbers has continued and, with the optimistic reports from London and the Straits, a livelier market may be looked for in the future. Investment stocks have found fairly ready customers without displaying any particular feature. Money remains plentiful with Exchange steady.

BOMBAY LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bombay, September 10.

The Boon of Holidays.

In Calcutta, September is a fairly strenuous month with jute and tea still in full swing. In Bombay we are waiting for the arrival of the first bales of the new cotton crop in the middle of October: and till they come down there is nothing very much to be done. So it is a merciful dispensation of Providence that September is a month full of Bank Holidays for Hindu and Parsee festivals. The very frequent festivals of Christians, Hindus, Mohammedans, and Parsees, all of them scrupulously observed by the other communities as Bank Holidays, are apt to be a nuisance when trade is active: but in the dead times of September, when Bombay is stagnant and the climate of Poona and Nasik, at the top of the Ghats, is full of attraction, they come as a great relief.

The Cotton Trade Dispute.

A desultory argument on the reduction of wages in the cotton industry still continues, but nothing appears to have been done by either side collectively, and there are certainly no signs of anything like a general strike. In fact, when one reads the morning telegrams with their threats of coal strikes in England, shipping strikes all over the world, riots in China, and war in Syria and Morocco, one is forced to the conclusion that very few places are at the moment so peaceful and contented as India in general and Bombay in particular.

It is true that our friends the labour leaders in England are doing their utmost to bring this state of affairs to an end, by reminding the Indian coolies of their condition of slavery: and a fresh invitation to them to assert their rights has been issued this week by Mr. Swales at Scarborough. As has been shown before, there is employment for all, and it is in the power of every Indian working-man to improve the conditions of his life as soon as he likes. But, as long as he is content to base his standard of living on what he can earn on three days of the week (with possibly a fourth day added to make a little more for drink and gambling), he is not likely to improve his position.

It is a problem the solution of which does not lie in the increase of wages. To double wages would mean the halving of work, without any other benefit to the workman. All serious employers of labour are perfectly conscious of the problem, and are working on it all the time, if only because they know that the only thing necessary for the immense prosperity of the country is the free circulation of part of the enormous earnings. To talk to a Labour representative of uneconomic conditions is not to gain favour in his eyes: because the expression is too often used in a wrong and selfish sense. But the state of affairs in India is altogether different from that of Europe: and our problem begins at the other end, with the difficulty of raising the working-man's standard of living, instead of that of providing him with enough income to maintain it.

The distinction seems a real one, and the solution is being attempted by employers of all nationalities in India. But the intervention of English labour leaders is the less likely to be helpful, because their motives are suspected: and it is freely suggested that their object is to increase the cost of Indian labour for the benefit of their own trade unions rather than ours.

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The Monsoon.

By the middle of September it is possible to guess the results of the monsoon fairly closely. Conditions in the Punjab and Upper India appear to have been excellent all through. But in the bulk of the Bombay Presidency, especially Gujarat and the Deccan, an unusually early start has been followed by very short rains throughout July and August: and conditions in the dry belt of the South Bombay Deccan—the collectorates of Dharwar, Bijapur, Sholapur, and Ahmednagar—must be serious. We have, of course, moved a long way since the days of Kipling's stories, and famine relief is nowadays organised to run a very prosaic course: and it is probable that no very special efforts will be necessary this year. But it is certain that the unfortunate dry belts have had another year of drought and scarcity.

In Bombay itself the course of the monsoon has been most unusual. After heavy rain up to June 15, there has hardly been a single really wet day. On the other hand, there has been no pronounced break, and every day has seen a succession of short and sharp showers. These showers have been ample to keep the Konkan—the strip of land between the Ghats and the coast—well supplied, but there has been no force behind the Bombay monsoon to take the rain up country.

Bombay's Water Diviner.

Meanwhile, after a somewhat acrimonious debate in the Legislative Council, Major Pogson has been appointed water diviner to the Bombay Government on probation. The opposition was based on two arguments—first, that there was no such thing as the finding of water, and secondly, that if there were, it was a divine gift not to be sold for money.

The fact seemed to be that Major Pogson has worked up a power which appears to be latent in most people, as one finds when one experiments in a genial spirit at a house party, to a very high degree of efficiency. He has had plenty of experience in the past in the way of private practice, and has to my personal knowledge been remarkably successful on several occasions. Apart altogether from the rather mysterious functions of the divining rod, his experience has no doubt given him a highly developed instinctive knowledge of the ways of subterranean water: and this knowledge, whether it is a divine gift in itself, or the expert development of a power that we all possess in some degree, is likely to be extremely valuable in the dry belts of the Deccan. And as, after all, every power we possess—the art of reading and writing, for instance—may be described as the exploitation of a divine gift, the argument of the opposition does not seem a very weighty one.

THE INDIAN MAIL.

Punjab Electrification Schemes.

A report on the water power resources of the Punjab and neighbouring States, giving the result of detailed surveys undertaken between 1922 and 1924, has just been issued by the Punjab Public Works Department. Sites on the Indus and its five main tributaries—Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas and Sutlej—were thoroughly explored, the general policy being to discard sites that, for one reason or another, were considered unlikely to be of much economic value, and to concentrate on those where power can be developed with a maximum of value to Indian industries. It is recommended that the first to be developed, of the many possible undertakings discussed in the report, should be one that would serve the southern part of the Province, from Lahore to Delhi: the northern part, from Peshawar to Rawalpindi, being dealt with later on. Figures are given to show that a total power of 1¾ million kilowats could be economically developed, nearly half of which would be provided by the Beas: work has already been sanctioned, and its about to begin, on one of the sites offered by that river. An addendum by Colonel Battye, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Hydro-Electric Circle, is appended to the report, in which he discusses the policy that ought to be followed in the systematic development of resources of such immense potential value. He considers that this should provide for a centralised and unified system, and that it should be brought about by State control in preference to private enterprise. For this purpose, he recommends the creation in the Punjab of a new Department of State ad hoc, to be prefaced by the appointment of a small expert Committee to examine the whole question and to draft the necessary legislation.

Besides the ordinary uses to which the development of electric power is generally applied, there is an additional one of special importance to be considered in India—the assistance that can be given by it to canal irrigation. It is reckoned that, on the average, canals only provide water for about half the acreage actually commanded by them, and that this can be greatly increased by a sound system of power pumping. This provides an additional argument in favour of Colonel Battye's plea for State control: irrigation in India is entirely controlled by the State, and the provision of hydro-electric power, which is likely to be largely utilised to supplement canal irrigation, ought to be co-ordinated with it as closely as possible.

Nearly half the wheat grown in India is already produced in the Punjab: and this amount will be largely increased when the great Sutlej Valley irrigation scheme comes to fruition in the comparatively near future. If to this is added the improvement in irrigation that would follow on a skilful use of hydro-electric development, the agricultural prospects of the Punjab will be bright indeed. The Punjab Government has been quick to recognise the necessity for improved communication that this economic development will entail, and road, railway and tramway projects have already been drawn up to meet it, some of which are to be put in hand immediately. It is intended that railway construction shall be undertaken in connexion with electric development, with a view to the utilisation of the latter, at any rate eventually, as a means of propulsion.

Chittagong Harbour.

The Bengal Government has sanctioned a proposal, put forward by the Chittagong Port Trust, for a loan of fifty lakhs of rupees, most of which is to be expended on dredging. At present, the bar prevents steamers entering the port except at high tide, and this necessarily detracts from its usefulness as the only Indian port on the eastern shore of the Bay of Bengal, and the natural outlet to the trade of that part of the Province of Bengal that lies east of the Brahmaputra River.

This decision indicates robust faith in the future of Chittagong, and a determined effort to preserve it: one that, moreover, will have to be persisted in if the port is to be saved from what would otherwise certainly be its ultimate fate of extinction. For there is no question but that Chittagong is slowly silting up; or that, in the ordinary course, another fifty years or so would find it in the last stages of a fight to preserve its existence. The action now taken may prove the means of rescuing it altogether from such a fate: and should, at least, defer it for a long time to come. But it is unlikely to shake the faith of those who believe that the natural eastern port of the Bay of Bengal will eventually be found in Burma rather than in Eastern Bengal: such a place, for instance as Akyab, in Burma, about 150 miles south of Chittagong: whose existing roadstead is capable of improvement into a really fine harbour. Among the railway projects that await effective consideration in Burma is one for a line from Prome, on the Irrawaddy, which is linked by rail with Rangoon, to Akyab: if this line were to be constructed, the improvement of the port of Akyab would be an almost necessary corollary. Akyab would then become the western port of Burma, and the existing Eastern Bengal railway to Chittagong would certainly be extended to Akyab, which would, with equal certainty, then complete with Chittagong for the seaborne trade of Eastern Bengal. To all appearances, such competition could have but one result—the decline of Chittagong.

But such a forecast depends on a number of hypotheses which, after all, may not be translated into fact for many years to come. In the meantime, Chittagong is putting its house in order, and its action will certainly put off the evil day, even if the march of events seems bound to defeat it in the end.

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Assam Tea Industry.

The report on the tea industry of Assam for 1924 is an encouraging one. There was a small decrease in the actual production, compared with 1923, of approximately 450,000 pounds—more than half of which was in green tea; but prices ruled higher than in the previous year, and the market continued very brisk. Some difficulty was experienced in obtaining labour, and this is considered to have been due to the general prosperity among the classes ordinarily recruited, as well as to competition by other industries; but the total number of employees rose by a little over 3,000. The lower production appears to have been due to rather unfavourable weather conditions: for the area under tea increased by 1,000 acres, and the total number of gardens increased from 891 to 906, including thirteen new gardens opened during the year.

Agricultural Progress.

The *Pioneer* (Allahabad), in welcoming Lord Reading's announcement of measures to improve what he described as the basic industry of the people of India, draws attention to the fact that the elected members of Indian legislatures, being mostly townsmen, have displayed very little interest in agricultural progress. They have, in the Legislative Assembly, pressed for the creation of a mercantile marine and for State subsidies to industries of minor importance, but have done nothing to advance the prospects of agriculture. The apathy of legislators was reinforced, during the non-co-operation period, by active attempts to interfere with the work of the officers of the Agricultural Departments: pickets were stationed on the roads to turn back cultivators who were on their way to demonstrations of improved methods of agriculture, or to agricultural shows organised for their advantage, and efforts were made to paralyse the Departments by fomenting discontent among the subordinate staff—presumably in furtherance of the campaign described by the no-co-operators as "constructive work in villages." In spite of apathy and opposition, the results achieved by the Departments have been astonishing; but it is, says the *Pioneer*, a deplorable fact that many of the most skilled officers have left India within the last two or three years and are now to be found improving crops in South Africa, Australia, Uganda, Nigeria, and the West Indies, their services having been lost to Indian agriculture.

For this loss the extremist politicians, who are always asserting that the poverty of the Indian peasant is due to foreign domination, have been directly responsible: it is to be hoped that those of them who are to be found in the Legislatures will now grasp the opportunity offered by the Viceroy's announcement, and will do their best to remedy the evil effects produced by past opposition, and by present apathy, on the interests of the "dumb millions of India" whose champions they claim to be.

Rupee Notes.

It is nearly a year since the Government of India announced their decision to cease printing one-rupee notes; but it appears that their withdrawal is proceeding very slowly, as the "man in the mud hut"—at first very suspicious of their introduction—has got used to them and is unwilling to give up their use. A few years ago, the European, whom duty or sport took away from the towns among unsophisticated villagers, always thought it necessary to equip himself with a bag of heavy silver rupees with which to make his daily payments; but latterly this has not been the case, the rupee note being freely accepted almost everywhere. Anyone who should arm himself, in England, with a bag of several hundred florins would readily understand the convenience that the European in India found in the one-rupee note; but, for a considerable time after the introduction of the latter, the village "bunnia" traded on the peasant's distrust of small paper money by refusing to give full change in coin for a rupee note: and, improbable as it may seem in the case of notes of so low a denomination, forgeries were extensive. The Indian peasant is notorious for his propensity to hoard: one of the most popular forms of hoarding being the turning of silver coins into ornaments for his women folk: but the obvious unsuitability of flimsy paper money for the usual form of hoarding—burial underground—and its lack of intrinsic value, in view of the popular affection for the one-rupee note, cannot but lead to the belief that the peasant is at last beginning to realise, in some degree at least, the economic disadvantages of hoarding. It is interesting to recall that one of the chief reasons given by Government for discontinuing the notes was, that the rupee note was more expensive to produce than a silver rupee; for the life of the former was so short that printing had to be continually kept going, whereas the silver rupee, once issued, was good for at least half a century.

INDIAN EXCHANGE.

London, September 27.

The rupee market has been quieter since our last report, and rates have remained very steady in London at 1s. 6 5-32d., with business done at 11-64, and occasional lines for a little way ahead at 1s. 6 3-16d.

We should call the market round about 1s. 6 3-16d. for delivery within a month, as, although some business has been put through at a fraction lower, the chief fixtures between the banks and merchants have been done at the higher rate.

In India quotations have been 1s. 6 5-32d. for telegraphic transfer, with a tendency on the Bombay side to mark the rate 1-32 lower; but this never became effective, as 5-32 was always available both in Calcutta and Bombay, with very little doing.

On the Calcutta side next to no business has been transacted owing to the Poojah holidays.

Last Thursday the Imperial Bank of India raised its rate of interest by 1 per cent., making it now 5 per cent., and the firmer tendency in money is, no doubt, due to the large demands which had to be met in connection with the movements of the jute crop.

Forward rates are 1s. 6 7-32d. December and 1s. 6¼d. January, but the market is quiet.

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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

170, *Strand, London, W.C.2,*
Tuesday Morning.

The Greek Currant Crop.

I understand that this year's Greek currant crop amounts to no more than 133,000 tons or 30 per cent. less than last year's yield. Prices for currants have reached almost the pre-War level, being about 34s. per cwt. duty paid for Pyrgos, 37s. for Amalias, 38s. for Patras, and from 50s. to 60s. for Vostizza. A much keener demand for currants is looked for this year, particularly in view of the dearer prices for sultanas, which are now quoted at from 80s. to 90s. per cwt.

Greek and Australian Currants.

It is rather curious that although Australia is a grower of currants, she has not so far been as successful with them as with sultanas, and, in fact, has lost ground in this direction of late. A few years ago Australian currants were of a quality good enough to compete with the best Greek product, Vostizzas; but now, so I am informed, the best Australians do not realise the prices paid for Pyrgos. It would be interesting to learn the explanation of this. Possibly under Australian climatic conditions the life of a vineyard is much shorter than in Greece.

Another Wembley?

Could we stand another year of the Exhibition? Personally, I doubt it, despite the large attendances, for half the virtue of exhibitions lies in their novelty, and I am sure that it would not be possible to change the exhibits so that the curtain would rise again next year on an entirely new Wembley. The query is prompted by an interview given last week by Mr. Ben Tillett, a member of the Exhibition executive. Mr. Tillett strongly favours the reopening of Wembley "on lines that may be approved by experience, but with the same outlook and objects as at present"; but he does not merely desire a third act, he would have Wembley "preserved as a national memorial," as "it has become part of our daily life." I scarcely know what to say to this. The idea of an eternal Wembley is rather overwhelming. Still, this is the age of innovations (I was going to say *novarum rerum*, but as a supporter of Mr. Baldwin I realised in time that the use of that idiom would be most ominous), and for aught I know to the contrary a perpetual exhibition may be practical. I fear, however, that it would be rather an expensive experiment.

The B.I.F. Grant.

I gather that a main use that will be made of the grant made by the Government to the British Industries Fair will be for publicity in newspapers published abroad. I only wish it could be found possible to adopt the suggestion I made in these columns recently, and utilise some of the money in bringing over representatives of some of the Near Eastern countries. Just by way of an experiment for the coming Fair, one buyer might be invited from each of the four Balkan countries—Greece, Yugoslavia, Roumania, and Bulgaria. If the experiment were found, and I am confident that it would be, to have justified itself, a larger scheme could be undertaken the following year to include countries such as Palestine, Iraq, Egypt, and Syria. The plan I have advocated for the present occasion would cost very little, and if the choice of the representatives was sound, the resultant gain would be very great. It would not be so much a question of immediate orders but rather of the after results. It is essential, if the Fair is to produce the best possible effect on British trade development, that there should be the widest possible knowledge abroad of its nature and of the character of the exhibits generally. Every one of the official visitors would be in a sense a traveller for British goods on his return, for he would tell his business acquaintances of the Fair, and those who were on the look-out for some special variety of goods would know where to go for them. The idea at any rate is worth trying, and the existing trade depression affords the best possible reason for launching out in new and untried directions.

A British Success.

My readers will be interested to learn that one of the largest contracts for steam road rollers placed since the War has fallen to this country. The contract, which has been obtained by Marshall, Sons and Co., of Gainsborough, is for supplying the Greek Government with 100 engines of the "Marshall" latest Class "S" series. Brief details of the engines are as follows:—Each engine will have compound cylinders, with piston valves and radial valve gear. Each boiler will incorporate the "Marshall" patent anti-incrustation firebox with cambered crown-plate, and every road wheel will have its hub and spokes combined in one steel casting. Each engine crank-shaft will have ring-oiler bearings. An "Allen" three-tine scarifier will be attached to each engine. The news is calculated to rouse enthusiasm in the hearts of the Athenians. With the advent of the steam-rollers there will be some hope that the magnificent chaussée that connects the capital with Phaleron will be kept in adequate repair, and the drive to Kephissia will be smoother.

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Schedule of Exhibits LONDON

Brushware.
Chemicals and Drugs.
China, Earthenware, Stoneware and Glassware.
Fancy Goods.
Fancy Leather Goods, Leather, etc.
Foodstuffs and Beverages.
Furniture and Basketware.
Jewellery, Silverware, Cutlery, etc.
Musical Instruments.
Scientific and Photographic Goods.
Sports Goods, Toys, etc.
Stationery and Printing.
Travelling Requisites, etc.

Schedule of Exhibits BIRMINGHAM

Agricultural Machinery.
Brassfoundry, Hardware and Ironmongery.
Brewing and Distilling Appliances.
Construction, Building & Decoration.
Cooking & Ventilating.
Engineering in all Branches.
Fishing Tackle.
Guns, Saddlery and Harness.
Metals.
Mining Appliances.
Motors, Motor Cycles, Cycle Accessories, Perambulators.
Power, Lighting and Heating.

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The Egyptian Season.

This is the period when the thoughts of those who are in a position to do these things begin to turn towards the attractions of a winter in the valley of the Nile. There is something in the atmosphere of Egypt which draws the tourist as no other place does, and one may say indeed that so far as can be seen Egypt has quite regained her pre-War position as the premier resort for the tourist who wishes to go a little further afield than the south of France or Italy. It is not difficult to understand the fascination of the land of the Pharaohs, with the attractions held forth by delightful tours up the Nile and participation in the joys of a Cairo season. This year the outlook seems particularly favourable for Egypt, for the normal influx of tourists will probably be considerably increased round about Christmas by those who wish to proceed southward to the Sudan for the opening, which it is expected will be performed by one of the Royal Princes, of the Makwar Dam.

Armenian Loan Project.

The latest move of the League of Nations in furtherance of post-War reconstruction is to appoint a commission to consider the question of raising an international loan of £900,000 for the settlement of 25,000 Armenian refugees in the Armenian Soviet Republic. The object is laudable enough, but the flotation of a loan for such a project would seem to be a rather hazardous undertaking. I assume, however, that Great Britain will not be concerned in any question of a loan, even if it be small in amount, for we need our resources now for projects of development and for loans to countries which can be said legitimately to come within our commercial sphere. The country to which the League should look for such a loan is undoubtedly America, who cannot be said to have shouldered her fair share of post-War responsibilities, and equally has a positive embarrassment of the riches of this world. Bearing in mind America's lenient attitude towards ourselves over the debt settlement I shall look forward with keen interest to the loan negotiations if the League does approach the United States.

Russian Coal Competition.

The sympathy so freely extended by British Labour at Scarborough to Russia would be humorous in other circumstances. The great problem of the worker in this country, in fact of all classes, is the critical situation in the coal industry, due to a variety of factors which are well known. But while the Bolshevists continue to pose as the friends of the working man in this and other countries, and lose no opportunity that presents itself of stirring up trouble, they are not above showing a commercial astuteness which for sheer unscrupulousness is, I should say, without a parallel. Thus they are taking advantage of the coal position to sell their coal at a loss in the Near East markets in order to deprive us of these markets and secure them permanently for themselves. Thus while they extend the hand of sympathy to the British worker they use the other to undermine his position. It is satisfactory to find evidence on all sides now that at last the true character of the Bolshevists is in process of being realised.

The Motor Cycle Trade.

I visited the Motor Cycle Show last week, or rather endeavoured to do so, for the surging crowds made anything in the nature of a dignified pilgrimage round the stands quite out of the question. In the case of the more popular exhibits one was lucky indeed if one was able to catch a fleeting glance at the stand. When the vastness of Olympia is borne in mind it speaks volumes for the way in which motoring (I use the word in a comprehensive sense) has become the sport of the million in this country. For the exhibits I have nothing but praise. It seemed, looking at the long array of exhibits, as if the manufacture of the motor-cycle has reached perfection, and yet next year I suppose we shall have a whole host of improvements and innovations. The Show was a wonderful tribute to British enterprise, but if the idea of a trade depression seemed an impossibility at Olympia, it has to be remembered that the motor-cycle industry has the ever-growing home market to lean upon.

Conditions in Persia.

Elsewhere in this issue will be found some extracts from a most interesting report on the trade and industry of Persia by Mr. R. H. Hadow, M.C., Secretary in charge of Commercial Affairs at the British Legation, Teheran. He points out that for the past two years it has been the policy of the Persian Government and its American advisers to attract foreign capital and to obtain a loan for road and railway construction and the development of agriculture. These things depend, of course, on a country's financial position, and there is no doubt that an improvement has gradually been effected in this case, and that while the revenues have exceeded expenditure since the American mission took over the direction of the country's finance the expenditure appears to be decreasing while the revenues are increasing. The need for foreign capital in Persia needs no emphasis. The country is at present mainly undeveloped. Apart from mineral oils her exports mainly consist of raw materials, while more than half of her imports consist of manufactured articles. Adequate development would mean increased purchasing power, which in its turn would mean that Persia would play a greater part in the world's markets.

COMMENTATOR.

BULGARIAN 6 PER CENT. LOAN of 1892. COUPONS and DRAWN BONDS due January, 1924,
MAY NOW BE DEPOSITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to BONDHOLDERS that COUPONS and DRAWN BONDS due as above may now, and until further notice, be DEPOSITED at the IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK, COUPON OFFICE, 25, AUSTIN FRIARS, E.C.2, between the hours of eleven a.m. and two p.m. (Saturdays excepted), for payment under the same conditions as those which governed the payments of the coupons and drawn bonds due January, 1916, to July, 1923.

COUPONS and DRAWN BONDS DUE JULY, 1924, and JANUARY, 1925, and COUPONS DUE JULY, 1925.

NOTICE to BRITISH, FRENCH, DUTCH, ITALIAN, BELGIAN, SWISS, SPANISH, and AMERICAN BONDHOLDERS.

BONDHOLDERS of the above nationalities whose bonds were held by any of such nationals before 8th July, 1922, and the number of whose bonds do not appear on any of the lists of numbers of bonds the coupons of which were paid in 1916 in Bulgaria, Germany, or Austria, are ADVISED that, in accordance with instructions received from the Bulgarian Government, COUPONS and DRAWN BONDS due as above may now, and until further notice, be DEPOSITED at the IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK, COUPON OFFICE, 25, AUSTIN FRIARS, E.C.2, for payment at the rate of 32 per cent. of their nominal value in the most appreciated currency mentioned on the bonds.

In the case of bonds whose number appear on the above-mentioned lists, holders are required to present to the Bulgarian Legation in London the following documents:

1. Certificate of nationality.
2. Documentary evidence that the bonds were acquired before 8th July, 1922, showing the specific numbers of the bond.

The Bulgarian Legation will then decide whether or not the numbers of such bonds can be removed from the said lists.

In the case of bonds the coupons of which were paid in French francs under the agreement of 1921, holders are required to submit a declaration to this effect signed by a banker or stockbroker, together with a declaration of nationality.

Coupons and drawn bonds which are the property of other holders may also be deposited, but are subject to special conditions, particulars of which may be obtained at the Imperial Ottoman Bank as above.

NEW COUPON SHEETS.

BONDHOLDERS are HEREBY NOTIFIED that under a Convention signed on the 23rd June, 1925, DRAWINGS of the BULGARIAN SIX PER CENT. LOAN of 1892 have been TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED from 1st April, 1925.

Holders are requested to lodge without delay the coupons due 15th January, 1926, now in their possesion, which coupons will be utilised as talons, and in exchange for which new coupon sheets will be issued commencing with the coupon due 15th January, 1926. Depositors will be duly notified when the new coupon sheets are ready for issue, and they must then present their bonds at the Imperial Ottoman Bank to be stamped.

Forms for listing the above-mentioned coupons and drawn bonds, i.e., January, 1924, to January, 1925, and the coupons due July, 1925, also the coupon due January, 1926, for use as a talon, may be obtained from the Imperial Ottoman Bank, Coupon Office, 25, Austin Friars, E.C.2.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

MANCHESTER COTTON MARKET.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Ottoman Bank for the week ended September 26 states:—

Another great change has taken place in the underlying conditions of this market during the past week. The American Agricultural Bureau Report published on Wednesday evening gave the condition of the crop as 53.8 per cent. and the estimated yield 13,931,000 bales. The latter figure was an increase of 191,000 bales on the previous report and was considerably in excess of market estimates, and led to a sharp fall in raw cotton prices. Rapid fluctuations such as have taken place during the past two or three weeks are, of course, very disturbing to business and leave prospective buyers in a state of doubt as to what they should do for the best.

Yarn.—The circumstances referred to above had the effect of considerably hampering business in this section, and the amount transacted will probably not show any increase over recent weeks. Nevertheless, there is a definite improvement in the tone. There are still some weak sellers, but spinners as a whole are holding firmer to their quotations, and whilst values are lower the fall is not to the full extent of that in raw cotton.

Cloth.—As the American Bureau Report was expected to be "bullish" there was quite a fair activity during the first two days of the week. The publication of the actual figures naturally brought negotiations to a standstill for the time being, but yesterday again saw the development of a good inquiry, although actual bookings were by no means in satisfactory proportion thereto.

News from India has been more favourable and business for that market is gradually developing. There is nothing fresh to say with regard to China, whilst for Egypt and the Near East transactions have not been on the same scale as recently. There has again been a good demand for Germany in respect of goods which it is possible to get into that country before the new import duties come into force next month.

Raw Cotton.—There is little to add to what has already been mentioned in this respect. The American Bureau Report stated that 4,276,000 bales had been ginned to the 15th instant, as compared with 2,663,000 at the same time last year. There is nothing fresh regarding the new Egyptian crop. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows:—American Middling, 12.91; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 28.00.

THE EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended September 17, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has been rather active with a marked upward tendency; the net changes on the week are: Sakellaridis, 2.28 dollars up for November, 2.25 dollars up for January, 2.25 dollars up for March; Ashmouni, 1.71 dollars up for October, 1.65 dollars up for December, 1.58 dollars up for February. The week's firmness may be attributed to the steady advance in New York, a better demand from abroad, and to the somewhat unfavourable news coming from up-country regarding the Sakellarides crop. Ashmounis have been dealt in extensively, commercial houses have been buying these contracts against their sales to spinners, growers and interior merchants being the sellers. As regards Sakel, transactions have been in general of a speculative character, the unfavourable news of the progress of the crop having induced short covering. The demand from abroad has been rather good for Ashmouni but poor for Sakellarides, the Continent has continued to be the principal buyer of the former variety. The week's receipts amount to 142,513 Cantars against exports 47,552 Cantars; the stock stands at 561,389 Cantars.

Spot: Minet-el-Bassal has been an active market this week and sales amount to about 12,800 B/s, of which we estimate 1,900 B/s Sakel, 9,300 B/s Uppers, 1,250 B/s Zagora, 250 Pilion, and a few bales of White.

Sakellaridis: A fair business has been done mainly in high grades though a small business in the medium and low qualities has also been put through. Spot differences are generally easier. Medium qualities are practically exhausted and very dear.

Ashmouni and Zagora: A good business has been done covering all grades. Medium and low qualities are very scarce and hard to buy. Spot differences are unchanged for Fully Good Fair, markedly dearer for the grades below Fully Good Fair, and rather stiffer for the better grades.

Pilion: A moderate business has been done in the good grades, parities of which are unchanged.

Brown: Is neglected and no business is reported.

White: A few bales only have changed hands. Quotations of spot are nominally easier.

Crop, 1925: The news received from the Delta about the Sakel crop reveals a serious change in the situation. It now appears that the cool weather we had in August and early September has unfavourably affected the opening of the bolls. The condition varies almost from field to field, and under the circumstances it is almost impossible to estimate the lateness of the crop: about fifteen days, however, appears to be the most probable figure. Apart from this delay, damp and fogs have occurred which did not clear until late in the morning, the result being a severe expansion of the pink boll worm attack in a good many districts. Uncertainty now prevails about the final yield per feddan for Sakel, but should the weather keep warm during the next few weeks a great improvement in the situation may result. As regards Upper Egypt and the varieties other than Sakel planted in the Delta, reports denote normal and/or above normal conditions pointing to a satisfactory production both as regards quality and quantity.

ROUMANIAN POSTAL DEVELOPMENT.

Among the Bills to be submitted to the Roumanian Parliament this autumn session is one for the introduction of postal orders which, it is proposed, shall come into force on January 1, 1926. The system contemplated would seem to be a combination of cheques and postal orders, as a minimum deposit of 2,000 lei is spoken of. At first only two towns of issue are contemplated, Bucharest for the Old Kingdom and Bessarabia and the Bukovina, and Temesvar for Transylvania and the Banat. Ultimately the intention is to extend the system throughout the country.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria	Piastre to £	97⅛	97 15/32—17/32
Athens	Drachmæ to £	25.22½	332-335
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	271—274
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.33—20.35
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.08-25.09
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 5/32—18 7/32
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	110.90—.95
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	1,005
Budapest	Kronen to £	24 02	345-347,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 5/32—18 7/32
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	865—885
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.84 3/16—4.84⅛
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	102.40—45
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	163⅜
Rome	Lire to £	25 22½	119⅝
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	670
Teheran	Krans to £	50	42.90
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	34.38-34.43
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	29 CL

TEXTILES.

IF you wish to obtain your Textile goods from England at the lowest possible prices, communicate with K. Jebara, 25, Princess Street, Manchester. (Established 1887).

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British Consular Reports

V.—PERSIA.

The following extracts are taken from the report on the trade and industry of Persia by Mr. R. H. Hadow, M.C., Secretary in charge of Commercial Affairs, British Legation, Teheran:—

It is the declared policy of the Persian Government and its American advisers: (a) to attract foreign capital for co-operation with local landed or merchant interests in development of the country's natural resources and the establishment of modern industries for the supply of the population's needs; (b) to secure from abroad a loan sufficient to permit of construction or completion of modern roads or railway systems throughout the country and development of Persia's agricultural resources on improved lines.

In the course of the financial year ended March last the estimated public revenue amounted to about $5\frac{3}{4}$ millions sterling, and for the year ending March, 1926, the estimated revenue is £5,732,260 at the present rate of exchange. The revenue is increasing under the present régime. One-third of the revenue comes from the Customs, less than half that amount from the direct taxes, and third on the list, providing 10 per cent. of the country's income, are the royalties paid by the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. If to this amount be added the hidden assets provided by the company's operations in Persia, it will be found that the country benefits very materially by this oil concession. Sixth on the list of revenues is opium, of which the curtailment of production is serious for the country. Since the American Mission took over the direction of Persia's finances the revenue has exceeded the expenditure, and actual expenditure appears to be decreasing while revenue increases.

Persia, it is pointed out, is an undeveloped country, dependent for her manufactured goods upon foreign countries. Fifty-four per cent. of her imports consist of manufactured articles, a large proportion of which are textiles. Nearly 36 per cent. of Persia's imports consist of cotton, woollen, or mixed tissues. Imports of sugar and tea are important, and these items, together with textiles, form the backbone of Persia's import trade. Although during 1923-24 period the value of the imports (exclusive of live animals, precious metals, etc.), has increased as compared with 1913-14, the weight of merchandise imported has diminished by over one-third. It is generally recognised that the last pre-War year was one of exceptional prosperity in Persia, being the peak of a regular trade cycle, and the gradual increase in imports year by year since 1922 would appear to indicate that the purchasing power of the population is slowly increasing; but the enhanced price of all necessities has materially reduced the quantity of imports which Persia can absorb.

Several of the minor items of Persian import trade are worthy of notice. In the first place the country re-exports a considerable amount of cotton and woollen piece-goods, mostly to Soviet Russia or Trans-Caspia. Secondly, although her northern provinces are rich in rice, total absence of proper means of transport make it necessary to import for consumption in the south of the country an amount equal to three-quarters of the total quantity exported from the North, and Persia pays for this quantity more than she gets for the larger exports.

Among the country's minor needs is cement, of which Persia has none for the construction and upkeep of her buildings, bridges, and similar public works, former imports from Russia having almost ceased. Were it possible to establish a local cement industry it should prove remunerative, as the cost of transporting so heavy an article makes its price too great to permit import in large quantities into north or central Persia.

Easily first among the exported commodities stands mineral oil with its derivatives, forming one-half of the total export trade. Next in order of importance come carpets, the trade in which is almost entirely in the hands of British and American firms, the latter in particular having largely increased their looms recently. Third comes opium, to which reference will be made later, followed by raw cotton and raw wool.

First among the countries trading with Persia, Great Britain owes her position largely to the economic prostration of Russia, whose wares in 1913-14 accounted for 60 per cent. of the total trade as against Great Britain's 21 per cent. To-day the position is reversed, Great Britain's share being 75 per cent. and Soviet Russia's 18 per cent. The latter is, however, as will be shown making considerable strides in North Persia, and is extending its activities to other parts of the country. Great Britain's predominance in imports is chiefly due to the value of her cotton and woollen trade, the former being also by far the largest import into Persia. The following table shows the value of the imports of the principal classes of cotton textiles during 1922-23 and 1923-24, together with the chief sources of supply:—

Imports and their Sources.	Year ended March 30. 1923. Krans.	1924. Krans.
Cotton fabrics, plain or figured, unbleached, bleached, dyed, printed or woven, of dyed threads—		
Total imports	193,418,758	203,091,994
Of which from—		
United Kingdom and other parts of the British Empire (except India)	123,936,137	111,357,909
British India	63,197,543	76,817,068
Russia	2,167,938	6,156,373
Turkey	1,428,416	4,142,795
Italy	2,050,849	3,376,719
Cotton yarns—		
Total imports	18,739,478	18,234,656
Of which from—		
United Kingdom and other parts of the British Empire (except India)	7,126,059	6,425,002
British India	10,166,584	9,679,130
Japan	1,075,890	1,911,145

Although these figures serve to emphasise Great Britain's dominating position in the piece-goods market a year ago, it should not be assumed that the competition of other producing countries is not developing rapidly in Persia as in other Eastern markets. The increase of imports from other countries is in itself an indication of growing competion, and more recent figures would show that Italy and Soviet Russia in particular are entering the cotton and mixed piece-goods trade with great vigour, and have in several markets already made a bold bid for supremacy in print, flannelettes, cheap shirtings, and grey cloth. France and Belgium are, moreover, increasing their supplies of woollen or mixed woollen and cotton goods to Persia, and a considerable part of the products shown as originating from Turkey are believed to be of German origin, Constantinople being only the distributing

THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY CO., LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the next ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the South Indian Railway Company, Limited, will be held at the Offices of the Company, 91, Petty France, Westminster, S.W.1, on Wednesday, the 7th October, 1925, at 12 noon, for the purpose of receiving the Directors' Report and Statements of Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1925, and for the transaction of the ordinary general business of the Company.

The Transfer Books will be closed from Thursday, the 17th, to Thursday, the 31st day of December, 1925, both days inclusive, for the preparation of the half-yearly Warrants.

Transfers will not be received at the Office while the Books remain closed.

The Warrants payable on and after the 1st January, 1926, will be forwarded to the Proprietors on the 31st December, 1925.

By order,

ALEX. MUIRHEAD,
Managing Director.

Company's Offices:—
91, Petty France, Westminster, S.W.1.
23rd September, 1925.

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centre, whence these goods come to the Tabriz market via Trebizond. Manchester is also feeling the increasing competition of Indian piece-goods, particularly in South Persia, where, owing to the stagnant state of the market, due largely to its dependence on opium as an article of export, none but the cheapest cloth is able to find a remunerative market. Owing to the prevailing acceptance of the last port of shipment as the place of origin, it is impossible to say accurately what proportion of the goods marked as Indian in the Customs statistics is actually of Indian manufacture; but so far as reliance can be placed upon the official Customs statistics they show that India is rapidly catching up with Manchester in the supply of certain grades of cotton goods to the Persian market, and that in some cases the Indian share is apparently almost equal to that of Manchester products. In the case of foreign competition, a good deal of the progress made by these countries is generally ascribed to more plastic financial accommodattion and acceptance of comparatively small trial orders for special goods which are either coming into fashion or have so far been the speciality of other places, with a view to receiving larger subsequent orders when the quality and price have been found by the importer to be satisfactory. This enterprising spirit is particularly a feature of the Italian manufacturer, and has made good results, especially in Tabriz. As the Persian market for cotton and woollen goods is worth, roughly, five million pounds sterling, this accommodating spirit would appear to be worth while, provided that it is consonant with proper business methods.

America's principal contribution to the Persian import market during the year 1923-24 consisted of motor cars, such as the Ford, Dodge, or Buick, the value of such imports amounting to over £28,000, as against £4,700 during the preceding year. Next in order of importance come mineral oils and their derivatives, in which America is apparently able to compete with the domestic product in south Persia, particularly for the supply of lubricating oils and grease.

As against an import trade to Persia valued at £78,000, America bought from Persia during the same year carpets to the value of £1,087,000, benzine valued at £68,000, intestines of approximately the same value, furs and skins, gum, opium, dried fruits and other merchandise bringing the total value of the Persian export trade to the United States of America for the year 1923-24 to £1,311,000.

The most noticeable decrease in the percentages of Persia's foreign trade for the year 1923-24 occurred in the case of Egypt, but the difference was due almost entirely to the decrease in mineral oils and kindred products, previously consigned in the first instance from Persia to Egypt by the Anglo-Persian Oil Company; these products being now apparently sent direct to their various destinations. Egypt took over £84,000 worth of Persian tobacco, an increase of over 100 per cent. over the figures for the preceding year. As against this increase Persia imported from Egypt nearly 50 per cent. more sugar than during the preceding year.

Imports from Iraq to Persia for the year 1923-24 increased in kran value but not in sterling equivalent, being valued at £197,000. Exports to Iraq diminished by over £22,000, as compared with the preceding year, being valued at £750,000. This trade, which is almost entirely a transit trade between Persia and Europe or America, consists largely of carpets, piece-goods, and sugar, which are conveyed to their destination via the great distributing mart of Baghdad. The increased use of the Tabriz-Trebizond route in particular adversely affected exports via Iraq for north-west Persia.

The principal imports from Turkey during the year 1923-24 consisted of piece-goods, haberdashery, and kindred products, distributed from Constantinople and dispatched via the Trebizond and Erzerum caravan route to Tabriz and north-west Persia generally. These goods, amounting in value to £189,000, were largely the product of other countries, particularly Germany and Italy. Similarly the bulk of Persia's principal exports to Turkey, consisting of £503,000 worth of carpets and £24,000 worth of sheep's intestines, find their way to New York and to a lesser extent to the European markets.

Communications.

If a traveller were asked after his first journey through Persia what was Persia's greatest need, he would undoubtedly answer "roads." An analysis of the principal caravan routes passing through the interior of the country was made in the last commercial report, and it is therefore unnecessary to repeat the details given therein regarding (*a*) the Meshed-Duzhap road; (*b*) the Ahwaz-Ispahan caravan tracks; (*c*) the trade route from Kerman to Bander Abbas; (*d*) the Teheran-Meshed caravan and pilgrim route. Owing to the lack of funds work has unfortunately been impossible on the Meshed-Duzdap road, which is now a road only in name, in spite of the fact that travellers and traders have during the last three years paid large sums in road tolls and "navaghel." They are apt to resent the payment of these dues, amounting in the year 1923-24 to over £28,000 (1,274,325 krans), since they and their wares derive no benefit from the upkeep of other roads in far distant parts of the country, and no repairs are being carried out in eastern Persia.

On the Bushire-Shiraz road a certain amount of money has been spent during the last year in an endeavour to lessen the dangers to motor and other vehicles on the steep gradients and unguarded precipices which make the middle section of this road unfit for motor or wheeled transport, although motor cars and even lorries have managed to struggle over it with extreme difficulty and one or two serious accidents. Construction of this road was originally started by the South Persia Rifles, but the middle section was never finished and needs alignment, proper grading and the expenditure of considerable sums of money to make it a road in the proper sense of the word. The continuation of this main trade route between Ispahan and Teheran has been considerably improved by construction of two brick bridges between Qum and Ispahan, where traffic now follows the natural mountain track instead of the former post-road via Kashan, which is impassable to motor traffic.

During the past winter, which was exceptionally severe, this route, in common with most others in Persia, was completely blocked by deep snow and later by mud, particularly between Shiraz and Ispahan, where the plain on which Persepolis is situated becomes a morass in spring, no part of the road being metalled. Progress has further been made by metalling part of the Sultanabad-Hamadan route, along which passes a considerable portion of the exports of carpets and rugs on their way from the manufacturing districts of Sultanabad to the markets of Europe and America.

Agriculture.

Persia is to-day essentially an agricultural and pastoral country. Apart from mineral oils, her wealth lies in carpets, opium, raw cotton, fruits (chiefly dried), raw wool and rice in the order named. The first of these in-

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General Re-Insurance Company, "BALKAN."
Capital - Leva 5,000,000 each.
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"THE NEAR EAST" Index to Volume XXVII.

The Index to Volume XXVII (January 1 to June 25, 1925) is Now Ready and copies will be sent to Subscribers on application to the Manager, *The Near East and India*, 170 Strand, W.C.2

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dustries depends largely upon the continuance of cheap skilled labour and sufficient supplies of local cotton and wool at low rates. Although in itself an industrial product, the Persian carpet is therefore closely linked up with the agricultural and pastoral activities of the country. Russia has been shown to take with avidity, for the present, all the raw cotton that Persia can supply, though it is aparently of too inferior a quality, and Persia is too distant from other markets, to make its exports profitable, except in small quantities, to other manufacturing countries. Wool is also in keen demand, whether for carpet-making or for export to Russia and India at increasing prices.

Opium ranks third in importance among the exports to Russia, which for the year ending March, 1924, took sixty-five per cent. of the total supply, and during the same year increased her consignments from eight to forty million krans, almost the entire amount being consigned to Vladivostock. It is no exaggeration to say that the people of south Persia are to-day to a considerable degree dependent on this crop for their very existence. The Persian Government, in a recent memorandum addressed to the League of Nations, estimated that twenty-five per cent. of the entire population of Ispahan was dependent for its livehood on the production of opium in the district, and the same, though to a lesser extent, must be the case in the principal producing areas, namely Khorassan, Shiraz, Hamadan, Yezd and Burujird.

ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, September 17.

The Romano-Americana.

The Government's difference with the Standard Oil Company's concern in this country, the Romano-Americana, over the provisions of the new mining law appears to have been settled in a friendly spirit. This company has just had an unfortunate experience in the explosion of a new well at Moreni. After the explosion the well caught fire and continued to burn for over seven weeks defying all the ingenious attempts made to extinguish the fire. At last a long tunnel was bored some twenty feet below the level of the mouth of the well (which stood on sloping ground) and the oil was tapped before it reached the flaming mouth. This proved successful and the fire was extinguished on Sunday. September 13. The well reaches a depth of over a thousand metres and is proving an exceedingly rich one as from five to six hundred tons of oil are still flowing from it daily through the tunnel. The damage caused by the fire, however, is said to exceed a million dollars, though this may be an exaggerated estimate. The heart of the fire was so great that the ground for some distance all round it was baked as hard as a brick and there were cracks in it two metres in depth.

Improving Financial Position.

As regards the present financial position of the State, the revenues up to the present date have considerably exceeded the estimates and it is reckoned on the basis of payments encashed up to the present date that there may be a surplus balance of over a milliard lei at the end of the year. This is a good sign and M. Bratianu has reason to feel pleased with the results of his budget scheme.

ROUMANIAN TOBACCO PRODUCTION.

Statistics of tobacco cultivation in Roumania show that in 1924 there were 77,200 acres under the plant, of which 46,790 acres were in the Old Kingdom, 18,600 in Bessarabia, and 12,000 in Transylvania. The total production was returned at approximately 21 million kilograms as compared with 9,400,000 in 1923. The number of tobacco cultivators was 84,119.

SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended September 19:—

Sultanas.—The arrivals in the Smyrna market since the opening of the season are estimated at 9,730 tons, and the sales to date are put at 9,040 tons. Closing prices, Smyrna, per cwt. fig. London/Liverpool, are: Types 12, 60s.; types 13, 63s.; types 14, 66s.; types 15, 68s.; types 16, 72s.; types 17, 76s. The market is firm and prices are steady. The best qualities show an upward tendency with a probability of higher prices next week. The general tone of the market is strong owing to the shortage in supplies.

Figs.—The arrivals are estimated at 69,878 bags, and the sales to date are put at 59,729 bags. Prices have been maintained at last week's level, and supplies are now reaching the market regularly. The shortage of fine qualities is becoming more marked each week.

NEW ANCHOR LINE STEAMER.

The launch will shortly take place on the Clyde of the new steamer Britannia for the Anchor Line's Indian Service. This vessel will have a displacement of 10,000 tons and accommodation for 150 first-class passengers. It is intended that she will commence her maiden voyage from Liverpool on March 16 next.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. California for Bombay (Liverpool, October 7). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Dorsetshire for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 3).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Herefordshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, October 7).

British India Line.—S.s. Madura for Bombay and Karachi (London, October 9); s.s. Manela for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 10).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Phrygia for Gibraltar, Oran, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, October 10).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Simla for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 12).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Dromore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 17); s.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, November 6). (The last steamer of the season for Sulina, Galatz, and Braila.)

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Ranchi for Bombay (London, October 2); s.s. Nyanza for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 3).

Prince Line.—S.s. Lancastrian Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, and Haifa (London, October 3); s.s. Egyptian Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, and Haifa (London, October 24).

ANCHOR LINE

LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.

KARACHI via Bombay, calling at Gibraltar and Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS UPPER DECK CABINS.
MODERATE FARES.
RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT,
Indian Government Vouchers accepted.

Passenger sailing dates:—

CALIFORNIA, Oct. 14.
*CASTALIA, Oct. 27.
*OLYMPIA, Nov. 13.
*SCINDIA, Nov. 27.
*MASSILIA, Dec. 11.
*ELYSIA, Dec. 29.
*CIRCASSIA, Jany. 12, 1926.
*CASTALIA, Feb. 2.

*First class passengers only. Specially low fares.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA, 17,000 TONS, carrying 1st, 2nd and 3rd class passengers, sails from LIVERPOOL Oct. 14. MARSEILLES Oct. 20. All 1st and 2nd class state rooms are fitted with Punkah Louvres and with Fans. This vessel has exceptionally fine 3rd class accommodation.

ANCHOR LINE,
48, FENCHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

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ENGINEERING TOPICS.

(By Our Engineering Representative.)

The Coming Motor Show.

The end of next week will see a great influx into London for the Motor Show, which, with its appeal to all classes, has the effect of giving this city an additional and quite distinctive season at the outset of autumn. The show is, of course, international in character, and thus gives the visitor an opportunity of comparing the merits of the best British and foreign makes, and as the great Paris show is not being held this year it follows that Olympia will be more than ever the outstanding attraction for motorists and potential car users the world over. As motoring is increasing by leaps and bounds not only in this country, but wherever the roads will permit of it, it needs no great powers of prophesy to suggest that Olympia will be most unpleasantly crowded throughout the show.

It is really amazing looking back over the comparatively few years that the motor has existed to see how automobilism has developed. Only a little time ago the owner of a motor was rather a unique figure, but now one assumes that a person motors unless one is given to understand the contrary. The growth of motoring is the reflex of the rapid development of the industry. The most enthusiastic pioneer would have thought it impossible, unbelievable, that within such a few years sound reliable cars would be at the command of practically every section of the community, and that the number of motor vehicles in the world, not including motor cycles, would total in 1924 no less than 21,265,000. In 1924 the estimated number of motor vehicles in the United States of America was 17,592,000, in Great Britain 771,000, in Canada 639,000, and in France 575,000.

The position occupied by Great Britain in the automobile world is further illustrated by reviewing the licences issued during the following years: 1922, 534,000; 1923, 635,000; 1924, 756,000; and 1925, 888,000.

The figures showing the returns of the ratio of population per car are very interesting. They are as follows:—United States of America 6, Canada 14, New Zealand 21, United Kingdom 57, France 69, Trinidad 198, Germany 272, Italy 409, Japan 2,645, India 7,497, Russia 8,896, and China 39,695. These figures show not only the way in which motoring has spread but also the scope for its further expansion. The proportion of cars to population in the United States is remarkable, but it has to be remembered that the country is particularly suitable for the growth of motor traffic. The figures for Great Britain are scarcely less surprising, and in view of the traffic conditions here some people naturally wonder whether we are not approaching within measurable distance of the limit as far as motor vehicles are concerned. Certainly if we ever reached anything like the American proportion the traffic conditions would be indescribable.

The features of interest of the coming show will be many and various. With engines of 2, 4, 6, and 8 cylinders, operated by either poppet, sleeve or overhead valves; air and water cooled motors; some fitted with twin carburetters; it can easily be understood why there are so many different makes of cars. It is almost superfluous to mention that the 4 cylinder still plays a very prominent part, and many firms concentrate their energies in perfecting this popular and well-tried engine, which still remains the favourite with a large number of motorists, notwithstanding the advance that has been made in the six cylinder motor. Six cylinder cars will be shown with some very fine coachwork, at prices which will make them one of the principal attractions of the show.

Last year the front wheel brake, balloon tyres and the saloon type of body provided outstanding features. This time front wheel brakes will form a standard equipment in the specification of the majority of cars, and will not be classed as an extra. That the balloon type of tyre makes for smooth riding and saves the chassis from road strain is undeniable. The saloon type of coachwork will again be very much in evidence. It was prophesied that the saloon would sweep the open car off the road, but the so-called open car is still very much alive. It is a misnomer to term this type of car "open," for it no longer exists. In its place is a vehicle which is furnished with an equipment which speedily converts the open character of the car into a storm-proof vehicle.

If the exhibits offer the car designer an opportunity of demonstrating to the world his mechanical genius, what must be said of the coachbuilder? It must be admitted that the coachwork is a strong factor in the choice of a car, and at Olympia exquisite examples of coachwork will be seen on the various stands. There is an indication that the type of body which before the general adaptation of the side curtains to the touring car was christened "All-weather" is coming into its own. It fell out of favour largely in consequence of it being extremely difficult to make this type rattle-proof and of light construction. These drawbacks are entirely eliminated to-day and many improvements have been incorporated, which no doubt will make the all-weather type a keen rival to the saloon. Ingenious methods of lifting back the windows when not required, rattle-proof sash frames, lightness of construction, and novel methods of easily raising and lowering the hood, are but a few features which this new type of body will reveal at the Show.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

The report of the South Indian Railway Company for the year ended March 31 last, states that the capital expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 40,11,307, and was chiefly incurred on engineering works 67 lakhs, mainly for the provision of additional facilities at stations for dealing with increased traffic, the strengthening of bridges, remodelling of certain stations, and the new locomotive and carriage and waggon workshops. The above outlay includes a credit of Rs 7,09,300 on account of customs duty refunded by the customs department as a result of the Privy Council's decision in the Great Indian Peninsular Railway case, and about 2 lakhs of rupees due to the sale of rolling stock to Podanur-Poliachi Railway. There was a reduction of 22 lakhs of rupees in suspense account mainly due to restricted indenting from Home and purchasing in India, issues of stores from existing stock, writing down of values of surplus and obsolete stores to scrap rates and charging off amounts to final heads of account. The outlay on construction works amounts to Rs. 16,23,095.

The gross earnings were Rs. 4,96,15,859, while the working expenses were Rs.2,70,16,014 the net earnings being Rs. 2,25,99,845. Compared with the previous year, there was a decrease of Rs. 10,88,064 or 2.15 per cent. in the gross earnings, chiefly due to breaches, a decrease of Rs. 18,92,710 or 6.55 per cent. in the working expenses, and an increase of Rs.8,04,646 or 3.69 per cent. in net earnings. In the year under review, Rs. 24,40,614 were expended on account of renewals and replacements of permanent way, works and rolling stock, as against Rs. 31,76,065 in the previous year.

The company's share of surplus profits for the year 1924-25, amounted to Rs. 7,82,446. Amount retained in India to meet Indian income tax and super tax for 1925-46 Rs. 1,19,132. Balance remitted to London Rs. 6,63,314. At an average exchange of 1s. 5.9705.d per rupee, realising £49,666 19s. 10d. In addition to the guaranteed interest of 1¾ per cent. for the half-year to June 30, 1925, an interim dividend of 2 per cent. from surplus profits was paid, less income tax, on July 1, 1925. The Board now recommend that, for the year 1925, there be paid from surplus profits, on January 1, 1926, a final dividend of 2½ per cent., making, with the guaranteed interest of 1¾ per cent., a total payment for the half-year ending December 31, 1925, of 4¼ per cent., less income tax. The total distribution for the year will then be 8 per cent. (4½ per cent. from surplus profits, and 3½ per cent. from guaranteed interest).

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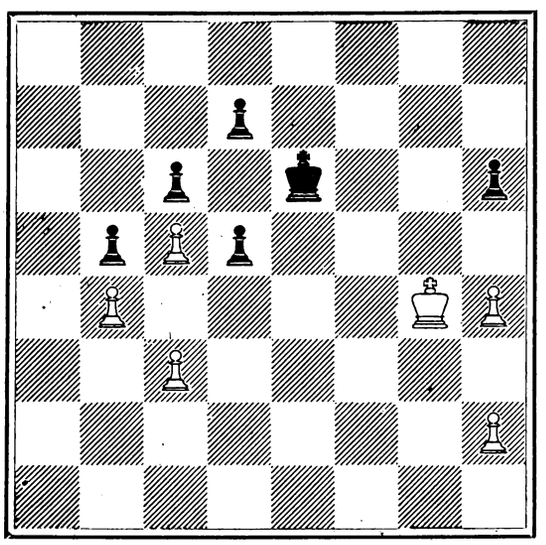
CHESS.

By "CARO-KANN."



PROBLEM No. 15.

White to play. What result?

Solution to Problem No. 14:—1, K—B3, P—K4; 2, PxP, P—Kt4; 3, K—Q4, K—Q2; 4, P—B5, P—Kt4; 5, K—Q5, P—Kt5; 6, P—K6 (ch), K—K2; 7, K—K5 and wins.

There is not much news yet. The winter season opens at the City of London Chess Club on October 21, with a simultaneous display by Mr. F. D. Yates, while the following Tuesday sees the commencement of the tournaments with the first round of the Gastineau Cup, the Club Championship.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade. 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

EGYPT.

Road Roller.—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, P.W.M., Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of a road roller 6-8 tons load to be driven by paraffin or petrol (internal combustion), required for Public Works Ministry, Cairo. November 1.

Internal Combustion Pumping Units.—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, P.W.M., Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and erection at the site of Mex Pumping Station of two 500 B.H.P. internal combustion pumping units. Copy of the specification and drawings may be obtained against payment of P.T. 50. December 1.

Portland Cement.— The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of 4,000 metrical tons Portland cement. October 21.

TURKEY.

Brass Rods.—Tenders are invited for the supply and delivery of brass rods of various sizes. Tenders are to be submitted to Angora by October 27 next. (D.O.T.)

The Roumanian duty on imported coal was raised on September 12 from 65 lei per ton to 400 lei.

It is estimated that Roumania's sugar beet harvest will yield this year about 170,000 tons of sugar, against 105,000 tons last year. This will enable Roumania to export for the first time a small amount of sugar.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the eleven days ended August 31 amounted to £E9,244, making the total from April 1 £E116,601.

An order has been placed by the British India Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., with Mesrs. Barclay, Curle and Co., Clyde, for a vessel of about 8,500 tons deadweight, and a contract has also been given for a vessel to Mesrs. Hawthorn, Leslie and Co., Tyne.

The directors of Harrisons and Crosfield recommend a final dividend of 20 per cent., less tax, on the deferred ordinary shares, making 30 per cent. for the year. Holders of these shares will have the option to take up at par deferred ordinary shares to the extent of one-half of the amount of this final dividend, less income-tax. The meeting will be held on October 15.

THE DRUSE REVOLT.

The Druse revolt is running its expected course. As soon as the French were able to obtain reinforcements and to take the field in adequate force the rebellion was doomed. The Druses could rely on little encouragement from their neighbours; a few initial successes gained them some adherents, but when these could not be repeated, the inevitable separatist tendencies began to assert themselves. The French under General Gamelin have relieved Sueida, and the Druses are reported to be fleeing in various directions. Interest now attaches to France's future policy in Syria. She can stamp out the rebellion, and leave the Druses with little inclination to rise again for many years. In so doing, however, she may sow the seeds of unrest elsewhere. A wiser policy, it would be thought, might be to recognise that the revolt was not started without some provocation, however petty in itself, and, as soon as French authority has been reasserted, to introduce a system of administration which has a better chance of meeting native aspirations than the system represented by Captain Carbillet.

CIVIL AVIATION.

It had for some time been the general impression that civil aviation in Great Britain was not making the progress that one expected, but the figures that have been published for the first working year of Imperial Airways, Limited, prove that we are even farther behind our foreign rivals than we feared. For the year ended March 31, 1925, Continental passenger traffic in British machines was only about 60 per cent., compared with 79 per cent. for the previous year—French and Dutch machines have gained where ours have lost. This decrease is attributed to our lack of modern commercial aircraft, but whatever the reason, it is a little disquieting. Of course, it is no secret that we hope to make good our losses in the long-distance flights over our Colonies or mandated territories, and it is hoped that even in Continental or cross-Channel traffic we may, by the end of next year, be holding our own.

The Roumanian Minister of Finance has appointed a committee to considered the question of the introduction into Roumania of a service of cheques and postal orders.

OVERSEAS AGENTS FOR THE SALE OF "THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA."

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Alexandria: M. Nacamulli and Co., 12, Rue Sesostris.
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Express Book and Stationery Store, P.O. Box 1113.
Port Said: English Agency, P.O. Box 240.

SUDAN.
Khartoum: Victoria Book and Stationery Store, P.O. Box 51

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem: B. Y. and W. A. Said, 23-24, Jaffa Road.

SYRIA.
Beyrout: Sarrafian Bros.

IRAQ.
Baghdad: Government Bookshop, Serai.
Basrah: Utam Jashan and Co., Bridge Street, Ashar.

INDIA.
Calcutta: A. N. Wheeler and Co., 117-119 Park Street.
Bombay: A. N. Wheeler and Co., Hornby Road.
Karachi: Standard Bookstall, Elphinstone Street, Karachi.

BULGARIA.
Sofia: Librairie Francaise et Etrangere, 4a, Bvd. Tsar Ostvoboditel.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia: George and Sons, P.O. Box 6.

GREECE.
Athens: Th. Vafiadis, 24, Rue du Stade.
Eleftheroudakis and Barth, Place de la Constitution.

ROUMANIA.
Bucharest: Librairie Universala, 37, Calea Victoriei.

TURKEY.
Constantinople: H. D. Marianopoulos, Librairie Mondaine, 280, Grande Rue de Pera.

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(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889.)

CAPITAL (fully paid) - £650,000 | RESERVE - - - £420,000

Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

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Ahwaz, Barfrush, Bander Abbas, Bushire, Duzdah, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Maidan-i-Naftun, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad (Seistan), Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz, Yezd

Branches in Iraq (Mesopotamia) :—Bagdad, Basra.
Branch in India :—Bombay.
The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia ; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

London Office : 33-36, KING WILLIAM ST., E.C.4 ; Chief Office in Persia, TEHERAN

IONIAN BANK, Ltd.

Established 1839.

Capital Authorised - - - £600,000
Capital Paid up - - - £485,580
Reserve Fund - - - - £190,000
Total Assets- - - - £6,536,314

HEAD OFFICE :
Basildon House Moorgate, LONDON.

GREECE. *Central Office :* ATHENS. 14 Branches.

EGYPT. *Central Office :* ALEXANDRIA. 8 Sub-Branches.

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N. M. MURRAY, Esq.
Manager in London :—
Sir S. A. H. SITWELL.

Authorised Capital **Rs. 11.25.00.000**
Paid-up Capital - **Rs. 5.62.50.000**
Reserve - - - **Rs. 4.77.50.000**

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Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

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AUTHORISED CAPITAL ... £4,000,000 | **Paid-up Capital** ... £2,000,000
Subscribed Capital ... £4.000,000 | **Reserve Fund** ... £2,800,000

HEAD OFFICE : 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2

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The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon.
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(A Limited Liability Company Registered in Athens.)

CAPITAL PAID UP - Drs. 36,000,000
RESERVE FUNDS - Drs. 38,150,045.40

The Assets include securities worth £1,000,000, which are valued at Drs. 25,000,000; that is at the rate of Drs. 25 per £1 only.

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The Bank undertakes the warehousing and sale of goods consigned.

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Head Office: ATHENS.

ESTABLISHED 1893.

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CAPITAL £3,000,000. RESERVE FUND, £4,000,000.

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COLIN FREDERICK CAMPBELL, ESQ.
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LEWIS ALEXANDER WALLACE, ESQ.

Chief Manager—W. E. PRESTON.
Managers—J. S. BRUCE and G. MILLER

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BANGTOK	HAMBURG	MANILA	SOURABAYA
BATAVIA	HANKOW	MEDAN	TAPING (F.M.S.)
BOMBAY	HONGKONG	NEW YORK	TAVOY (Lower Burma)
CALCUTTA	ILOILO	PEKING	TIENTSIN
CANTON	IPOH	PENANG	TOKYO
CAWNPORE	KARACHI	PUKET	YOKOHAMA
CEBU	KLANG	RANGOON	ZAMBOANGA
COLOMBO	KOBE	SAIGON	(Phillipine Islands)
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		SEREHBAN	

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Reserve Liability of Shareholders - - - - £1,000,000
Paid up Capital - - £1,000,000
Reserve Fund - - £360,000

Branches: BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, KARACHI, MADRAS, COLOMBO, BAGDAD, BASRA, AMARA, HILLAH, MOSUL, BAHREIN.

Board of Directors:

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J. H. BATTY, Esq. EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq.
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F. H. SUTTON, *Manager.*

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(Affiliated with Barclays Bank, Ltd.)

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SUDAN.—Makwar, Omdurman, Khartoum, Port Sudan, Wad Medani. PALESTINE.—Haifa, Jaffa. Jerusalem, Nazareth
MEDITERRANEAN. Malta, Gibraltar.

Subscribed Capital - - - - £1,800,000 Paid-up Capital - - - - £600,000
Reserve - - - - - £720,000

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HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

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RANCHI.....	16,600 ...	Oct. 2 ..	Oct. 9 ...	Bombay and Karachi
†NYANZA ...	7,000 ...	Oct. 6 ...	—— ...	Colombo and Calcutta
§MOLDAVIA...	16,500 ..	Oct. 9 ...	—— ...	Colombo and Australia
¶*MOREA.....	11,000 ...	Oct. 9 ...	Oct. 16 ...	Straits, China, Japan
KAISAR-I-HIND	11,430 ...	Oct. 16 ...	Oct. 23 ...	Bombay and Karachi
†DELTA	8,000 ...	Oct. 17 ...	—— ...	Colombo and Calcutta
¶KASHGAR ...	9,000 ...	Oct. 23 ...	—— ...	Straits, China, Japan

* Taking passengers for Bombay via Aden. † Calling Malta.
§ Taking passengers for Port Sudan, ¶ Calling Southampton.

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‡MADURA	8,975 ...	Oct. 3 ...	Oct. 9 ...	Bombay and Karachi
MANELA	8,303 ...	Oct. 3 ...	Oct. 10 ...	Madras and Calcutta
MARGHA.....	8,258 ...	Oct. 17 ...	Oct. 23 ...	Bombay and Karachi
‡DUMANA	8,600 ..	Oct. 17 ...	Oct 24 ...	Madras and Calcutta
MATIANA.....	8,900 ...	Oct. 17 ...	Oct. 30 ...	East African Ports
SHIRALA	7,752 ..	Oct. 31 ...	Nov. 6 ...	Bombay and Karachi
‡MORVADA ...	8,193 ...	Oct. 31 ...	Nov. 7 ...	Madras and Calcutta

‡ Calls Malta.

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The NEAR EAST AND INDIA

A Weekly Review of the Politics and Commerce of the Balkan Peninsula, Turkey, Egypt, and the Sudan, Syria, Palestine, Arabia, Iraq, Persia and India.

No. 75.2—Vol. XXVIII. Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1925. Price 6d. Postage 1d.

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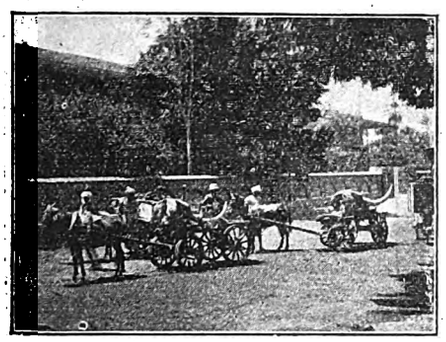

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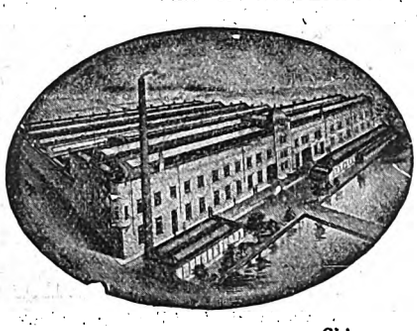
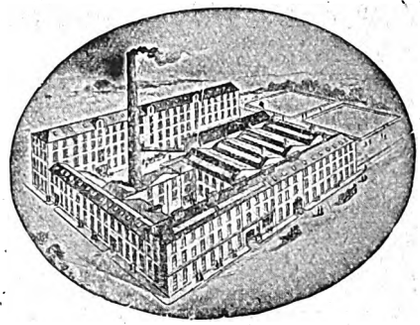
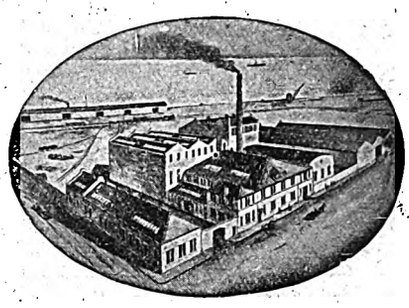

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No. 752.—VOL. XXVIII. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1925.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	Page
NOTES OF THE WEEK	425
SPECIAL LETTERS—	
Egypt	428
Albania	428
Roumania	430
Bulgaria	430
Persia	431
SPECIAL ARTICLE—	
Sir George Lloyd on Egypt ...	434
LEADING ARTICLE—	
Turkey, Russia and Persia ...	427
BOOK REVIEWS	438
THE WEEK AT HOME	435
PERSONAL AND GENERAL ...	437
CORRESPONDENCE	432
INDIAN AFFAIRS—	
Current Topics	439
Special Letters: Calcutta ...	440
Bombay	441
Simla	442
The Indian Mail	443
Indian Exchange	444
COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
Notes and News	445
Shipping Intelligence	44
Motors & Motoring, by G. B. B.	449
Cotton and Cotton Goods ...	450
Company Notes and Reports ...	451
Near East Markets	452
Chess	453

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

Iraq and Britain.

Gratitude does not often figure among the commodities subject to international exchange. For this reason the obvious note of sincerity that characterises the message sent by the Iraq Senate to the British Government, in the person of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, differentiates it from the majority of communications of this nature and makes of it a significant contribution to the Mosul discussion. The Senate, runs this message to Mr. L. S. Amery, feels very proud to express its thanks and gratitude on behalf of the people of Iraq for the keen interest and concern taken in the defence of its vital cause for the preservation of the northern regions of the country. His untiring efforts, it continues, do only reflect with honour on Great Britain's adherence to its pledges. More important than any mere acknowledgment of the fact that the British Government is fighting solely for the cause of Iraq in the Mosul controversy is the deliberate endorsement by the Iraqi Parliament of the prolongation of the British Mandate, for twenty-five years, if need be. The advantages to the country may be obvious; but in view of the strong nationalist spirit that prevails among the Arabs and has manifested itself in particular in Iraq, it is a testimony to the common sense of the inhabitants that they have persuaded themselves that independence and British assistance, based on a treaty, even with a formal Mandate in the background, can exist side by side. It is to the interests of both countries that this friendly, and to Iraq invaluable, relationship should be maintained unimpaired.

The Government and its Critics.

Some straight talking from authoritative quarters on the subject of Great Britain's dispute with Turkey over the Mosul frontier was necessary, and the Secretary of State for the Colonies has lost no time in taking up the challenge of a prejudiced section of the Press, which has been falsely accusing the Government of breaking pledges and has been adopting every possible "defeatist" argument to strengthen Turkey's position. One of the worst offenders, because it knew better, has already shifted its ground, and, being unable to answer a single point in his speech, is reduced to charging Mr. Amery with bad temper. If ever there were occasion for following St. Paul's injunction to be angry, without sinning, and not to give place to the devil, it would be in regard to what Mr. Amery very rightly described as "the reckless disregard of the elementary facts of the situation, of the honour of their country, and of the possible consequences of Press campaigns which were little short of a direct incitement to Turkey to break her treaty obligations, to defy the decision of the League of Nations, and to make an unprovoked attack on a territory under British protection." The alleged pledge that has formed the basis of the attack on the Government's policy in the Mosul dispute was never given. On the other hand, Great Britain has given solemn pledges to the people whom she has liberated from Turkish rule that she would never allow them to be restored to that rule; she has pledged herself not only to found, but to uphold, a free Arab State; she has pledged herself by treaty to maintain the independence and the integrity of Iraq, and she is responsible to the League of Nations for its peace and security. It is as the direct outcome of these pledges that successive Governments have been forced to the conclusion that the policy of scuttle is impossible, not only because it would be dishonourable, but also because it would involve political and military dangers and difficulties far greater than those involved in the fulfilment of Britain's obligations. Arguing from these premises, Mr. Amery has experienced no difficulty in convincing any unprejudiced student of the Mosul question that no other course was open to Great Britain than the policy which he supported so cogently, and unanswerably, at Geneva.

Turkey and the War Scare.

There can be no greater fallacy than to suppose that Great Britain, in supporting the Iraq cause up to the hilt, is actuated by any lack of friendliness towards Turkey. The Angora Government has been given abundant evidence of the British Government's desire to improve the

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relations between the two countries, and at no time has it been afforded from any official or responsible quarter the least indication of the likelihood of Great Britain yielding ground on this Mosul question. It has preferred, however, to pin its faith to underground promptings and the campaign of a notoriously irresponsible section of the British Press; on the strength of these it has committed itself to an impossible attitude and has tried to whip up public opinion in Turkey in support of a policy to which the bulk of the nation remains entirely indifferent. The result, it must be admitted, has been to place the Angora Government in an extremely difficult position. In order to push its bluff to the farthest possible limit, it has given wide publicity to military movements towards the Iraq frontier, while its Press is bidden to represent these preparations as measures of national defence. By some subtle process of reasoning territory which has not been in the possession of the Turks for seven years is represented as part of the Turkish Republic, which Great Britain is preparing to wrest from her grasp. In spite of this supreme effort at self-deception, the Turkish Army as a whole, we believe, will remain on the defensive, and no great harm will come to Iraq or to Turkey, if the League of Nations and Great Britain remain true to themselves. It would be a thousand pities if the Angora Government, in pronouncing a decree of divorce between Islam and State, should be the means of causing the Hoja to be forgotten and of banishing a sense of humour from the Republic; but in this question of the Mosul frontier it has taken itself too seriously, and the effort to sustain its point of view in the Turkish Press is beginning to wear very thin. When all other devices have failed, Turkey will do well to remember that she can always fall back on friendly relations with Great Britain to rehabilitate herself in her own eyes and in those of the world.

Greece's Constitution.

The establishment of a republic in Greece on April 13, 1924, necessitated a revision of the Constitution, and to this end the Chamber elected in December, 1923, turned itself into a Constituent Assembly. This body, however, elected under conditions that prevented it from enjoying the support of the country as a whole, had not progressed far with its work when General Pangalos in June took over the reins of power. A Constitutional Commission was then appointed to draw up a Constitutional Charter, with strict injunctions not to take too long over it. It has now completed its labours, and, after considerable public controversy, during which members of the National Assembly recorded their vote against promulgation, the Charter has been promulgated by the Government. A number of provisions which commended themselves to the Assembly for Greece's Constitution have been omitted from the Charter, notably the creation of a second Chamber, or Senate. Simultaneously the Assembly has been dissolved. The latter had few friends outside its own ranks; but its dissolution raised technical questions of legality, and political leaders opposed to General Pangalos are loudly contesting his right to dissolve the Assembly. On the other hand, there is a wide consensus of opinion that a fresh general election held under strictly fair and impartial conditions is the only way of clearing up the political situation. A violent attack has been made on the Government in the form of a proclamation to the Greek people by M. Papanastasiou, who was Prime Minister for a short period in 1924 and was the chief champion of the movement for the immediate establishment of a Senate. Legal proceedings are stated to have been instituted against the leader of the Republican Party for this attack. At the same time one or more editors are on trial for criticising the Government, and the general situation in Greece suggests that the management of the Republic causes the responsible head to lie as uneasy as ever did one that wore a crown in the country.

Minorities in the Balkans.

A conference, it is stated, is to be held during this month at Geneva of delegates of various national minorities in Europe, with a view to urging their claims to autonomy, or at least to the recognition of their languages especially as a medium for education. The usefulness of such a gathering, if it is to be held, will depend on the measure of restraint with which the case of the different minorities is presented; and it is to be hoped that the delegates will be more concerned to evolve in concert practical policies than merely to indulge in oratorical efforts calculated to arouse the enthusiasm of those whose disabilities they are emphasising. In time we believe the minor Powers of Europe will come to realise how much more they stand to gain by a liberal policy towards minorities in regard to the use of their languages. To-day more than ever the economic factor is all important in the internal harmony of a State. Where a minority is given absolute freedom in regard to the use of its language, it lacks the incentive to propaganda that repression affords, and it will be obliged to use the language of the majority, because in that tongue it finds a bigger market for the earning of its livelihood. In this connexion it is of interest to find that the opening of a Kutzo-Vlach school at Gorna-Jumaia in Bulgaria has been made the occasion of further evidence of the re-establishment of cordial relations between Roumania and Bulgaria. At this particular town there existed already a Turkish school and a Jewish school in which instruction is given in the pupils' own languages. It is safe to infer that the youthful Gorna-Jumaians will all speak Bulgarian as well, and they will be far less inclined to nurse grievances against the Government, when they find that in no single particular are they worse off than their Bulgarian neighbours.

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THE OPENING OF THE MAKWAR DAM.

We learn that H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught has notified his willingness to perform the ceremony of the official opening of the Makwar Dam in January, 1926, provided that his medical advisers raise no objection to his visiting the Sudan at that time. The Dam has actually been in operation since last July, but at that season of the year any official ceremony was out of the question.

The King and Queen of the Belgians arrived at Simla last Saturday and were met at the station by the Viceroy, Lord Reading.

According to the *Izvestia*, the work of the Mixed Commission, which is to establish the new frontier between Turkey and the Union of Soviet Republics, has been successfully concluded. The Commission has been at work since last March.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1925.

TURKEY, RUSSIA AND PERSIA.

There is probably a considerable amount of truth in the contention of a correspondent who, in a letter that we published last week, pointed out that no small part of Turkey's difficulty in regard to the Mosul question is due to the fact that the Turkish Government has made too many promises to the nation about its unalterable resolve to retain something that it does not possess. It is also quite true that Great Britain would prefer to see the present régime in Turkey continue than that it should make room for a period of chaos. Great Britain, however, cannot be expected to break her pledges to Iraq and to stultify her position in the Middle East merely to help Mustapha Kemal Pasha and his Cabinet out of a difficulty of their own contriving. In more ways than one the discomfiture of the Turkish Government over the Mosul question may well prove a blessing in disguise. In the first place it is quite evident that the Turkish people as a whole display little or no interest in the fate of the vilayet, and, although the Government may make itself look foolish and give a handle to its political opponents, it has the satisfaction of knowing that no responsible person in Turkey will seriously contend that the Turks can or ought to go to war over Mosul. Secondly, it will be a useful lesson to all Turkish Ministers and Presidents to tread more warily in raising popular expectation in regard to matters outside their own control. But by far the most important service that the baulking of the Government's plans will confer on Turkey is that it will free the Republic once more from subservience to Soviet Russia. Moscow has used the Mosul dispute, as it used a few years ago Turkey's war with Greece, to pose as the only friend on whom Angora can rely, and once again Turkey is in danger of committing herself to the Soviets to a greater extent than she would think of doing, if the Government had not rushed into this particular quicksand. The interest of Soviet Russia in stirring up trouble between Turkey and Great Britain is obvious. In the event of the two countries being involved in war—Soviet diplomacy is not deterred by the unlikelihood or impossibility of its aims being realised—Moscow would without doubt consider the moment opportune for carrying into effect its long-laid plans with regard to Persia. The Angora Government is well aware that it would be an evil day for Turkey, if Soviet Russia were to take possession of the Azerbaijan province of Persia; yet it has been playing with fire to a dangerous extent, for no better reason than that it fears the effect on its own position of a diplomatic defeat over Mosul. A symptom of its misgivings was shown in the suggestion put forward by Rushdi Bey in Geneva for a Security Pact between Turkey, Iraq and Great Britain, to which Persia might be invited to become a party. Ostensibly such a pact would be designed to remove Iraq's fears of Turkey; more likely, the idea was prompted by a genuine desire on Turkey's part to secure an adequate safeguard against Russian aggression, which in its sober moments Angora fears as much as ever Constantinople did.

Any disappointments that Soviet Russia is experiencing over the setbacks to Communism in Europe must be compensated by the apparent way in which the situation in Turkey and Persia has been playing into her hands. Although we cannot endorse the recommendations put forward by the writer of a letter published on another page for helping Persia to save herself from the northern menace, it is difficult to challenge his diagnosis of the position in that country. A strong man was needed in Persia and Riza Khan has achieved wonderful results; but his régime is essentially a one man's effort, calling for a master mind at the helm, and in the nature of things there can be no guarantee of a continuation of his strong government when his directing genius has been removed. On the contrary there is every reason to expect a sharp reaction, if only because, in order to obtain the notable improvement in the general condition of the country that stands to his credit, he has had to antagonise many interests, whose power for retaliation has been curbed without being destroyed. Riza Khan is on the horns of a dilemma. He was bound to appeal to the nationalist instinct, if ever Persia was to do justice to herself, and nationalism entailed a complete break with the two countries that had previously loomed so large on the Persian horizon. Soviet Russia made a great parade of her withdrawal, and at once proceeded to worm her way back into the country in the furtherance of her own designs. Great Britain withdrew reluctantly, because she desired to see a strong and independent Persia and knew full well that the Persians unaided would never reach that goal. For a short space of time the rise of Riza Khan lent colour to the belief that British fears about Persia would be belied by the event. The activities of Soviet Russia, however, emphasize the limitations under which Riza Khan is working. It is not given to one man in the short space during which he can serve his country to raise it from the depths of helplessness into which Persia had fallen and to make it reasonably secure against all possible dangers. There is no indication at present that the reforms inaugurated by the Prime Minister have established a form of government that can be relied upon to carry on with its own momentum. If he lives long enough, the necessary machinery may be created, but the outlook for his country would be improved if he could introduce a system of educating Nationalist Persia that was not dependent on the life of one man.

Apart from the danger to Iraq itself of a premature withdrawal of Great Britain's assistance, it is to be hoped that nothing will occur to interfere with the present relations between the two countries. Iraq affords the interesting object lesson to-day of a people as well satisfied as a whole with foreign guidance as any nation is with the particular Government of the day. There has been no whittling down of the Iraqis' desire for independence; but circumstances have provided them with an object lesson which has materially modified the opinion so strongly emphasised a few years ago that Iraq had already found her feet as an independent State and could dispense with further help from Great Britain. It is true that the latter's attitude towards Iraq has also changed. British adaptability has adjusted itself to new conditions, and a state of affairs is gradually being evolved which will prove that there need be no incompatibility between foreign guidance or supervision and national independence. The Iraq experiment might with advantage be taken to heart in Egypt and in Persia. Both countries ardently desire to stand alone; yet whether they recognize the fact or not, neither under present world conditions could be sure of safeguarding its independence single-handed. There is no question of Britain's playing in Persia the part that she has been called upon to play in Egypt and in Iraq. But if, as a result of the removal of their one strong man, the Persians find themselves losing, in a welter of revolution and chaos, the ground that they have recently gained, the time may come when they will look across the border to Iraq and see a nation, numerically inferior and starting with none of the advantages that have been theirs, rapidly surpassing them in contentment, prestige and prosperity, merely because it was willing to accept a helping hand in its early days. For Turkey too the picture of an eagerly Nationalist Iraq able to reconcile her aspirations for independence with a treaty insuring British help and guidance must clash strangely with the doctrine so perfervidly preached by a pliable Press of a Great Britain set on conquering the world, or at least the weaker nations in it. If Iraq and Great Britain can pull together long enough, the Iraqi nation will in time have no need to fear comparison with the Turkish or the Persian.

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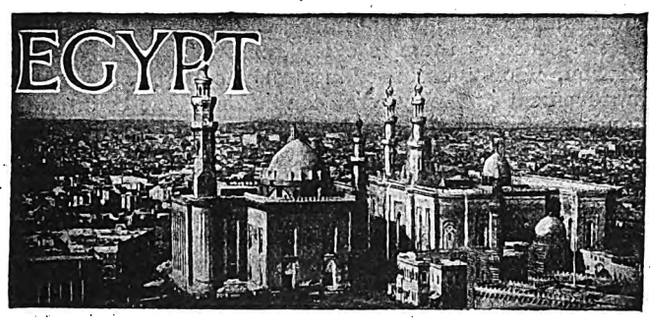
The Near and Middle East*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, September 27.

The Press on the Cabinet.

If newspaper opinion were as powerful in Egypt as it sometimes appears to be in other countries, the present Unionist Ministry would be on its deathbed. Never has an Egyptian Cabinet had a worse Press. Of all the vernacular journals only one, and that the property of the Unionist Party, has a good word for the Government. All the rest are abusive, though from various standpoints. Wafd organs declare the Ministry to be unconstitutional, the Nationalist *Akhbar-Lewa* affirms that the country's rulers have delivered themselves, body and soul, into the hands of the British, while the Liberal Constitutional *Siyassa*, all the more bitter because until lately the party which it represents was a partner in the Governmental coalition, is in no wise daunted by repeated official *communiqués* denying its statements, but returns every day to the attack, provided with some new ammunition. Only the Syrian-owned *Mokattam* and *Ahram* preserve a tolerantly neutral attitude.

The Draft Electoral Law.

The draft Electoral Law, with its imposition of tests and consequent reduction of the electorate to not more than sixty per cent. and possibly less than forty per cent. of its former total, is the principal grievance of the Opposition, which, moreover, doubts whether the Government has any intention of putting even this law into operation in the near future. And such doubts are not without justification, for, even if the Unionist Cabinet were determined to hold elections at the earliest possible moment, it is difficult to see how it could do so within twelve months from the present time. The draft law, it is stated on the best authority, will not be out of the hands of the Government's legal advisers for another two months at least, while after its promulgation at least another six months will be necessary for the preparation of the new registers. That reckoning, which takes into account only what is stated to be the absolutely minimum delay, would give the earliest polling date as somewhere about the end of June, a time of year when nobody wants elections which, indeed, are unthinkable between April and September.

A French Orientalist.

The Arabic Press has lately been very excited over what it calls "the appointment of a Frenchman to teach Arabic to Egyptians." The excitement has been caused by the nomination of M. Casanova, a French Orientalist, to the chair of Arabic in the new State University, and even the explanation of the Rector of the University that the post requires a scholar learned not in Arabic alone, but in all the Semitic tongues, and that there is no Egyptian so qualified, has not altogether satisfied the critics.

All Saints' Church.

To-night Bishop Gwynne will preach the final sermon in All Saints' Church, which will thereafter be handed over to the contractors, who will very quickly have the old building down and the foundations laid for another of the huge apartment blocks of which Cairo is now rapidly becoming full. The reasons for leaving All Saints' are many and strong. For one thing, the old church is falling down, apparently because the foundations are giving way, and, for another, the increasing din of traffic in Sharieh Boulac often drowns the voice of the officiating clergyman for all but those in the forefront of the congregation. Nevertheless, All Saints' has been the spiritual centre of the British community here for very many years, and its passing will be keenly regretted.

ALBANIA.

Tirana, October 1.

The Retiring British Minister.

The British Minister, Mr. Eyres, who has held his post for nearly five years, has retired, and his place has been taken by Mr. O'Reilly.

The latter will not find it an easy task to succeed so distinguished a predecessor; for the part which Mr. Eyres has played in Albanian affairs has been exceptionally notable. Endowed with wide experience of the Near East and an extremely forceful character, Mr. Eyres succeeded in imposing his personality on those responsible for the government of the newly-created, budding State, to which he was accredited as first British Minister. His influence extended far beyond the sphere which it is usually possible for the Minister of a Foreign Power to enter; and this influence was invariably exercised in a disinterested endeavour to help Albania in every possible way to consolidate her independence and her social cohesion. Albania has every reason to be profoundly grateful to him, although he has come in for much bitter criticism by the enemies of the present régime on account of his close and intimate relations with the actual President.

Indeed, during the attempted rebellion in 1922, Mr. Eyres's prompt action saved the Government of which Ahmet Zogu was at the time Minister of the Interior and virtual Chief. The forces of the rebels were closing about Tirana, when Mr. Eyres, motoring up at breakneck speed and in the nick of time from Durazzo, appeared in the capital, and at considerable risk to his life (for bullets were flying about the place with dangerous frequency) obtained an audience with the rebel leader, Zia Dibra, whose forces had already occupied a portion of the town. Mr. Eyres succeeded in persuading this patriotic but misguided old mountaineer that he was but the instrument

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of a conspiracy which boded no good for his country, promising him at the same time a safe pardon if he retired from the scene. The advice was accepted, the capital was saved, and Ahmet Zogu was thus enabled to collect his forces and to concentrate his attention on the remnant of the rebels, whom he easily disposed of. Ahmet Zogu holds, in fact, that Mr. Eyres thereby saved his life; and thenceforth he always gave the British Minister his confidence.

It was not surprising, therefore, that when Zogu, in June, 1924, was thrust from power by the next armed rebellion, the new Government of Monsignor Fan Noli regarded Mr. Eyres as a *persona* by no means *grata*. The life of this Government, however, was short lived, and when Zogu returned in triumph towards the close of the year, the old intimacy between the two was resumed.

It has, indeed, appeared to many a mistake on Mr. Eyres's part—this identifying himself so strongly with one party, but events as they have turned out must be said to have largely justified him. If he committed mistakes, he has at least the satisfaction of having done much to secure for Albania her present frontiers, and to have upheld the prestige and dignity of Britain in a conspicuously high degree throughout very troublous times. His help, too, in the long negotiations by which the Anglo-Persian Oil Co.'s concessions came at last to be ratified, was invaluable. His backing of Ahmet Zogu in this connection showed great foresight. Mr. Eyres certainly deserves unstinted gratitude from his country.

The New Minister.

Mr. O'Reilly comes to Albania with an unprejudiced mind. He has been Minister in Guatemala for over a year, before which he held the post of Minister in Bolivia. He is not, however, without Balkan experience, having been Chargé d'Affaires in Sofia before the War, and attached earlier in his career to the British Legation at Cettigne.

Drilling at Valona.

It is announced that drilling operations are to commence during the course of the present month near Valona, for the purpose of testing the commercial value of the Anglo-Persian Oil Co.'s concession.

The Ministerial Crisis.

The resignation of MM. Poga and Cotta, Ministers of Justice and Public Works respectively, was soon afterwards followed by that of M. Mufid Lipohova (Minister of Foreign Affairs and of Finance) and of M. Tseno Beg (Minister of the Interior). Similarly, the resignation of M. Eshref Frasheri, Chairman of the Senate, has been followed by that of several other Senators.

It is now clear that the occasion of the Ministerial crisis is the agitation in the country against the cession of Sveti Naum and of Vermosch to Yugoslavia, in the face of which there is a general flight from the responsibility of ratifying the agreement between the Albanian and Yugoslav Governments. Parliament, which was to have met on October 23, still lacks the necessary quorum—and for the same reason—to enable the session to be opened.

Meanwhile it has been found possible to form the following stop-gap Ministry:—

M. Tutulani (Orthodox): Minister of Justice and, *ad interim*, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

M. Musa Juka (Mussulman from Scutari): Minister of Public Works and, *ad interim*, Minister of the Interior.

M. Sulejman Starova (Mussulman): Minister of Finance.

M. Tutulani was Minister of Justice under Ahmet Zogu in 1923.

As reported last week, the causes of the present crisis lie deeper than the question of the disputed territories. The Government of Ahmet Zogu has from the outset found itself very largely isolated, while the cession of territory to Yugoslavia and the concession granted to Italian interests for creating the National Bank—both of them unpopular measures—have led to considerable dissension lately among the President's own adherents. Consequently, it has become a matter of paramount importance for the latter to find means for broadening the basis of consent to the present régime.

Broadening the Government.

The recent amnesty, which excluded, however, all those who figured at all conspicuously in the revolution which drove Ahmet Bey from office in June, 1924, was a first step in this direction. Two other currents meanwhile have been set in motion—the one, already alluded to last week, under the direction of M. Eshref Frasheri, having as its object the revival of the "Clique," many ex-members of which, belonging to the more moderate members of the Opposition, are still in exile; the other, initiated by the President himself, who dispatched an emissary, M. Fazli Frasheri, two months since to Boston, U.S.A., to confer with M. Faik Konitza, head of the Albano-American organisation known as the "Vatra."

M. Fazli Frasheri has now returned, bearing with him a number of conditions representing the views of those, whether in America or in Europe, in touch with M. Faik Konitza—the acceptance of which by the President would make possible a reconciliation with the present régime. These conditions include:—

1. The formation of a broad-backed Ministry to preside over new elections.
2. The disbandment of Ahmet Bey's voluntarily recruited gendarmerie.
3. New election freely conducted.
4. The new Parliament to reappoint the executive members of the Senate and to reconsider various clauses of the actual Constitution.

Conversations are now continuing between the President and M. Fazli Frasheri with a view to seeing whether it may not be possible to arrive at an agreement. Some of the above conditions are, however, obviously difficult, if not impossible, for the President to accept.

M. Eshref Frasheri's initiative may after all turn out the more convenient bridge. His opposition friends, headed by the Orthodox ex-Regent M. Petsi and MM. Sefi Vlamasi and Ali Klissura, have formed a new "Patriotic League," which may be regarded as an attempted metamorphosis of the Clique itself. The most interesting plank in the programme of this group, the acceptance of which presumably is one of the conditions of a reconciliation, is the accordance of wide power of local self-government to districts. By this means they have secured the support of the Catholic hierarchy.

M. Mehmet Konitza, ex-Minister in London, brother of M. Faik Konitza of the "Vatra" on the one hand, and old friend of M. Eshref Frasheri on the other, has arrived, as already reported, at Tirana. It is not surprising, therefore, that all eyes are at present turned on him; and experienced diplomat that he is, it is quite possible that through his agency some compromise will be arrived at involving both the moderate opposition groups.

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It should be noted in conclusion that Monsignor Fan Noli is not included among the friends of either the "Vatra" or the "Clique." No compromise is possible in his case at present. With him are associated MM. Bedri Bey and Mustapha Kruja. M. Hassan Pristina, the Kossovo irredentist, would also, it appears, be excluded from any reconciliation. The latter's colleague, however, M. Rexjep Mitrovitza, is said to have adhered to the Patriotic League, whose headquarters are at Bari.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, September 28.

Political Activities.

The approaching re-opening of Parliament has revived the activities of the Opposition parties and more especially of the Coalition group formed by the National Transylvanian Party, who are in hopes of succeeding to the Government on the fall of the Liberal Cabinet. Their brilliant successes in the elections for the Chambers of Agriculture have given them the greatest encouragement, and they are at present labouring to produce a definite working programme to which all sections of the party will subscribe. On the one hand the Peasant Party includes some fairly advanced sections, such as that from Bessarabia which is somewhat tarred with the Bolshevist brush, and on the other the Transylvanian Ministries have each their own special interest, and all have a wholesome dread of Bolshevist influences, so that certain concessions will have to be made all round. Two items of their proposed programme are of special interest abroad. One of these is their determination to make a serious attempt to come to an understanding with the Soviets on the subject of the union of Bessarabia with Roumania, so that diplomatic relations may be resumed and the ghost may be laid of Bolshevist attacks on the Bessarabia frontier. The other is their avowed intention of abolishing all the existing laws which hamper foreign capital in this country, and of giving every facility to foreign capital to co-operate in the exploitation of the various sources of wealth afforded by the soil of Roumania. This would mean a complete reversion from the policy of the present Liberal Government, which is to acquire as large a share as possible not only of the profits made by any foreign enterprise in this country, but also of their administration.

The climate and natural wealth of Roumania are such that under a good Government, with a just administration, she might become a perfect paradise. Unfortunately, however, there is no rose without a thorn, and the thorn of the Roumanian rose is *baksheesh*. Will she ever succeed in eliminating it? To do so she would have to adopt a system of *grafting* more in keeping with the principles of natural science than with the practices of doubtful finance.

The Nationalist-Peasant Coalition.

So far as one can judge, the intentions of the Nationalist-Peasant Coalition Party are honest, but whether they have any leader capable of steering them through the shoals of intrigue, both outside and within their own ranks, seems doubtful. A very Napoleon would be needed at the present juncture who could dominate the whole party by the force of his personality and by his practical energy. It is to be hoped, however, that the commonsense and honest intentions of the Coalition Party will bind them together and induce them, should they succeed to the Government, to sink minor differences for the sake of their common aims.

Copsa Mica Munitions Factory.

It may be remembered that some months ago the Liberal Government came to an agreement with Messrs. Vickers for the founding of a munitions factory at Copsa Mica, a small station in Transylvania on the main line between Bucharest and Budapest, about two hours on the Roumanian side of the Hungarian frontier. More than half of the capital was to be provided by Roumania in accordance with the law for commercialisation of State enterprises, and the remainder by Messrs. Vickers. Unfortunately, the Roumanian subscription list has not yet been filled, and it has not been found possible to raise the necessary capital in this country, so that the project would appear to be in abeyance for the moment.

Bucharest Municipality.

If the fall of the Liberal Government brings in its train the replacing of Dr. Costinescu, Mayor of Bucharest, his departure will no doubt be lamented by a large section of the community, for he has certainly done much during his three years of office to clean up the city, and he has several large schemes on foot for its further improvement, and for the increase of its supplies of water and electric current. There are rumours that he is on the eve of signing or has just signed a contract with an important American financial group for a loan of one million dollars, part of which is to be used for the above purpose and part for the improvement of the streets generally.

In some of the main thoroughfares, such as the Boulevard Bratianu, old buildings are being pulled down and the streets widened. Work has been resumed on the building of the new University building, which in its unfinished state has so long been a blot on the landscape, and now the outer walls of most of it are finished. Its architecture is simple and inoffensive.

Concessions have also been granted for several lines of electric omnibuses. These are a kind of long waggonnette with Ford engines. They run at frequent intervals along various routes and supply a much felt want, as the tramways were entirely inadequate to cope with the passenger traffic and did not reach nearly all the residential quarters of the town.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, September 28.

King Boris's Speech.

The most important political event which has occurred for several months was the speech delivered by King Boris at a gathering of Army officers at the Palace. The speech was directed towards the Army in that it expressed confidence in the loyalty of officers and men towards the Constitution. But there were one or two other significant sentences, notably that wherein King Boris, after dwelling on the troubled domestic situation, made an appeal to the governing powers to attempt real reconciliation between Bulgarians.

The speech was given a mixed welcome. The majority of the Opposition papers praised it as a timely utterance on the part of the Chief of State. Governmental papers adopted a rather reserved attitude, and one or two writers hastened to impress on the public that no especial significance must be attached to the King's words. The fact remains, however, that the best independent opinion holds the view that King Boris, in making such a speech was actuated by extremely patriotic motives, because since ascending the throne he has never, until the present, publicly spoken his mind. There is, of course, no doubt whatsoever that reconciliation between the different

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political groupings in Bulgaria is a *sine qua non* if the future development of the country is to progress along normal lines. Opinions differ on how this reconciliation can be reached. Some people aver that the Communists and Agrarians are altogether outside the pale, and that it would be folly to have any dealings with either of these parties. Other people believe that the Government could at this stage usefully encourage the moderate section of the Agrarians and thus gradually permit of a broad coalition, Communists excepted, coming into power. A third view is that neither of the above-mentioned eventualities can come to pass as long as the Zankoff Government is in office. It is not the business of a foreign observer to say what would be the best thing for Bulgaria, but when the Sobranye reassembles at the end of October it is hoped that the Government's position will either become impregnable, or, failing that, M. Zankoff will decide to lay down his mandate.

Geneva Conversations.

Telegrams from Geneva indicate that Serbs, Bulgarians, Roumanians, and Greeks are indulging in friendly conversations regarding the settlement of inter-Balkan disputes. M. Zankoff has met M. Pashitch, and it is reported that the meeting was very cordial. One must be pardoned for being sceptical regarding these events on the side of Lake Leman. When Balkan politicians, and other ones too, go to Geneva they seem to have different mentalities from those which they possess at home. But unfortunately they spend the greater part of their time at home, so that Geneva mentalities have little chance of triumphing over the home point of view. It may, of course, be that there is really something behind all these conversations, but it is much more probable that they are only polite manœuvres which will have no consequence whatsoever on future events.

Allied Military Control in Bulgaria.

It is announced that Bulgaria has requested the Council of Ambassadors in Paris to withdraw their Military Organ of Control, which has been stationed in Sofia for the last few years. In their Note the Government point out that the Bulgarian Army is now demobilised and disarmed according to the terms of the Peace Treaty and that the maintenance of Allied officers in the capital of the country has thus become superfluous. It is not known what the Council of Ambassadors will decide to do, but possibly military control will pass into the hands of the League of Nations. If this were to happen, no officers would be stationed in Sofia, but from time to time officers belonging to neutral States would visit Bulgaria.

News in Brief.

The British Minister, the Hon. W. A. F. Erskine, has gone on leave. During his absence Mr. Stevenson will act as Chargé d'Affaires.

Three Italian Army Air pilots, who are carrying out a round-Europe flight, spent three days in Sofia this week.

A delegation of 50 Bulgarian deputies and others has been visiting Budapest, where they have received a very cordial reception.

PERSIA.

Teheran, September 10.

Bombardment of Medina.

The great event of the past few days has been the National Day of Mourning for the supposed bombardment of Medina. Though the bombardment has since been officially denied, the occasion was deemed a suitable occasion for demonstrating religious unity. The mass meetings were attended by many thousands, but were marked by no untoward incidents, thanks to the excellent military and police arrangements.

Civil and Military Administration.

According to the newspapers, the Premier in his recent speech at the War Office, announced his intention of now paying closer personal attention to military organisation, more especially with a view to removing any causes of friction between civil and military administration. With this object he has deputed Murteza Khan, Governor of Teheran, to proceed on special inspection duty in the west, and another high officer will probably be appointed for the east. The appointment, and the idea actuating it, are yet another sign of the close personal attention of the Premier to matters of detail affecting good administration, and will go far to remedy a source of much grumbling in the Provinces. Severe penalties have also been threatened against military officials found guilty of abusing their privileges and powers.

Cost of Living.

The dearness of living in Teheran has long been notorious amongst Europeans. It arises from many different causes, chief amongst which have been the high value of the kran in comparison with European money, and the increased cost of transport compared with previous rates. The cost of even the most elementary luxuries is excessive, and though the kran is gradually moving to a more reasonable level of exchange the cost of motor transport and of similar modern essentials is prohibitive. The essentials of life have, however, been comparatively cheap owing to lack of means of export in good years, and cultivation round Teheran was more than ample for the needs of the City. But this year the outlook is far from reassuring in most centres of population and especially Teheran, owing to general shortage of crops, and great scarcity is predicted.

In Khorassan alone the harvest was fairly satisfactory, but transport rates from there to Teheran are roughly £40 a ton, and so prohibitive.

The Urgency of Capital.

The above conditions explain the growing anxiety of the country to create adequate communications, especially railways, and to attract capital.

Unfortunately past and recent experience has not tended to encourage private enterprise, though the introduction of capital is generally admitted to be an urgent necessity. In this connection the failure to date of the French silk proposition, and the Eastern Transport contract, are to be deplored, as both were generally regarded as extremely advantageous to the country.

The Eastern Transport mail contract failed apparently on the question of a monopoly of passenger traffic, and has now been given on open terms to the newly opened military "Pehlevi Bank," which is hurriedly creating the transport necessary to carry out its undertaking. Meanwhile the Eastern Transport Company maintains a regular and efficient service such as has never existed on the Baghdad road previously.

Recent Legislation.

Persia is fortunate in having so clear a distinction between Ordinary and Ecclesiastical Law as was laid down in the Fundamental Laws of 1906-07. The Ministry of Justice controls all judicial power, and is the arbiter, where necessary, on whether any case shall be referred to Ecclesiastical Courts. There is, therefore, no religious difficulty which could prevent Persia's having as efficient a legal system as any other country. Till recently, the main obstacle to progress has been the lack of modern Codes or Acts, to regulate and to meet the needs of modern commercial transactions. The recent series of Acts passed by the present Mejliss, i.e., "The Law of Registration," and "The Commercial Act," together with the new Penal Code now in course of preparation, will, it is hoped, go far to remove the many complaints current against the legal system.

The Commercial Act recently passed by the Mejliss is

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in force, and marks a great step forward in Persian administration, coupled as it will be with a modern Penal Code and system of Registration.

The Commercial Act is in three parts, dealing respectively with Company Law, Bills of Exchange and Brokerage and Bankruptcy. It is modelled on the French Code with considerable alteration to suit established conditions, and is extremely comprehensive.

Now that the Legislature has set up a modern code for regulation of commerce, it is hoped it will apply itself with equal energy to remedying the vital defect in commercial transactions of to-day, which is the inefficiency, if not futility, of the present "means of execution." The Commercial Act with its clear definition of offences, removes any excuse for delay in legal execution of decrees. The recent appointment of Prince Firouz, himself a qualified lawyer, as Minister of Justice, should result in much improvement of the existing legal machinery, and much is hoped for from his energy and experience.

The present Mejliss has certainly deserved well of the country, and left many marks of its industry. A large number of important Bills still await its consideration, the most important of which is the Railway Bill. The latter is still in course of drafting and unlikely to appear before the return of Dr. Millspaugh from America in the middle of this month. The original idea of building it by State enterprise has fewer exponents now, and the advantages of private enterprise are becoming better appreciated, in view of the need for attracting capital for other schemes of national advantage.

CORRESPONDENCE

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THE SOVIETS AND PERSIA.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—Recent reports from Russia suggest that we shall witness, in the coming months, renewed anti-British activities on the part of the Soviet in the Near and Middle East. For this reason and because the maintenance of Persia's independence is essential to the protection of Britain's interests in southern Asia, it is necessary that we should prepare ourselves, by sound political action, to meet any developments in that country unfavourable to her continued integrity.

Persia possesses two instruments whereby she may defend her independence: namely, her Army and the tribes to be found within her borders. The former is, at present, better organised to resist foreign encroachment than has been the case for many generations. Under its present leader it could be counted upon to delay a hostile force; but, in the event of the disappearance of this leader at the outset of any struggle in which it might become involved, it would be of no more than doubtful value, since there is no prospective successor to the position now filled by Reza Khan, the soldier and statesman. Moreover, in the event of the regular forces being employed for any length of time in active operations against well-equipped and disciplined troops, such as those which the Soviet have now at their disposal, the Persian Government would find it impossible to replace the war casualties, as the non-tribal inhabitants of Persia, amongst whom recruitment is now carried out, although patriotic in sentiment, differ from the tribesmen in that they possess few, if any, martial instincts, while, on the other hand, the latter cannot be inured, without difficulty, to the monotonous existence of soldiers of the line or to the obedience of orders from others than their accustomed chieftains. Recruits, therefore, would require much training before they could be of any service to a Government not possessing the highest prestige. For the same reason, the influence of the Shiah divines, which might be exercised against invaders from the north, would be of no avail in the face of superior military forces.

The tribal elements, if employed in the rôle best suited to them, that is to say, constant guerilla movements against the enemy, would form a weapon which might be used with ultimately better effect than the Army; but a good understanding between their leaders and the central authority would be essential to the co-ordination of any action which they might take and to their continued employment throughout any extended period. Unfortunately, Reza Khan has alienated the sympathies to himself of the tribal chiefs by his recent efforts to terminate their virtual autonomy; but it should be realised that his successes in this direction could not have been achieved but for the lack of cohesion between the tribes and their inability to procure external support against him.

It may be assumed that, at present, the Soviet's policy regarding Persia is to await a favourable opportunity for a *coup d'état* at Teheran and then to remove by violent or other means those now in power, introducing into their places individuals amenable to dictation by Moscow. Success in this would be followed, automatically, by the dispatch of Governors with similar tendencies to the provincial capitals. These measures, to be of lasting effect, would require some support by Russian troops, to assist in which there have been in readiness, for a number of years, many facilities necessary to the rapid seizure of the important strategical positions in northern Persia. The Russian railway system has been extended to Tabriz, whence there is easy access to the areas commanding the Turkish frontier and the low Garwa Shaikh Pass into northern Iraq. The port of Enzeli (Pehlevi) is at the mercy of the Caspian fleet; and from that town there is a first-class road of Russian construction to Kasvin and Hamadan, possession of which cities, together with the Aveh-Sultan Bulagh Pass (mid-way between the two), would sever the north-western provinces of Persia from the capital. The Russian naval station on the island of Ashurada, seven miles from the mainland in the south-eastern corner of the Caspian Sea, commands the landing-stage at Kara Su, where there is a Russian fishing station constructed in such a manner as to be easily convertible into barracks or a base camp. This port has been connected by a road, suitable for use by all arms, with the provincial capital at Astarabad (18 miles distant), whence a mounted force could, in twenty-four hours, place itself astride the Teheran-Meshed road, thereby cutting the only lateral line of communication between northern and north-eastern Persia to the north of the great waterless desert which extends southwards to Kirman. The positions commanding the Ashkabad-Meshed chaussée, also constructed by Russians, are within easy reach of the frontier; and a Russian descent in any force upon northern Khorassan would be an operation presenting no difficulties.

We may now consider whether the tribal elements, if properly handled, could assist materially in any attempts to hold up further encroachment towards the Persian Gulf and the Indian frontier. Extending through southern Persian from the Iraq border to the confines of Afghanistan there are, in the mountain districts, a number of formerly independent or partially independent confederations which retain a considerable measure of warlike spirit. Their chiefs are naturally averse from anything resembling Communism and, lacking sympathy with the present Persian Government, would look to Great Britain for support against Russia. In the hills to the west of Kirmanshah is the Guran confederation of Kurdish tribes, which includes the notorious Kalkhani and the Sinjabi, Ali Illahi by religion, who have been Anglophil at heart for many years, although they opposed General Baratoff's advance towards Qasr i Shirin during the War. South

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of Kirmanshah are the Dilfan Lurs and the tribesmen of the Wali of Pusht i Kuh; and west of Isfahan are the Bakhtiari and Kuhgalu. In the province of Shiraz are the Qashqai and Qashquli tribes under the Saulat ud Daulah, who, through our alliance with Russia, was drawn into action against us in 1918, but is now interested financially in an important British commercial enterprise in southern Persia. Between Shiraz and Kirman are the tribes who, under the leadership of the Qavvam ul Mulk, rendered us good service during the War; and between the desert east of Kirman and the Afghan border are the territories of the Amir of Kain who has been friendly and helpful to us in the past.

These tribes, if united by service to a common cause and, if necessary, supplied with munitions or other assistance in the event of hostilities between Persia and the Soviet, would form a considerable impediment to southward movements of Russian troops; but arrangements for action on their part and for co-operation between the diverse elements cannot be achieved by the Persian Government while she pursues her present internal policy. British influence with their leaders, however, if carefully exercised, could produce the results required and, at the same time, deter the tribes from acting in any untoward manner against the peaceful development or independence of Persia under her present rulers.

In an emergency it might not be possible for us to support Persia actively by placing in that country, at short notice, a force able to meet an enemy in the field; and it is certain that only failure could result from attempts to organise joint action on the part of the tribes, if deferred until after initial Russian successes. Thus, since there is no reason why closer relations between the British Government and the southern tribes should be inconsistent with our desire, in our own interests, to respect the integrity of Persia as a Sovereign State, it is to be hoped that Reza Khan may be brought to realise that his interests are identical with our own and that he will remember that the most pressing danger to his position lies in the probable consequences of his plausible attempts to improve the conditions affecting the independence of his country. The reorganisation of the Empire has not, as yet, produced any material change in the psychology of those whom the Prime Minister would call up to defend her, and, if the Soviets continue in their present policy, they will strike, it seems certain, before Persia has passed through the transient stage between mere aspiration and genuine ability to protect herself unaided.—I am, etc.,

"Nazir."

THE FUTURE OF THE HEJAZ.

To the Editor of The Near East and India.

Sir,—In your leading article entitled "The Wahhabis and Islam," published in your issue of October 1, you make no mention of the possibilities and perhaps the desirability of the Shereef Ali Haider's assuming the rulership of the Hejaz.

Although Ibn Saoud was reported to have announced earlier in the year that the rulership of the Hejaz should be undertaken by Ali Haider, the latter has received no official intimation to that effect from the Wahhabi leader. On the other hand, Ibn Saoud has shown the greatest consideration towards any of Ali Haider's family who happen to be living in Mecca, and mention of the desirability of Ali Haider's accepting the throne of Mecca has freely and repeatedly been made both in the Moslem Press of India and that in other countries of the Near East.

The alternatives for Ibn Saoud appear to be:—

(1) To retire and allow King Ali to regain the country;

(2) To call a pan-Islamic conference, as he once stated was his intention; or

(3) To continue his dictatorship in Mecca.

If he did (1) it would be with a great loss of personal prestige, and it is not a step he would be likely to take.

If he did (2) it would cause him a certain amount of embarrassment in view of the recent reported actions of the Wahhabis in destroying sacred edifices and pursuing their puritanical tenets to such an extent that anyone found smoking is punished by death. These reports may be greatly exaggerated, but they nevertheless serve to produce bad feeling. The possibility, therefore, of such a conference being called appears remote.

If he did (3) and thereby ultimately capture both Medina and Jeddah, his position would soon be harassed by insuperable difficulties which would not tend towards the tightening of the bonds of Islam, a policy so necessary for the peace and tranquillity of the Near East.

However much one may, in some respects, admire Ibn Saoud, one cannot help feeling that the fanatical and antiquated beliefs of his subjects will never harmonise with the great Moslem "Renaissance" which to-day is so apparent throughout the world. Islam must progress, and no puritanical outburst will deter her from adapting herself to the march of civilisation. It would therefore appear desirable that one with a broader outlook, yet holding the finest ideals of the Islamic Faith, should be the custodian of the sacred places.

If, then, Ali Haider should appear in Mecca, it might relieve Ibn Saoud of embarrassment—for Ali Haider is the only Arab leader who could come to some diplomatic and peaceful understanding with Ibn Saoud—it would be welcomed by the majority of Moslems and might reasonably produce a settled condition throughout Arabia.—I am, etc.,

"Champion."

PICTURES OF JERUSALEM.

The latest English artist to have succumbed to the lure of the Holy Land is Mr. Borough Johnson, who visited Jerusalem this summer and is now exhibiting at the Goupil Gallery, Regent Street, the products of his work. Mr. Johnson has not attempted to do more than indicate the spiritual atmosphere of the Holy City; for the most he pleasantly suggests, or dispassionately regards, the intensity of life that underlies its tenderness. One is not, for example, made to feel the magnificent reverence of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre; nor is there any endeavour on the part of the artist to emphasise particular emotional experiences in his seeing of such things as "The Beggars at The Holy Sepulchre Church," "View towards Gethsemane from the Haram," or "The Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem." Once, however, he makes a notable departure from this impartial outlook—in the very beautiful "The Church of St. Helena," and his success in this makes one regret a little the studied objectiveness of the majority of his water-colours.

But Mr. Johnson can draw. His "A Russian Archimandrite," a pale, straight, bespectacled face, is a fine work indeed; and there is considerable skill in his "Outside Herod's Gate." His is certainly an exhibition not to be missed by anyone who has had the fortune to visit the Holy Land, and who does not wish to lose his or her remembrances of Arab shepherds and markets and gateways, of Russian nuns and priests and gardeners, and, above all, of the Churches which are the glory of the City.

SALONIKA FORCES' SERVICE.

Over two thousand members of the Forces that served on the Horse Guards Parade at noon last Sunday in commemoration of the signing of the Armistice with the memoration of the signing of the Armistice with the Bulgarians on September 30, 1918. After placing a wreath on the Cenotaph a large number of those present attended a reunion luncheon in the Drill Hall of the "Queen's Westminsters," Buckingham Gate.

THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

On October 13, at 4.30 p.m., at 74, Grosvenor Street, Sir Denison Ross will read to the Royal Asiatic Society a Paper entitled, "The Shirley Brothers in Persia."

According to a recent law passed by the Mejliss all military and civil titles have been abolished in Persia.

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SIR GEORGE LLOYD ON EGYPT.

In honour of the Rt. Hon. Sir George Lloyd, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., D.S.O., High Commissioner Designate for Egypt, a luncheon was given by the Royal Colonial Institute, at the Hotel Victoria, on September 30. A numerous company included Lady Rogers, Sesostris Sidarouss Bey (Egyptian Chargé d'Affaires), the Hon. John Huxham (Agent-General for Queensland), Sir Robert Ho Tung, Sir Campbell Rhodes, C.B.E., Lt.-Colonel Sir Henry Galway, K.C.M.G., D.S.O., Sir Frederick James, K.B.E., C.M.G. (Governor of the Windward Islands), A. Jennings, Hon. Sir Francis Newton, K.C.M.G., C.V.O. (High Commissioner for Southern Rhodesia), Sir Charles McLeod, Bart, Right Hon. Earl Winterton, M.P. (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for India), Lady Lloyd, Right Hon. the Earl of Meath, K.P., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., Right Hon. Sir Joseph Cook, G.C.M.G. (High Commissioner for the Commonwealth of Australia), Right Hon. Sir Hamar Greenwood, Bart., K.C., M.P., Lady Greenwood, D.B.E., Sir Benjamin Robertson, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., C.I.E., Sir John Miller, K.C.S.I., the Hon. George Fairbairn (Agent-General for Victoria), Alderman Sir George Truscott, Bart., Senator General E. A. Drake-Brockman, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Mrs. Eccles Snowden, and Lt.-Colonel R. Eccles Snowden (Agent-General for Tasmania). Sir Godfrey Lagden, K.C.M.G., presided.

After the toast of "The King and United Empire," the Chairman announced that a telegram had been received from the Egyptian Minister, Aziz Izzet Pasha. It was sent from Lausanne, and read—

"Will you kindly present our deep regret for our unavoidable absence from this function both to the distinguished guests and to those present? The High Commissioner has my sincere good wishes for the success of his mission. I am confident that with his well-known sagacity and capacity he will strengthen still more the friendly relations between the two countries."

"I am sure," the Chairman said, "that we all welcome the very charming telegram from the Egyptian Minister."

Proposing the health of "Our Guest," the Chairman called attention to Sir George Lloyd's wide experience of Eastern countries, and said that on his retirement from the Governorship of Bombay the Press recognised the success of his administration and constructive policy. That kind of policy was rare and of high value. Egypt had many problems and required the best efforts they could make and the best man they could send. Probably nobody they could select would be better than a capable English gentleman like Sir George Lloyd, who had no axe to grind and whose heart was in his job. There was no royal road to the solution of such problems as were to be found in Egypt, but time and patient endeavour would do very much to ease, if not to settle them. In a charming volume in his possession, "The Book of the Blues," he found that in 1899 and 1900 a certain Mr. G. A. Lloyd steered the Cambridge boat to victory, on the second occasion in "record" time. They hoped he would steer through the great difficulties of his new situation with equal success. Referring to Lady Lloyd, whom they were very glad to see present, Sir Godfrey continued: "It is a curious thing that I find in *United Empire*, the journal of the Institute, a paragraph relating that when Lady Lloyd was in Bombay she was on one occasion opening a new pier which was named after her. In the course of her speech, thanking the generous donor for the splendid gift, she likened him to the possessor of a magic ring at whose command wonders were produced in a night. I wonder if she has got a mystic ring of her own that may help her husband to perform marvellous things in the land of Egypt."

The Rt. Hon. Sir George Lloyd, replying to the toast, said:—"Mr. Chairman, my Lords, ladies, and gentlemen: I am sure that the crowds at Putney many years ago could not have given me a more cordial send-off than you are giving to my wife and myself, and we are both of us more than grateful for the kind references which you have made to us. My fellow members of this great Institute, I thank you very much for the honour you have done us both in asking us to be your guests this afternoon, on the eve of our departure for Egypt. I think among the many valuable functions which this Institute carries out, there is none more happy or more fortunate than the custom of entertaining any one of us who may be going out to, or who may be coming back from the fulfilment of some mission of importance to the Empire, whether it be colonial, diplomatic, or other, and I can assure you that this occasion and your good wishes are very deeply appreciated by both. I cannot, however, pretend to conceal from you that I should find it much easier to speak to you interestingly on the completion of my task rather than on its inception, and this is especially true in regard to the particular task with which I have been entrusted at the present time, for the situation in Egypt, in outward presentation at any rate, has been changing sufficiently rapidly lately to make it impossible for anyone at home to speak without a due measure of restraint, and you will, I am sure, understand my difficulty and not measure my appreciation of your hospitality by the length of my speech or by the prudence of my remarks.

"I have been much impressed during the time which has elapsed since my appointment to succeed that great soldier, Lord Allenby, with the evidence I have had of the widespread interest taken by the people of this country and indeed of the whole Empire, in respect of Egyptian affairs and our policy in that country. This evidence has been sufficiently striking to cause me to speculate a little as to its causes, especially when this interest is displayed at a time when domestic affairs are of so grave and absorbing an interest to us all.

"Two things perhaps—both, I think, very characteristic of our people—may account for it. One is that curious, instinctive, and selective capacity which exists in our people—the product no doubt of long and ingrained training in political affairs—for the quick recognition of problems affecting the safety and welfare of the Empire. It is at once recognised that the Suez Canal is the very spinal cord of many and most important connections between the head of the Empire and some of its most important parts, that on its security and its free and equal operation to all nations depend not only our maritime connections, but the work and wages and markets of every man and woman in the islands—that the Suez Canal strategically and commercially is almost as vital as are the Dover Straits, and that, therefore, all problems affecting the security of the Canal are not only Australasian, Indian, or African problems, but actually English domestic problems, as intimately concerned with their daily welfare as a Free Trade or tariff problem in this country itself. Another cause of this interest lies perhaps in the memory of the past and of that group of Englishmen who worked for Egypt in the last half century and who made England's

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name honoured in Northern Africa; great soldiers, for instance, who freed the peoples of the Sudan from the terrors of Mahdist oppression and wrong, great engineers like Sir William Garstin, whose instructed and patient labours have brought wealth and prosperity to all the Nile valley, and above all of that one great figure who towers above all others in the making of modern Egypt—Lord Cromer. In all the long pageant of Egypt's story and amongst all the men of renown who through the centuries have played their part upon that stage of drama and romance, Lord Cromer's portrayal of an Englishman's work abroad for another nation stands out monumentally. His supreme achievement was in securing the good of Egypt through England and in placing the welfare of Egypt and her peoples before all other considerations. As the foe of all tyranny, as the friend of a liberty prudently advanced in due conformity with the progress of the country and as the patient counsellor in all perplexities, he recognised always—in the words of President Cleveland—that he was "dealing with a condition, not with a theory"—words which are too often forgotten by slipshod and shallow idealists in the world of to-day. To-day for England his task of administration has given place in the main to that of diplomacy, but none the less his great qualities of sympathy with Egypt's aspirations and his solicitude for all that made for her development still serve as an example to inform the minds and guide the actions of Englishmen like myself who are going out to that country.

"The logical results of half a century's work in Egypt are being tried out on the anvil of Egyptian experience to-day, and their issue must have great importance not only in Egypt, but far beyond it. In this connection I cannot help referring to the news this morning regarding the resignation of that great soldier and administrator, the Maréchal Lyautey, to whose superlative achievements in Moroccan administration I, like every Englishman familiar with his work, would desire to pay our tribute of honour and admiration. No one who has any knowledge of the difficulty of the task he set out to achieve or who has followed closely the work he has done can doubt that he is one of the greatest administrators that has figured on the African or Oriental stage for many decades, and one of whom France is justly proud.

"In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, let me only add this, that whilst I fully recognise the difficulty of the task before me, I believe that the due reconciliation of the vital interests of this country in Egypt with the natural and legitimate aspiration of the people in Egypt themselves can be brought about most surely by making Egypt feel that England is her best friend and stoutest and wisest counsellor. If that, in a phrase, were a policy, that is my policy. At the end of that road indicated by mutual service and good will—at the end of that road only, as I think—lies the goal for the proper and right aspirations of both Egypt and her greatest friend, the British Empire."

The Rt. Hon. Sir Hamar Greenwood, Bart., M.P., proposing the health of the Chairman, said that as one who had recently come back from Egypt, he could not but personally wish the High Commissioner and Lady Lloyd success in that country. He had found Egypt one of the quietest countries he had ever visited—certainly one of the most prosperous. He hoped and believed that under Sir George Lloyd's administration Egypt's alliance with England and her continued progress and prosperity would be assured. He had great pleasure in proposing the health of the Chairman, not because he or Sir George Lloyd were in the "Book of the Blues," but because both were in the wider and more essential book of the Empire—the book of red, white, and blue.

The Chairman acknowledged the toast and the proceedings then terminated.

A violent earthquake, accompanied by continuous rumbling, is reported from Mount Alagos, 13,454 ft., in the Kars region of Armenia. A number of enormous boulders have fallen into the valley. Nomads living in the mountain caves are fleeing in panic.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Liverpool Conference.

The Liverpool Conference ended, to all appearances, in the complete discomfiture of the Communists. Every time that the revolutionaries raised their heads they were promptly quelled by some Parliamentarian; in fact, on no occasion did the "gradualists" (as the evolutionaries are now called) fail to get their way. The notorious Mr. Pollitt, the Communist, the kidnapping of whom a few months ago caused such a sensation, could make no headway at all; for Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, on the other hand, it was roses, roses all the way. It would seem to have been made patent to everybody that the Labour Party is a constitutional party, so patent, indeed, that certain anti-Socialists have accused the Labour members of creating a vast stage plot to hoodwink the bourgeoisie upon whose votes they depend. However that may be, certain it is that in the country generally there is a decrease in the perturbation which has since the Scarborough Conference, when more violent expressions of antipathy to the present industrial system of this country were indulged in, been so profoundly exercising the minds of ordinary citizens. It is now felt that the British working-man is, after all, not so insane a person, and the renewed ascendancy of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald as head of the Labour Party is explained as illustrating this fact. Satisfaction with the strong line taken by various Trade Union leaders, particularly by the miners' leaders, towards the Extremists, has been immense; and the view is now fashionable that all possible avenues should be explored with a view to persuading the Socialist Parliamentarians that Communism should be kept, not only out of their own party, but out of Great Britain as a whole. And yet—there are still many people who regard the affairs of this island as once more in the melting-pot. Such observers are by no means convinced that the Liverpool Conference represented the real strength of Communism in this country; some of them, indeed, are fain to point out that really "evolutionary" is as bad as "revolutionary," for both aim equally, though by different methods, at the substitution of the present industrial system by another. To these, no number of anti-Communist Labour Conferences or professions of peaceful intention would make the slightest difference: they feel that battle is in the air, and they believe profoundly in the virtue of throwing down the gauntlet and getting in the first blow. What is more, they endeavour to substantiate their case by pointing to a mass of evidence which would seem to show that the youth of the working classes in this country is being educated and brought up with bitterness in its heart. The line of argument which is adopted seemingly is that the time to prevent the poisonous fruit from maturing is the present.

The O.M.S.

To this last category of citizen the letter written by the Home Secretary in blessing of the Organisation for the Maintenance of Supplies (the O.M.S.) and published last week in all the newspapers caused the utmost gratification. It had already been stated that all classes had hastened to join the Organisation, and the knowledge that it now has, not only the sanction but the encouragement of a prominent member of the Government, has afforded to its supporters a pleasure which the frank disapproval, by both the Parliamentarians and the Communists, on the part of the Liverpool Conference, has done little to diminish. Whether this difference in attitude towards the O.M.S. indicates a mental gulf between the Labour Party and the parties who perhaps reasonably may be supposed to have provided the majority of the O.M.S., or whether it would argue merely a difference in the basic grounds of judgment, does not yet appear. It would seem, however, that this diametrical opposition of views would hardly tend to make for unity of feeling in the event of emergency measures taken in time of a general strike. Possibly, it is with some such consideration in mind that various com-

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mentators, albeit practically convinced of Sir William Joynson-Hicks' accuracy in describing enrolling oneself in the ranks of the O.M.S. as "a patriotic act," are striving to look further than the immediate present, and, instead of implicitly apportioning blame before the crisis arises, to prevent the occurrence of such a crisis. This attitude—quite different, by the way, from that of the Labour Press, which at once has stigmatised the O.M.S. as a Fascist organisation, or of the Liberal Press, which believes it to be "a mischievous proposal" and describes the Home Secretary's letter in support of it as "almost incredible"—seems to be gaining currency in many unexpected quarters. Whether this attitude has been moulded in the light of the Labour Party's opposition, or of the Liberal's criticism of Sir William Joynson-Hicks' action as having caused the Communist Party to gain from Whitehall almost as much as it has lost at Liverpool, or of independent inquiry into the qualifications of members of the O.M.S. and of similar associations, it is idle, in the absence of definite information, to speculate. But the defeat of "the Reds" at Liverpool has apparently emboldened many sympathisers to review the O.M.S., and the result is that, although there may not be an abundance of critics to support the Liberal demand that the Home Secretary's blessing of the O.M.S. be withdrawn (on the ground that State measures taken by a Conservative Government are compromised already), there exists now a wider tendency to "hasten slowly," in order that the larger cause of peace may not be jeopardised. The varying receptions of the O.M.S. may, indeed, have afforded them an object lesson. Yet it is no sense of reflection that the Home Secretaryship is the grave of many a politician's reputation, but rather with the natural and national desire to substitute rational for irrational thinking, or, rather, once more to use reason rather than instinct, that the more level heads of the country, following upon the wisdom creditably displayed at Liverpool, are attempting to assert themselves.

The Coal Industry.

From the tantalising obscurity surrounding the present and the future of the British coal industry three facts last week emerged. First, for one month the subsidy promised by the Government in order to keep the industry going has cost the taxpayer over one million and a half pounds; secondly, that the Powell Duffryn collieries in South Wales, always regarded as one of the best-equipped companies in the kingdom, have closed down in four of their pits; and lastly—one reserves the least bad for the end—the Coal Commission is due to begin its public meetings next week. The Commission has almost finished its preliminary survey, which of course was essential to inquirers who previously knew nothing of the coal-mining industry, but which seems to an anxious public to have been all too long. For public opinion appears to have the gravest doubts about the future of the coal industry; there are, indeed, pessimists who declare that the prosperity of the industry is now wholly a thing of the past. According to their view, anyone, even in the boom years when advantage was taken of the anthracite strike in America and of the occupation of the Ruhr, could have foretold that Britain's overseas markets had disappeared. Not only that, but that temporary boom was, in their consideration, positively bad for the industry, for it both led the inventive German to develop the lignite industry and to general depression in the British coal industry as a reaction from the prosperity of 1923. Such observers, whether they attribute the decline in the industry to the increased use of oil and of water-power or to the unsettlement in various portions of the world and the inevitable decrease in industrial production, seem, moreover, to be convinced that the shrinkage in our coal trade is permanent. They deplore, therefore, the fact that new men are being attracted to the mining industry, and, if they are very financially minded, often add as aggravating factors to the present *impasse*, the lowering of the German miner's standard of living or the currency policy of the British Government. How much truth there is in this hopeless view of the situation it is precisely the business of the Coal Commission to determine. If there is any considerable element of truth, the Commission may well be the instrument of one of the most striking revolutions in the recent economic history of this country—the change from mining to some other occupation. It may be found, on the other hand, that the main cause of the trials in the industry is financial or political, and that with the stablisation of the exchanges and the improvement of international relations, a sufficient recovery is fairly to be entertained. But until the Commission has issued its report there will continue to be much misgiving and perplexity on the part of the outsider. Unfortunately, it cannot be said that every facility in investigation has been afforded the Commission.

The Bank Rate.

The Stock Exchange has been having a gay time recently, for on top of the rubber boom came the announcement last week of a reduction of the Bank Rate from 4½ to 4 per cent. This, together with the encouraging result of the Liverpool Conference, had the effect of making stock markets very buoyant. The reduction seems to have caught the majoriy of financiers by surprise, for not only is the autumn season generally reckoned as unpropitious for changes, but the fact had just been published that the first half of the current financial year had ended with a disconcertingly large Budget deficit. However, the matter is no fit one for discussion by a mere layman, who does not even take sides in the furious controversy that has arisen over Britain's return to the Gold Standard. Yet it does appear that the worst fears of the opponents of the Government's policy—fears relating to extensive gold withdrawals—have as yet been unrealised, albeit the true key to the situation is to be found in the effect of present economic conditions upon the Bank Rate rather than *vice versa*.

The Film Industry.

For many months now it has been held by the more knowledgeable men in the kinematographic industry that only a policy of Protection can save the country from being snowed under by the invasion of American films. One large company here at least has consistently advocated the legal compulsion to make a film programme 50 per cent. British; and last week the Government of Victoria insisted that in every programme shown in the picture palaces of that particular region there should be a thousand feet of British film. The last step is regarded as a convincing indication of the willingness of the Colonies to help the Mother Country—that, indeed, was already proved by the decision of the Commonwealth

(Continued on page 438.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY

October 8, 1925 (New Style).
September 25, 1925 (Old Style).
Rabia I, 20, 1344 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Tishri 20, 5686, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Gaekwar of Baroda left London last Thursday for Paris.

The Earl of Altamont will leave England to-morrow for India.

Viscount Chelmsford will return from the Near East in about a week's time.

The Indian Empire Club will hold a dance on October 24 at the Hyde Park Hotel.

Princess Ileana of Roumania left 50, Grosvenor Street last Friday for Heathfield, near Ascot.

Dr. Ugo P. Mifsud, Head of the Ministry of Malta, has arrived at the Carlton Hotel.

The Afghan Minister left London last Thursday evening for Berlin. He will return at the end of this week.

Viscount Molyneaux is a passenger to India in the Orient R.M.S. Osterley, which left Tilbury last Saturday for the East.

M. N. Mishu is relinquishing his post as Secretary to the Roumanian Legation in London and is shortly leaving for the Continent.

Veded Bey, the newly-appointed Secretary at the Turkish Embassy, arrived in London on September 30 from Angora.

Sir James Aird and Sir Thomas and Lady Smith were among the passengers in the P. and O. s.s. Ranchi which left London last Friday for Bombay.

The Maharaja of Patiala left London at the end of last week on a visit to the Duke of Sutherland at Dunrobin Castle, Golspie, Sutherland.

Sir George Lloyd, the newly-appointed High Commissioner for Egypt, accompanied by Lady Lloyd, will leave London *en route* for Cairo on October 11.

Prince Antoine Bibesco, Roumanian Minister to the United States, left London last Saturday for Paris, spending a few days there before returning to Washington.

Sir Geoffrey de Montmorency, who has been ill in London, has now recovered, and left last week for India to resume his duties as Private Secretary to Lord Reading.

Lady McRobert and her son, Sir Alasdair Workman McRobert, sailed from Liverpool last Saturday in the Cedric for New York on the first stage of their journey round the world.

Among the guests entertained at luncheon by Major-General Sir Courtenay Manifold at the Ritz Hotel on September 30 were the Yuvaraja of Mysore and Major-General Sir Herbert and Lady Uniacke.

Sir Henry Lloyd, Sir Dawson Miller, and Sir Frederick and Lady Rowlatt were among the passengers by the P. and O. boat express which left Victoria last Thursday to connect at Marseilles with the Naldera.

The eighth anniversary of King Fuad's accession to the throne of Egypt will be celebrated to-morrow (October 9). King Fuad succeeded his brother Hussein as Sultan in 1917, and became King of Egypt on March 16, 1922. In celebration of the accession, Sesostris Sidarouss Bey, the Egyptian Chargé d'Affaires, will hold a reception at Claridge's Hotel to-morrow (Friday) from 4 to 6.30 p.m.

Where to stay in the East

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Mr. R. C. Vernon, C.B., of the Colonial Office, has been appointed to the post of Financial Adviser to the Government of Iraq, a position which has been vacant for some time, and he left England on September 30.

Mr. S. R. Das, Advocate-General of Bengal, accompanied by Mrs. Das, left London last Thursday to join the Indian mail steamer at Marseilles, to take up his new appointment at Delhi as Law Member of the Government of India.

A wreath was laid at the Cenotaph in Whitehall last Thursday on behalf of the Begum of Bhopal, her Highness being present at the ceremony and assisting in placing it. A wreath was also laid by her son, Prince Hamidullah, and another on behalf of the Begum's staff.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

(Continued from page 436.)

Government of Australia to exempt all British films from import duty. One will perhaps be permitted to doubt, however, whether this is quite the most infallible solution to the admittedly sorry plight of the British film industry. For Great Britain is hardly concerned to exclude American films as such: it is concerned to exclude bad American films, of which there is a distressingly increasing number. That is to say, British films are to be encouraged, not because they are British, but only when they are good—any other plan is, it would seem, bound to fail. One knows that competition with American films is generally extremely unfair, but the resolving of that injustice would scarcely appear to lie in the providing of a market for British films, however bad they may be. Surely the way in which to avoid the grosser evils of the American films is to insist, first of all, upon the quality, not the quantity of British films?

A New Concert Hall.

Concert Halls do not abound in the West End; even what there were were not always very comfortable. But the transformation from the old Steinway Hall in Wigmore Street to the new Grotrian Steinweg Hall is, nomination apart, a most happy change, for in it acoustics have not been sacrificed to added comfort. It was opened last week, and one of the first concerts to be given in it was a pianoforte recital by Mr. Walter Gieseking. This pianist is a genuine artist and philosopher, very much at one, moreover, with his mellow-toned Grotrian Steinweg pianoforte. For him there is none of the challenging technique, the grand attack of the virtuoso; rather does he delight in the twilight and in the half-lights of his instrument. His is an admirable reticence, yet it does not wholly solve his problems. It is a kind of obscurantism that he indulges, and while that is very pleasing in the filmy guesses at truth which Debussy in his Preludes made, it is inapt for the clear intellectual penetration of Busoni. Yet why cavil at an artist because he is incomplete: has Hardy the ability to write a humorous story, or Yeats an epic?

Art Galleries.

The autumn art season has begun, and most of the galleries are busy with collective or one-man shows. Some have made a good start. The Leicester Galleries, for example, are holding simultaneous exhibitions of "portrait interiors" by Sir John Lavery and of Mr. Neville Lewis's paintings of South Africa—the refined contrasting notably with the rude. Sir John's work must be sufficiently well known to readers of this journal (only one of his Moroccan sketches, a charming "Palace in Fez," is included in this collection), and a certain number of his works now being hung have been shown before. But there are much excitement and entertainment to be obtained from these brilliant representations, particularly from the home of the Asquiths at Sutton Courtney. Mr. Lewis, though much younger than Sir John (he was at the Slade School just before the War), is, if anything, even more stimulating. His types of men and girls of Natal, Zululand, Basutoland, Pondoland, and so on, are done with extraordinary command of and insight into facial expression: the beautiful head, for instance, of "A Native Housemaid" has been painted by a psychological student as well as by an artist. Nor is it only in his representations of negroes that Mr. Lewis compels admiration, for his portrait of "A Cape Malay Hajji" contains a perfect suggestion of this remote Moslem's stern faith. Emphatically this is a show to visit.

Another very interesting exhibition is to be found at the St. George's Gallery, Hanover Square, where a collection of contemporary English water-colours has been made. Side by side with renowned names like Bone, Walcot, McBey, Charles Holmes, and so on, the less steady generation, David Jones, Walter Taylor, Colin Sealy, and others, are given a very good and instructive chance. This show alone is adequate disproof of the assertion that English water-colour is dead. Recorder.

BOOK REVIEWS.

A TOURIST'S TRAVELS IN THE NEAR EAST.

"WANDERINGS IN THE BALKANS." By Dudley Heathcote. (London: Hutchinson, 21s.)

An observant tourist with a ready pen may be justified in jotting down his impressions in the form of short articles for the daily Press, or may even read up the politics of the country he is in and spread himself without much harm in an article in one of the monthlies. But he should think twice before he puts these ephemeral notes into the form of a singularly handsome volume adorned with fine photographs. The reader is apt to feel that he is not getting what he hoped for. The author is apparently even now under the impression that Hungary, Czecho-Slovakia and Roumania are in the Balkans He proves that the Roumanians are Latins from the fact that they still wear sandals exactly like those worn, not by the Romans, but by the Dacians whom the Romans under Trajan conquered. He is very fond of the Dacians, whom he finds once more in Dalmatia of all places, which is "the very soil where Dacian mothers bore those herculean giants who fought as gladiators in the arenas of Rome." His first four paragraphs on Bulgaria inform us that Bulgaria is (the italics are our own, for the words italicised are typical) "*in fact* the only country that is paying us reparations." Further we are told of "the Palace" at Sofia where "King Boris and his Cabinet are trying to find a solution of the Macedonian difficulty." As a matter of "fact" Bulgarian Cabinet meetings are not held in the Palace. We are reminded of the last Derby where the Cockneys dubbed Ptolemy II. "Tomly" when we read, not once only but twice in the text and also in the index of the town of "Roustouk." These indications will perhaps be enough to show the kind of fare we are offered, with many annoying French words and tags introduced without rhyme or reason and many repetitions of "certain it is" applied to statements often of doubtful accuracy. Still, the book is a very handsome one, and its pictures are very good indeed. C. S.-W.

AN INDIAN'S PHILOSOPHY.

"MY BROTHER'S FACE." By Dhan Gopal Mukerji. (London: Thornton Butterworth, Ltd.)

The publishers say that "this narrative is, first and foremost, a study of India, and reveals the real soul of the country in all its dignity and ancient serenity. . . . There is, throughout the book, a beauty so urgent, and so alive to atmosphere, as to make it a notable achievement."

This may be so, to those who understand (or profess to understand) Indian metaphysics: most of whom, one suspects, are like Mr. Pott's young man who used the "Encyclopædia Britannica" for his article on Chinese metaphysics, by the process of reading for China under the letter C, and for metaphysics under the letter M, and combining his information. To a Philistine like the present reviewer, the later chapter in the book, that treats of Ghond the Hunter, is readable, at any rate in parts: of the rest, he is inclined to echo the remark of the Dragoon in "Patience"—"Why, it seems to me to be nonsense": and to expect, from the initiated, the reply, "Nonsense perhaps; but oh! what precious nonsense."

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Islam and Its Need." By Dr. W. Norman Leah. With Foreword by Rev. S. M. Zwemer. (London: Marshall Brothers. 6d.)

"Jahangir's India." By Francisco Pelsaert. Translated from the Dutch by W. H. Moreland, C.S.I., C.I.E., and P. Geyl, Litt. D. (Cambridge: Heffer and Sons, Ltd., 8s. 6d. net.)

"Sea Power in Ancient History." By Arthur MacCartney Shepard. Illustrated. (London: William Heinemann. 15s. net.)

"Pagan and Christian Rule." By Dom Hugh G. Bevenot, O.S.B., B.A. With an Introduction by Hilaire Belloc. (London: Longmans, Green and Co. 5s. net.)

"Through Khiva to Golden Samarkand." The Remarkable Story of a Woman's Adventurous Journey alone through the Deserts of Central Asia to the Heart of Turkestan. With 55 Illustrations and a Map. By Ella R. Christie, F.R.G.S. (London: Seeley, Service and Co., Ltd. 21s. net.)

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Indian Affairs.

CURRENT TOPICS.

"Burma for the Burmese."

The Government of Burma has obtained the assent of the local Legislative Council to two Bills, one of which authorises an ingress tax on every non-Burman arriving in that country by sea, while the other gives power to expel from Burma criminals of any nationality other than Burmese, after conviction for certain specified offences. The debates on these two Bills were characterised by considerable racial feeling: the Indian members of the Council maintaining that they were directed against Indians, and the Burmese members making little secret of their agreement in this opinion. The Indian members have petitioned the Viceroy to disallow the Bills, in particular the second, and the vernacular and Anglo-vernacular press in India has taken up the matter strongly: their main argument being that, so long as Burma remains a Province of the Indian Empire, she has no right to place obstacles in the way of the entry into, or continued residence in, Burma of persons hailing from other Provinces of India. They argue that it is unthinkable that Madras, for instance, should raise a barrier against immigration or residence by Bengalis: and declare that, if these Bills are allowed to become law, their existence will amount to an admission that Burma is entitled to treat herself as a separate entity and to regard her future as definately set apart from that of the rest of India.

The official defence is stated to be that, as there are, including Europeans, a hundred nationalities in Burma, the argument that the Bills are solely directed against Indians is absurd. This defence, however, reminds one of the action of some of the Southern States of America who, after the Civil War, passed a law that no one, whose grandfather had been ineligible to vote at elections, could himself be eligible to do so. This legislation was challenged as unconstitutional, since its effect was to disfranchise all the freed slaves and was obviously passed with that object alone; but the challenge was successfully met by the argument that the law contained no mention of negroes, but impartially disqualified all persons, without reference to race or nationality, whose grandfathers had not been eligible to own a vote.

It must be admitted that the Indians have the better of of the argument, though the facts are on the side of the Burmans. Racial and linguistic divisions in India are wide enough; but the distinctions, even between the Aryan North and the Dravidian South, are insignificant compared with that between Burma and India. Not only in race, religion and language, but in habit, custom and outlook, Burma is a nation apart: and, if it is necessary to admit that this legislation is, as its Indian opponents assert, the thin end of the wedge for "Burma for the Burmese," even by doing so one is but admitting that it is a move in the direction of what practically every Burman, and a large majority of her non-Burman well-wishers, regard as the eventual solution of the problem of Burma—not only desirable but inevitable.

Civil Service Examinations.

The Civil Service Commissioners announce the names of those candidates who obtained the first twenty places in the recent examination for the Indian Civil Service. The number of candidates who offered themselves for the Indian Civil Service alone was 64—47 of whom were Indians. Candidates for more than one service, one of which was the Indian Civil Service, were: Home, Indian, Colonial 29: Home, Indian 12: Indian, Colonial 14. There were thus, in all, 119 candidates who declared for India either as first, second or third choice. The Home and Colonial Services attracted 70 candiates who did not include India among their choices: for the former, it is interesting to observe that 31 were women, two of whom were successful. Examinations for the Foreign Office and Consular Services were held concurrently with those for the Civil Services, and attracted 43 candidates, some of whom also gave other choices, among which was the Indian Civil Service. Of the candidates mentioned as obtaining the first twenty places for the Indian Civil Service, twelve—to judge by the names—are Europeans and eight are Indians; but, of the twelve Europeans, one also passed for the Home, Colonial and Consular Services: three for the Home and Colonial: one for the Colonial and Consular: one for the Home: and two for the Colonial: leaving only four who passed for the Indian Civil Service alone. It will be interesting to see how the others exercise their choice.

Sir William Schlich.

By the death of Sir William Schlich, there passes the man who was the real parent of Indian forestry. Though he left India so long ago as 1885, his work has lived and prospered amazingly: so that, looking back on the interval of forty years, he himself must have been astonished at the great edifice that has been reared on the foundation that he so well and truly laid. The Indian forests now form a great and rich asset of the Government of India: and, if the present work of conservation and development is allowed to continue unchecked, they will, before many years have passed, reach an importance many times greater than they furnish at present. Among the roll of distinguished forest officers who have brought about this result, and whose labours India will gratefully acknowledge in future, no name will deserve more honour than that of Sir William Schlich.

Sir Frederick Whyte.

In our issue of September 17 we cast doubt, in consequence of what appeared to be unimpeachable evidence, on the accuracy of the cabled statement that Sir Frederick Whyte had been asked by the Government of India, as her agent, to undertake an investigation into the relations between Central and Provincial Government in various parts of the world.

The current mail, however, brings a report of the actual words of the Home Member of the Government of India (Sir Alexander Muddiman) in a speech made in the Legislative Assembly. "The Government of India have recently availed themselves of the services of Sir Frederick Whyte, who has accepted our invitation to investigate and report to us on the relations between the Central and Local Governments in other parts of the world, with special reference to the relations that obtain between the Central and Provincial Governments in India. The evidence he will collect may be useful, and will be placed before the Royal Commission whenever it is appointed."

This is precise enough: and one can only suppose that, though the invitation was definitely given and accepted, the nature of Sir Frederick Whyte's inquiries will be as suggested in our previous note; that is, that he has consented to undertake, in such spare time as may present itself during his return journey to England by the route that he had already mapped out for himself—Australia, the Far East, and North America—an unofficial investigation, the results of which he will place at the disposal of the Government of India for use in the event of the latter considering them (as the Home Member said they "may be") likely to be of assistance to the Royal Commission of 1929—or earlier date.

The New Maharaja of Kashmir.

"An Indian Correspondent" has furnished certain English newspapers with a diatribe against Maharaja Sir Hari Singh; whose accession he declares to be regarded by Hindus as illegal and invalid, in view of the adoption by the late Maharaja, of a "spiritual heir"—between whom and a temporal heir Hindu law is said to recognise no distinction. The action of the Government of India, in confirming Sir Hari Singh's succession, is therefore described, in accordance with recently invariable precedent, as "an interference with religion and a gross breach of Queen Victoria's solemn promise" in the proclamation of 1858. Sir Hari Singh is also declared to be responsible for the failure to introduce certain promised

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reforms in the State, which are enumerated as the selection of State subjects for training in Indian and British institutions: the inauguration of new industries for the benefit of the "intelligentsia": the establishment of a High Court of Judicature for Kashmir: and the enhancement of the salaries of "low-paid staffs, clerical and menial, in the Government offices." This "defiance of the people of Kashmir" (over 70 per cent. of whom are, incidentally, Mohammedans, to whom the niceties of Hindu law are matters of no moment) has the support of the Government of India who have been "bought" by a series of bribes existing, of course, only in the imagination of the correspondent—the new Maharaja is said to have undertaken to raise the embargo against the acquisition of landed property by Europeans ("to repeal the law which prevents land-grabbing by Europeans in Kashmir"), to have promised "concessions for working the Kashmir oil-fields to influential persons," and to be intending to build a railway from Rawal Pindi to Srinagar —the implication, in the latter charge, being, no doubt, that this will facilitate the "land-grabbing" campaign: and, most heinous of all, to have spent, during the past four years, "twenty per cent. of the revenues of his State in entertaining European guests": oblivious of the fact that, if anyone had done anything of the sort, it could only have been the man in command of the revenues of the State—i.e., the late Maharaja.

The "Correspondent" is, one may guess, almost certainly a lawyer, whose hopes of a job in the "High Court of Judicature" have been dashed: whose sons and nephews have been disappointed in the matter of State scholarships and appointments in the management of State industries: and whose poor relations, hangers-on, and dependents have failed to obtain increases of pay in posts in the "low-paid clerical and menial staffs" of the State offices. But, as things go in India at present, if he has been an administrative failure, he seems to have all the qualifications for a successful politician.

The Bombay Mill Strike

It is reported from Bombay that the previously orderly self-repatriation of the strikers to their villages has been disturbed by an attempt, on the part of a large crowd of mill hands, to rush the station platform and to enter trains without paying for tickets. They threw stones, not only at the railway officials who attempted to withstand them, but also at passing trains: and the police had to be called in to restore order. Before this was done, a number of lamps and windows had been broken, and several railway employees had been severely handled. The Bombay message reporting the facts says that this occurrence shows that the strikers are "getting restive"; but such a deduction is not one that should necessarily be drawn from it. It was stated, in a recent issue, that $2\frac{3}{4}$ million passengers had been detected, in one year, to be travelling without tickets: the total number who actually did so being probably considerably greater. The Indian passenger is a person of almost limitless patience: he ordinarily arrives at the station several hours before the train, by which he proposes to travel, is due to start: and, if there is no room in that particular train, he contentedly camps out in the large enclosure that, in India, represents the third class waiting room and waits for the next. At times of pressure, such as on the occasion of an important festival at some particular centre, extra trains have to be run to cope with the traffic—even luggage trains being sometimes pressed into the service: and, on such occasions, it is no uncommon sight to see a train arrive at a station the platform of which is packed from end to end with intending travellers, while the accommodation on board it is already crowded to suffocation. A pitched battle between the "ins" and the "outs" then ensues: active and enterprising assailants clamber on to the footboards of the carriages and succeed, perhaps, in inserting inside the window an arm or a leg, with which they cling desperately to any object, animate or inanimate, round which they have managed to twine it: while the front ranks of the defenders man the breaches and maintain a desperate defence against the invaders. In time, the turmoil sorts itself out, and the train proceeds, for the same drama to be re-enacted at the next stopping place. But even the patience of Indian third class passengers has its limits: and when, as was doubtless the case at Bombay, they find themselves in strong force, and train after train has gone away without them, they are apt to try a mass attack when a favourable opportunity presents itself: and, on such an occasion, they are quite likely to neglect such meticulous preliminaries as the buying of tickets. When the Akali trouble was at its height in the Punjab, large mobs of excited Sikhs not infrequently rushed the trains and took possession of them en bloc: defying the small staff of railway employees to prevent them from doing so or to eject them after they had done so. In such circumstances, the members of the mob who had decided to rush a train would naturally ask, why trouble to take a ticket? Their proceedings were illegal, any way, and would be properly dealt with, under the bye-laws, by "removal from the station precincts by any servant of the Company": the absence of a ticket could not increase the penalty and, as the penalty would obviously be unenforceable in view of the disparity in numbers, it was better to take the chance of getting their ride free No doubt the Bombay strikers have arrived at the same conclusion: which does not argue the likelihood of their becoming riotous quâ strikers, but only quâ passengers wanting to get home as soon as possible.

The Akalis' train-rushing exploits were carried out almost exclusively at small wayside stations, where opposition could not be effective; it is, of course, a different proposition at a large terminus like Bombay, where the first line of defence—the railway employees—is strong and well disciplined, and where the police are within call to reinforce the first line in case of necessity. It may be expected, therefore, that, the initial surprise attempt having failed, it is unlikely to be repeated.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, September 17.

The Reforms Debates.

The defeat of Government in the Legislative Assembly on the subject of the Reforms has been boomed by *Forward* and the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* as being the "voice of India," but the decision of the Council of State has given a clear indication of the extent to which the decision of the Lower House was representative. An amendment almost identical with that of Pandit Motilal Nehru was lost by a majority of 28 votes to 7. If the decision of the Legislative Assembly could be called convincing, the defeat the Swaraj-Independent caucus has now sustained is even more so. Both the extremist organs are loud in their abusive denunciation of the Council of State and it is surprising that, in the rejoicing which followed the Pandit's victory, the possibility of the Bill being thrown out was lost sight of. Both papers now agree that the expected has happened.

A significant feature of the discussions is indicative of the change which is taking place in Indian public opinion. Motilal Nehru's amendment conceded one point, in that he did not demand a Government entirely cut off from the British Constitution; the advance he called for was along British lines, and in this respect it finds a point in common with the proposals made by Mrs. Besant to which so many Indians put their hands. The Council of State, with a greater sense of responsibility, know that India is not prepared for the great stride the Pandit advocates, and its success in the Assembly may be put down in the main to the ideal of all Indians, the attainment of self-government. Taking this ideal as a definition of the term "Swaraj," the movement will never die; but a time will come when India will realise that the quickest road is not always the most sensational, and will then regain the self-respect which her extremist leaders have lost for her. The threats, which the Swaraj party are so fond of uttering, only serve to make India look foolish in the eyes of the world and detract from the weight of any opinion which they accompany.

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Miscellaneous Matters.

Another week of political quiet has passed in Bengal; Sen Gupta is on a tour and is reported to be in Dacca, where nothing of particular interest has occurred, although an effort was made to revive a flagging interest by taking the Swarajist leader from the railway station in procession. It is becoming increasingly obvious that Calcutta has little time and no respect, such as was shown to the late Mr. Das, for the new leader.

There is some talk of organising candidates for the Council of State elections which are to take place shortly, but there is little definite news of the tactics which it is proposed should be adopted. The Bihar Provincial Congress Committee have turned down a proposal that the Congress constitution should be revised so as to allow of its running candidates for the various Indian Legislatures, and this will probably be revived before the All-India Congress Committee which will meet at Patna next week with Mr. Gandhi in the Chair.

The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, ably assisted by the *Bengalee*, is engaged in asking questions: and these relate to the Swaraj funds. An appeal made by Mr. Das in the latter part of last year resulted in the collection of a sum of Rs. 2,25,003 7 as. 11 pies, according to the acknowledgments which appeared in the columns of *Forward*. The members of the Finance Committee, in a statement they have made, give the figure as a little more than Rs. 2,17,000,—a discrepancy of about Rs. 8,000. Of the total sum, Rs. 1,25,000 was an investment in the plant of *Forward*, the income presumably to be devoted to village work, but only Rs. 92,219 reached the Bank. It is explained that of this sum more than Rs. 10,000 was represented by dishonoured cheques, thus reducing the bank balance to Rs. 81,282 15 as. 3 pies. Rs. 25,000 was paid to Mr. Das for clearing past debts of the party and for current political expenses; but details of the expenditure under these heads is not forthcoming. A loan of Rs. 3,100 was made to the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee, and Rs. 2,000 was spent in village reconstruction work; but, here again, details are not given, although they are promised for January of next year. The villagers appear to have had a particularly thin time and the very pertinent questions which are being asked will not act as an incentive to liberal giving when another appeal is made. It may well be asked, if the Swaraj Party are incapable of safeguarding a comparatively small sum of public money, how can they be expected to be efficient custodians of a nation's interests?

The Age of Consent Bill.

Child marriage in India has been one of the outstanding differences between the civilizations of the East and of the West, and, when an attempt was made some thirty years ago to bring the marriageable age of girls under legislation, the outcry in Bengal was perhaps unprecedented. The orthodox section of the Hindu community were at loggerheads with their more liberally-minded brethren, who view the measure with a degree of approval : and large processions of barefooted Hindus wended their way to the temple of the goddess Kali where prayers were offered for giving good sense to the King. While the Legislative Council was sitting at Government House, it was surrounded by a multitude of people blowing conch shells and singing songs, to such an extent that the Legislators could not proceed and the police had to intervene. It is interesting to recall that this agiation saw the inception of the idea of boycotting British cloth, as a protest against what was looked upon as interference with the Hindu religion.

The present session of the Legislature has seen the introduction of a Bill to increase the age of consent of girls from 12 years to a minimum of 13 years and, although some opposition was met with, there was no panic. The question of religious interference did not arise, and the Bill was passed. The sign is a hopeful one and points to the fact that slowly but surely Indian conservatism is giving place to common sense. Further evidences are provided in the increase in the number of adherents to the creed of the Brahmo Samaj, which abolishes the purdah system and gives more freedom to women. Is it too much to hope that, within the next few years, a saner view will be taken of the political problems of India? The extremist element are constantly inventing new bogies of which "repression" is perhaps the chief. A well known Mohammedan, writing in the *Statesman* to-day, states that any relaxation of the responsibility of Government, by transferring their powers to the demand of the majority, would mean the betrayal of the Mohammedans. "We have had enough of Reforms," he says, "and do not wish to try any more the bitterest effects of a Mob-raj which, apparently, is the practical meaning of Swaraj to-day."

Markets.

A considerably firmer tone has been apparent during the last week in the Jute market with a further upward tendency at the close. A good business is reported also in Gunnies; but this market has not been as active and, though steady, has not shown as large an advance in rates as in the case of Jutes. Steadily rising prices are reported from the Mofussil, thus giving an indication of the probability of higher rates here. Rumours of the inaccuracy of the forecasts have been spread by the "Bears," but there appears to be little possibility of the final figures exceeding the forecast to any appreciable extent. The piece-goods market has been dull with little business passing. A general appreciation has taken place in the rates bid at the Tea sales here this week and, with the London market more cheerful and with the possibility of restriction in the near future, there is every indication of a further improvement. From the reports to hand, another decline in stocks is expected at the end of the month: and, whether or not restriction comes into force, the present heavy surplus of stocks has every chance of being cleared by the early part of next year.

The Share market opened better but, owing to the rise in raw jute without a corresponding increase in the manufactured article, an easier tendency developed at the close. The chief feature of interest was the decided improvement in Teas, in sympathy with the better outlook for the commodity, and most of the better shares were dealt in at higher rates. Rubbers also continued strong with little scrip offering; Cottons have been neglected, but there has been a certain amount of interest in Coal shares at about previous levels. Government securities and the miscellaneous group remained unchanged with slightly less inquiry. There has been no alteration in money rates, with abundant short money available at 1½ per cent.; Exchange has ruled firm, and Banks have sold heavily to the Government at 1s. 6 3-16d. to cover export bills.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COTTON INDUSTRY.

(By Our Bombay Correspondent.)

Bombay, September 18.

The strike duly began in several of the mills on Tuesday, when we at first received rather lurid reports of stone-throwing and incendiarism. But, though there is, no doubt, a good deal of pressure being put on those still working to join the strikers—which is signified in the usual manner by heaving stones through the windows of the mills which are carrying on—conditions have in no way got out of hand, and the total damage done in the fire was under £20.

There are many different views as to the probable length and extent of the strike; but many people consider that it is likely to be a long one: extended on the one hand by the labour leaders, who spring up from the ground on such an occasion, and on the other by the undisputed fact that to close the mills for a month or so would suit the owners very well.

There is as yet hardly any properly recognisable organisation of labour, owing to the fact that Indian labour is not educated up to the point of maintaining and subscribing to Trade Unions in its times of prosperity: and the so-called Unions merely spring up like mushrooms at the beginning of a strike, under the guidance of some pushing

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young lawyer who has no claims to a proper comprehension of the conditions and problems of labour. This is a state of affairs for which there can be no remedy except by a general improvement in the conditions of life among the lower classes. Speaking generally, the mill owners would welcome the existence of responsible representatives of the men: but they cannot, for obvious reasons, provide the men with a representative, because it is the whole essence of the thing that a Trade Union should be absolutely self-supporting. The result is, sooner or later, that Government has to step in and take up the case on behalf of inarticulate labour: and several strikes have been settled on those lines in the past. But this is by no means an ideal solution: and it all comes back once again to the fact that it will take a long time to build up among the labouring classes of India a degree of intelligence in any way comparable to that which has established the Trade Unions in Europe and America.

Excise.

Meanwhile at Simla Sir Purshottamdas Thakurdas chose his opportunity well, by bringing up his resolution for the suspension of the Excise Duties for the remainder of the current year, on the second day of the strike. With the exception of the Madras contingent, which seems to have retired without recording a vote either way, the non-official members, of all communities, returned a unanimous vote in favour of the suspension, and the resolution was carried by 57 votes to 32.

Sir Basil Blackett's speech, which is no doubt not reported very sympathetically in the Bombay Press, does not read very convincingly. His argument, that it would cause difficulty by throwing the Excise Department out of work, is not considered unanswerable in Bombay; nor is his taunt that, if the cotton mills ask for a subsidy in a proper way, the question will be considered. The last suggestion is a little unfair. The cotton mills consider themselves entirely independent and do, in fact, in anything like reasonable times, pay, in other ways, more than their fair share of the revenues of India: and it is difficult to see how the removal of the Excise, which it is believed is not imposed on such an industry anywhere else in the world, would constitute a subsidy.

It was stated in the Assembly that the Excise Duty represents 8½ per cent. in the whole cost of manufacture (excluding the raw cotton): and it is payable immediately on all production irrespective of the prospects of early realisation: and how far this operates as a handicap in face of an import duty of 11 per cent., charged on the surplus production of Japan at the time of importation, is a question which probably presents itself in a different light to Bombay and Simla.

These are, of course, merely the views of Bombay mill owners on an imperfectly reported speech: and, as Sir Basil Blackett has probably plenty of experience of the fact that the decisions of Treasury officials are not always popular even with other Government Departments, he is not likely to be seriously disturbed by the complaints of industry.

THE INDIAN TERRITORIAL FORCE.—2.

(By Our Simla Correspondent).

In my last letter I dealt with the early history of the Indian Territorial Force and with the verdict of the Committee which at the beginning of the present year examined its state of efficiency. According to their report the measure of success achieved by the Force so far has been very limited; for in respect of its existence as a second line to the Regular Army, they maintained that hardly a single unit was worth the money which has been expended upon it, while as regards its object of providing a means to enable patriotic Indians to learn how to defend their country they held that it had been almost a complete failure. After carefully investigating the causes of these unsatisfactory results, the Committee came to the conclusion that it was necessary to start again almost from the beginning, if this latter object was to be achieved. While recognising the secondary object of the Force as a second line, they declared their firm opinion that its main function was to spread a martial spirit among Indians and to lay the foundations of India's national army of the future. These are high ideals, and their realisation is by no means as easy as it may seem at first sight. Yet those who set up these ideals have outlined a definite road by which they may be attained. Basing their scheme primarily upon the idea that the spread of the military spirit and military ideas must come through the normal system of education, they laid it down as their view that the University Training Corps were the foundation upon which the future Indian national army must be built up. At present these Corps are still in their infancy. In some Universities they have been accepted with keenness and have already reached a creditable standard of efficiency; in others they have to struggle with the apathy of the students. But the experience gained in the more efficient Corps is enough to show what can be done with a little encouragement. The first essential is therefore to develop these Corps and to stimulate the interest of the University students in them; for their members will later go into the world to their various avocations, and will carry with them the knowledge of and enthusiasm for military ideas which they have learnt during their training in their ranks. This alone should go some distance towards spreading the seeds of a military spirit over wide circles of India's population which to-day have no interest in anything to do with the Army and no realisation of the citizen's duty to be prepared to defend his country in case of emergency. The seeds will be sown among them; whether or not they will fall on stony ground rests, of course, with the people themselves.

When, in due course, the University Training Corps are fully developed, the time will be ripe for a further extension of the Committee's programme through the special urban battalions of the Force: in which those members of the University Corps who are residing sufficiently near to their recruiting areas, and whose enthusiasm has not waned, will be able to carry on their military training, with the definite knowledge that, whereas at the Universities they had no liability for service, they are now liable for actual military service in time of crisis, not only for the internal defence of India, but also, in certain circumstances, for operations overseas. The Committee have proposed that such battalions shall be formed at once and shall, at the start, be open to all educated men; but they foresaw that, if these units were to be trained on the same system as is in force in the Territorial Army in England, they could be of but little military value in an emergency unless their members had had some previous training before joining them. There is a vast difference between the man who joins the Territorials in England and the young educated Indian who may at present wish to join the Indian Territorial Force. The former has been brought up in an atmosphere of strict discipline both at home and at school; he has very probably also had some form of military training in a School Cadet Corps. The Indian boy, on the other hand, has in most cases missed the advantages both of the disciplinary and the military training. As a result the Committee, while recommending the early formation of units of this kind in large centres, foresaw that it would be necessary for them eventually to be recruited solely from those boys who have had previous training in University Corps, as otherwise they will never be capable of performing the full service for which they are liable.

Nor do the Committee imagine that the changes which the system they advocate is ultimately intended to bring about can be accomplished all in an instant. They have declared definitely that the spread of the military spirit can only be accomplished by a series of stages which must be spread over a number of years and must start from the bottom with the education of the young idea. They show no desire to see the various processes hurried; for they have recommended that, while the development of the military spirit among educated Indians is in progress, the battalions of the Force which are at present recruited from the same classes as the Regular Army should continue to exist in order to fulfil its function as a

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second line. But they definitely look forward to a time when the educated Indian will be imbued with a new spirit which will fill him with a desire to fit himself to defend his country. What that time comes, if ever it does, the second line to the Indian Army will be recruited, not as at present from the classes of hereditary soldiers, but from these educated young men who have come to realise the duties and privileges of citizenship which at present make but little appeal to them. The moment will come when India will be judged capable of conducting its own civil affairs as part of the Empire without outside assistance. When that time comes she must also be prepared to undertake the responsibility for her own defence, which is the natural corollary to the grant of complete self-government. The Shea Committee have formulated a scheme by which such a state of military preparedness may be reached: and, if the Government accept the Committee's recommendations, it will rest with Indians themselves whether or not they are able to reach the goal which has been set before them.

INDIAN COMMERCIAL NOTES.

The monsoon is now drawing to a close and its value can be appraised. Considering the general apprehension of the Indian bazaars, which counted on a poor monsoon after four good ones, and the gloom of the meteorologists, who were struck by the abnormal and inauspicious conditions of early 1925, this year's rainfall in India has not been by any means bad. The early start, a week or ten days before the normal opening in the second week of June, did not bode well. Thereafter the South experienced too much rain and the North-West too little. Later, these defects were remedied. Then came an ominously long break in the middle of August, from which at one time recovery was problematical. That would have been a failure indeed. Fortunately the monsoon current revived on September 21, just as apprehension was giving place to despair; and the latest reports, although they indicate uneven distribution throughout India, and shortage in the Punjab and the Deccan (the despair of the meteorologist), are on the whole good.

We are now in a position to estimate the prospects of the coming export season. The jute crop is admittedly short, but not so short as the official prophets gloomily foretold. The Continent is badly caught, and is forcing up the price; but high prices will undoubtedly call out supplies in excess of the official estimate. Last spring's wheat crop was short. Local wheat prices are soaring beyond the world's market levels, and those in the know in India even prophesy imports to fill a gap, rather than exports from a known surplus. But the next spring sowings are assured, and this knowledge has a wonderfully relaxing effect on stocks and a steadying effect on prices. Oilseeds are fairly plentiful and cheap. The rice position is difficult and interesting. Last January's crop was good on the whole, but Indian prices are too high for the world's markets. In this case the blame seems to lie not so much with the monsoon or any shortage of local stocks as with the rupee. At 1s. 6 3-16d. business, which could have been put through with a profit at 1s. 4d., is impossible. However, one man's dope is meat to his fellow; and the British manufacturer scores where the East Indian merchant loses.

THE INDIAN MAIL.

The Coal Trade.

The mail brings an account of a paper, read at the first annual meeting of the Geological, Mining and Metallurgical Society of India by Rai Bahadur A. C. Banerji. He referred to the present difficulties of the coal trade, in which increase of production and decrease in demand played the chief part. It is to be noted that Sir Charles Innes, when introducing the bill in the Legislative Assembly for the establishment of a Coal Grading Board, said that, as compared with the pre-War period, the Indian output of coal had increased by 4½ million tons a year, while the sales had decreased by 2 million tons. Mr. Banerji said that the normal annual increase in coal raisings had averaged about 200,000 tons for many years past: and held that one of the chief causes of the decreased demand was the development by several of the great Indian railways of coal fields of their own, from which their needs were largely supplied, so that they had almost entirely ceased to come on the ordinary market as buyers. He held that this, since most of the railways were now owned by the State, amounted to Government interference wih private trade: and that, if it was not possible to stop this altogether, any further development of railway owned collieries should, at least, be forbidden. He referred to the charge, brought against Indian coal mines, that the decline in exports was largely of their own making, owing to the poor quality of the coal supplied during and immediately after the War; though he apparently did not admit the justice of the charge. As matters were a present, he declared that nothing except the highest class of Indian coal could compete in the Singapore market: and that in Bombay, Karachi, Columbo and Madras, Indian coal could not compete with foreign coal at all, unless it received protection, which would have to include rebates and a reduction in freight charges in India. As the Government of India has rejected the recommendations of the Indian Coal Committee in these directions, it does not seem likely that any such relief will be obtained. But, whatever the cause, the fact remains that the average price of Indian coal has fallen from ten to five rupees per ton, and the value of coal shares has, in many cases, reached a very low figure.

Mr. Banerji then proceeded to discuss the matter of Indianisation on the superior staff of Indian coal mines. Most of the shallow seams had now been worked out, and deep seams required managers with better scientific attainments; but there was not yet a sufficiently large number of Indians with proper training such as was, at present, only obtainable in Europe or America. The Government of India were starting a mining school at Dhanbad, though this could not be ready to receive pupils for another four or five years: and scholarships for the study of mining were granted by Provincial Governments and by private associations. At present these were not particularly popular, probably because the men trained abroad did not find, on their return, much opportunity of earning a livelihood in India in their profession; but the Government of India had already begun to Indianise the inspectorates of mines and, if qualified Indian candidates became available, would perhaps be prepared to Indianise the establishment of local superintendents on State Railways also. He dwelt on the importance of the mining industry to India, and urged young Indians, whose bent led them in that direction, to qualify themselves to take charge of their own mines.

Extremist Propaganda Methods.

Ibn Saud has denied the story of the bombardment of Medina: and, on the strength of this denial, Shaukat Ali has written to the Press saying that "the mischievous cable reporting bombardment of Medina and damage to the Holy Prophet's tomb, turns out, after all, to be one necessity of guarding against the likelihood of Amir Ali's He adds that he has cabled to Ibn Saud making the characteristic suggestion that "it is feared that there is necessity of guarding against the likelihood of Amir Ali's forces desecrating the Prophet's sanctuary and foisting the blame on the Nejdis": and advising him, in view of such an eventuality, to take impartial witnesses with him "when entering Medina."

This is a suggestion of a kind that one has learned to expect from propagandists of Shaukat Ali's kidney—if it ultimately proves impossible to deny that the holy buildings at Medina have been damaged, then the damage will be ascribed, not to the immaculate Ibn Saud, but to the treacherous defenders of Medina, the partisans of King Ali. A similar fiction has been invented in the Bombay cotton strike, where the strikers threw stones at the mills which, in the early days of the strike, remained at work. As such a proceeding was incompatible with the picture, drawn by the extremist Press, of peaceful and non-violent workers spontaneously withdrawing their labour from the mills en masse, it was calmly de-

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clared that the stone throwers were "agents provocateurs" suborned by the police. A somewhat similar manœuvre was made use of in the early days of the Akali disturbances in the Punjab. It was asserted that an aeroplane had flown over Amritsar and dropped bombs on the Golden Temple: and this rumour caused some excitement in the Sikh regiments. A deputation of Indian officers was therefore sent to Amritsar, to see for themselves whether the shrine had sustained any damage or not. They returned and reported that it had sustained none whatever, and the excitement was allayed: only to receive a further stimulus, a few days later, by the publication of an Akali explanation, that the facts were as originally stated, but that, owing to the peculiar sanctity of the shrine, the bombs, when dropped, turned to water, so that the Temple remained undamaged in spite of the criminal attempt of the Government aeroplanes to destroy it.

Jute Forecast.

Advices from Calcutta say that the figures of the final official jute forecast have aroused commercial distrust in the Government methods of calculation. Statistics of the last ten years show that the forecast has invariably been an underestimate—varying from 150,000 bales in 1917-18 to no less than three million bales in 1921-22. The worst official effort, however, has not been anything like that achieved by the writer of these notes in the issue of September 24—when the authority, on which he relied, seems to have divided his figures by two. As a matter of fact, the suggestion of "commercial mistrust" in Government figures is calculated to cause some amusement to those in the know: since the big merchants always hope that the forecast figures will be inaccurate, but will be accepted as accurate by those who are not in the know; when those who are will come by their own.

Babu English.

About a generation ago, Anglo-Indians were moved to laughter by the publication of a memoir of a distinguished Bengali judge, which abounded in unintentional humour. The last hours of the subject of the memoir were described in detail: how he "remained sotto voce" for several hours until the hopes of the watchers by his bedside were raised by his face being "illuminated with the fascinating beams of a simper": and so on. A specially charming example of a similar "nice derangement of epitaphs" is to hand in an Anglo-Indian newspaper received by the current mail. A member of the Poona Municipality, in moving a resolution, used unparliamentary words against the Brahmin community, which he was called upon to withdraw; and the report says that he finally consented to do so only after he had been "threatened with dismemberment."

The Indian compositor is—often, it must be admitted, justifiably—puzzled by the use of abbreviations; which, if he does not himself understand them, he thinks it necessary to elucidate for the benefit of his readers. One remembers official notes of one's own where a manuscript reference to "R.A. barracks" appeared in print as "the Revenue and Agriculture barracks": and a statement that the cost of certain commodities had risen from 19.12.3 to 27.9.6 (the writer having omitted to put in the explanatory letters Rs. (rupees) before the figures) was shown, in print, as a rise from December 19, 1903 to September 27, 1906; but the record, in this respect, was perhaps achieved by an Anglo-Bengali paper, in the last year of the War, which gave a list of names in an official gazette, were appointments of "Bar to M.C." and "M.C.," were announced under the headings "Barrister to Member of Council" and "Master of Ceremonies" respectively.

INDIAN EXCHANGE.

London, October 5.

Since the date of our last report quotations have moved within narrow limits and the markets in Bombay and Calcutta have remained stationary at 1s. 6 5-32d. for telegraphic transfers, with few buyers under 1s. 6 3-16d.

At the higher rate Government has again met the moderate requirements of Banks and others for immediate delivery to the extent of about £300,000, it is reported.

Government is not disposed, however, to purchase for delivery ahead—a very sound policy, no doubt, which offers no encouragement to those inclined to speculate in forward rates.

A fairly large business had already been booked here and in India in August and early September for deliveries from January to March, but the announcement that the Indian Government would take measures to prevent exchange rising has almost stifled the inquiry for forward business.

Cable advices from India indicate that markets are quieter, and it is not unusual to see a lull at this time of the year, before cotton begins to arrive in the Bombay market. Some confirmation of this may be inferred from the last weekly return of the Imperial Bank, which showed that the trade demand had fallen off by 140 lakhs of rupees.

The value of money in the open markets may be taken as the surest indication of business activity, and as short loans have been fixed for a month at 2½ per cent. per annum, there can be very little demand for money. The parlous state of the cotton industry in Bombay obscures the outlook; but it is not unreasonable to assume that there will be no dear money in India this season, even if a welcome turn for the better takes place in the cotton position.

The rupee market in London has been very quiet; there are buyers of T.T. at 1s. 6 11-64d., with sellers at 13-64 and occasional business for cash at 3-16 to a moderate extent. At this rate there are more buyers than sellers.

Forward rates are unchanged at 1s. 6 7-32d. November-December, 1s. 6¼d. January, and 1s. 6 7-32d. February T.T. with a very poor inquiry.

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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

170, *Strand, London, W.C.2,*
Tuesday Morning.

An Electrical Scheme for Greece.

Last week I was able to give details of an important Greek contract given to this country. On the top of that comes the news that a Trade Facilities issue is likely to be made shortly in connection with a comprehensive electrical scheme for Greece, the negotiations in regard to which are understood to have been now completed. The loan will be two million pounds, and the scheme will include the erection of a power station, tramway electrification, and street lighting in Athens and district. The company concerned with the scheme is the Power and Traction Finance Company. This concern, it will be recalled, was established a few years ago under the auspices of Cammell, Laird, and Co., Sir William Arrol and Co., the English Electric Co., the North British Locomotive Co., John Brown and Co., and the Prudential Assurance Co., for the purpose of carrying out public works projects. I do not suppose there is any part of the Near East where foreign competition for the carrying out of works of development is keener than in Greece, a fact which is no doubt to be attributed to the regularity with which Greece has always met her foreign commitments. Thus Greece has enlisted the aid of American capital for the development of the water supply of Athens, while a Belgian group has just obtained a contract for the construction of three new railway lines of a total length of 250 miles. It is emphatically satisfactory to know that British enterprise is also going to play its part, and it may be hoped that this development will have the effect of drawing renewed attention to the opportunities that the Near East holds forth.

Sudan Plantations.

It was expected that the report of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate would contain proposals for the reorganisation of the Syndicate's capital, and this has proved to be the case. The present issued capital amounts to £600,000, and it is now proposed to offer the balance of the authorised capital amounting to £150,000 in £1 shares to the shareholders at £3 per share. It is further proposed to raise the nominal capital to £2,500,000, and to capitalise the greater part of the existing share premium reserve. The review of the past year shows that the Syndicate continues to make satisfactory progress. For the twelve months there was a net profit of £162,885; and with the balance brought forward the total is £339,451. A final dividend is proposed of 3s. per share, less tax, making the distribution for the year 25 per cent., leaving to be carried forward £184,450.

Roumania's Note Issue.

A recent statement of the National Bank of Roumania gives the note issue in circulation as 20,153,603,000 lei. With an estimated population of 16,500,000 this figure gives the note circulation as 1,222 lei per head of the population. Expressed in pounds sterling, this means about 25s. per head. The corresponding figures before the War were approximately 125, lei or £5 per head. The difference explains the present restriction of the Roumanian market for foreign goods, and incidentally the difficulty of the country in paying its foreign debts; but the precise bearing of the figures on the question of the real extent of deflation might be hotly argued by opposing schools of thought. One of the difficulties that the Roumanian Government has to contend with, it must be remembered, is the tendency of the population to hoard money. The evil is not as great as it is, say in India, but the Roumanian does like to have money about him, even though he may not intend to spend it. Consequently an increasing amount of notes issued is always out of circulation.

Mails to and from Greece.

Arrangements have at last been made between the Greek Government and the Companie Internationale des Wagons-Lits, for the transport of mails to and from Greece. Owing, I believe, to the influence of Greek shipping interests all mail matter between Western Europe and Greece has been conveyed by sea between Italy and Greece, with the result that the service has suffered from infrequency, if not from irregularity. On the three days a week when the Wagons-Lits run direct from Paris to Athens there will be a through mail service; on other days postal matter will be conveyed by the Orient Express to Kuleli-Burgas at the junction of the frontiers of Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey, and will there be transferred to the Greek railway system. The innovation should materially help the Greek business world. Greece will feel herself in still closer touch with "Europe" when she has a daily Wagons-Lits service to and from Athens, equipped all the way with a restaurant car. The part of the journey between Nish and Athens has long been a source of weariness to the traveller.

Foreign Competition.

We have heard more than enough of engineering and shipping contracts that have been snatched from us, so to speak, by foreign rivals who have quoted prices far lower than our firms could possibly do and still make a profit, but we have heard too little of the real reason for the difference in some instances between British and

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foreign quotations. I refer to the matter because an adequate understanding of the position cannot but lead to great hopes for the future. In very many cases, of course, the adverse exchanges combined with lower wages have been responsible, but in a number it has been simply the fact that our rivals quoted prices which meant a loss for themselves, merely in order to secure the business with a view to possible future advantages. One competitor it is now reported has made a loss on the past year of just under a million sterling, mainly because of losses on building ships. Obviously no concern can continue that process indefinitely, and with the disappearance of unreal quotations our firms will have their opportunity. Indeed, it would seem that the tide is turning already, for not only are foreign contracts being secured now with much greater freedom than in recent months, but in one or two cases they have been obtained in the face of the most strenuous opposition. All of which gives one cause to view the future with greater optimism than might have seemed justified a bare few weeks ago.

British Films.

The step taken by one of the Dominions to further the use of British films by insisting on the inclusion of at least 1,000 feet of them in every programme, is to be welcomed as a move in the right direction, but more than that it is impossible to say. Actually it does not take us very far, for in the first place 1,000 feet of films only constitute about one-sixteenth of the average programme, and secondly the difficulty is to obtain British films. As soon as the British film producing industry is established on a firm basis it will be time enough to consider the compulsory use of a certain percentage of British films in a programme, but one would imagine that it would then be unnecessary, for, judged by the standard of quality, the competition that British films have to face on the part of America is not very formidable.

IMPORTS & EXPORTS

The financing of the world's commerce has become one of the most intricate of machines ever constructed, and under the banker's hands lie all the cogs and controls necessary for its efficient running. It is of the utmost importance that the merchant should clearly understand the working of its mechanism in order that he may make the fullest use of the bank's facilities, not only for his personal benefit, but also for the increased commercial prosperity of the country. To assist its customers, the Westminster Bank has now prepared a booklet explaining the many ways in which the commercial man may use the bank for the furtherance of his business, and how he should proceed so as to take the utmost advantage of interest, rebate, discount, rates of exchange, etc., and combine with progress and enterprise the necessary security and caution.

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Greek Finances.

A reply to the criticism recently levelled against Greece's financial policy has been made by the Greek Minister of Finance, M. Cofinas. He maintains that the depreciation in the drachma can scarcely be attributed to an increased note circulation, as this is due exclusively to issues made against deposits of exchange which are represented by the proceeds of the Refugee Loans. The notes thus issued, he states, will be withdrawn as the assets of the Refugee Loan are utilized. He further maintains that an increased note circulation was rendered essential to cover the Budget deficit of 700,000,000 drachmæ for 1924-25, and declared that if it had not been for the deficit the exchange would have remained at 250 drachmæ to the pound, and that had the additional notes been issued for commercial needs, given, of course, that there was no deficit, there would have been no depreciation of the currency. As regards the outlook he says that the future is assured by the expected Budget surpluses and by ear-marking special taxes for the reduction of the floating debt and the note circulation. It cannot be said that the explanation clears up the situation. As a matter of fact, it is a rather contradictory statement, for we are told first that the increased note circulation was due to issues made against exchange, and secondly, that it was necessary to cover the Budget deficit. Obviously it can be due to each separately, but not to both together. What the Minister's statement does convey, reading between the lines, is that the criticism of Greek policy has been justified.

Harrisons and Crossfield.

A year ago Harrisons and Crossfield benefited from the improvement in the situation in the tea industry, and this time their report reflects not only the continuance of prosperous conditions in the tea industry but also the recovery of the rubber industry. Last year the net profits were £242,475 as compared with £192,711, and for the past year they amount to £276,902, and it is proposed to raise the dividend on the deferred shares from 25 per cent. to 30 per cent. As the recovery in rubber will only have its full incidence in the next twelve months it follows that an even more satisfactory report may be looked for this time next year.

Ottoman Railway Reparations Claim.

At the half-yearly meeting of the Ottoman Railway, from Smyrna to Aidin, the chairman, Lord St. Davids, referred to the question of the company's claim for compensation from the Turkish Government. At the last meeting it was thought, he said, that the question was on the point of settlement, but the Turkish Assembly rose in April without having ratified the agreement made, and they would not meet again until October, when it is hoped that the agreement will be ratified. "It was impossible," Lord St. Davids added, "to expect very much in the way of cash payment, and such advantages as they could hope to secure would be very considerably in the nature of obtaining greater latitude in the management of their own affairs. That would be a very important advantage to them." There was a great improvement in the receipts for the half-year, but this was mainly because the results in the corresponding period of the previous year were so different. Working expenses were high, and Lord St. David fears that under the altered conditions in Asia Minor they will always remain high. He stated that he believed that 20 years ago their railway was worked more cheaply than any railway in the world—at about 32 per cent. or 33 per cent., going up in exceptional years to 42 per cent. It was perfectly obvious that they could never get back to that level in view of the present prices of materials, wages, etc.

The Rubber Outlook.

It is some weeks now since I dealt *in extenso* with the rubber outlook. Nothing has occurred in the meanwhile to discount in any way the optimistic view taken of the

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future. I have been, I must confess, among the most confident that the industry would ultimately justify expectations and save itself, and in so doing return a rich harvest to the long-suffering shareholders, and events would seem to suggest that everything I have written is in process of being justified. The commodity remains firm, while the prices of the shares advance week by week, encouraged in their upward course by the promising interim dividends that continue to be declared with unfailing regularity, indicating a bounteous return in the course of 1926. It is not my function in these columns to point out specially promising shares, and if it were I should hesitate to do so, seeing how far the advance has already gone, though there are shares which have not fully participated in the forward movement. Still, I have no doubt that we shall see higher prices yet, for one reckons an average yield of 10 per cent. in the case of rubber shares, and measured by that criterion there is obviously room for further progress; but from now on fluctuations are likely to become more pronounced until the commodity attains stabilisation for the time being. It has always to be borne in mind, however, that rubber is an uncertain proposition, as, indeed, all commodities are, and while the outlook seems clear for 1926 and 1927, events may bring prophecy to naught, and those therefore who have already made substantial profits might be well advised to take them and leave something for *les autres*.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street. S.W.)

EGYPT.

Cotton Yarn, Etc.—The Director-General, Prisons Department, 43, Sharia El Bostan, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of cotton yarn, cloth, chalk marking, backs harness leather English, bristles, paint, fire hose, belting, tools, and various articles. November 23.

Crane.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lights Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply and installation of a movable crane, capacity 3 tons. November 3.

INDIA.

Girder Bridges and Flange Plates.—The Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Co., Ltd., 25, Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W.1, invite tenders for girder bridges, comprising 120 spans of from 10 ft. to 60 ft. clear, a total approximate tonnage of 142 tons, 52 flange plates for girders, a total approximate tonnage of 15½ tons. October 20.

The brother of the Shah of Persia, the Queen Mother, and the Persian Princesses arrived in Marseilles from Paris last Friday and embarked in the Naldera, in order to return home via Bombay.

A message from Beyrout received in Paris last Friday, stated that the main detachment of the French column operating in the Jebel Druse reached Kharava at 10 o'clock that morning without any fighting.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

A Reuter message from Bucharest states that a Roumanian contract for railway engines has been given to the British firm of Baldwins, Ltd.

Bulgaria has accepted the British Government's offer to conclude a commercial treaty according most-favoured-nation treatment to both parties.

Colonel Kalfoff, the Bulgarian Foreign Minister, has returned to Sofia from Geneva, where he attended the Sixth Assembly of the League of Nations.

According to a Reuter message from Sofia, in view of the urgency of the refugee problem in Bulgaria, a new special department has been created for the prompt settlement of refugees.

After three days of debates the International Petroleum Congress in Bucharest came to an end on September 30. The delegates afterwards left for a week's visit to the oilfields, mining districts, and industrial establishments in various parts of Roumania.

It is reported that Roumania and Belgium have reached an agreement affecting Roumanian post-War private debts, contracted between November 11, 1918, and January 1, 1922, guaranteeing a deposit of 3.05 to 3.10 lei for each Belgian franc. The moratorium interest is fixed at 1½ per cent. per annum. Semi-annual payments of 7⅛ per cent. are to be made; the total to be paid in 26 years.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Department of Overseas Trade has appointed Mr. J. W. Hills to be Chairman of the Credit Insurance Committee in place of Lieut.-Colonel the Hon. Sydney Peel, who has had to resign from the Committee on going to China as one of the British delegates to the Special Conference on Chinese Tariff Questions.

The Roumanian Government has postponed the completion of the agreement with an American group for a loan to the municipality of Bucharest pending the result of the negotiations regarding the settlement of the Roumanian debt to the United States, in hopes of getting better terms for the municipality.

The *Daily Telegraph* Athens correspondent writes that information received here from Holland states that the ex-Kaiser intends to buy back his former palace, the Achilleion at Corfu, which during the War was seized by the Greek authorities. It is said that he will apply for a permit to retire there, and pass the rest of his life on the beautiful Ionian island.

Saleh Evan Pasha, Egyptian Under Secretary of State for Public Works, arrived in London last week to select Consultant Engineers in connection with the big dam on the Upper Nile and in Egypt, and to settle the question of compensating Sudanese landowners whose property will be flooded if the project is completed.

LLOYDS BANK LIMITED. HEAD OFFICE: LONDON, E.C. 3.

Capital Subscribed -	£71,864,780	Reserve Fund - -	£10,000,000
Capital Paid up -	£14,372,956	Deposits, &c. - -	£338,371,355

30th June, 1925

EASTERN DEPARTMENT:

77, LOMBARD STREET, LONDON, E.C. 3.

LLOYDS BANK now has the following Offices in INDIA, BURMAH and EGYPT, and can offer special facilities to merchants and others for transactions with those countries. It issues Drafts, Mail and Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange, conducts Exchange operations, and transacts Banking and Agency business generally.

INDIA & BURMAH.—BOMBAY, CALCUTTA (2 Offices), KARACHI, RANGOON, DELHI, SIMLA, RAWAL PINDI, MURREE, SRINAGAR (Kashmir), GULMARG.

EGYPT.—ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, TANTA, BENHA, MEHALLA KEBIR, BENI SUEF, FAYOUM, MINIEH.

Full particulars can be obtained from any of the Bank's Branches.

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Shipping Intelligence.

BRITISH SHIPPING AND EGYPT.

Speaking generally, during 1924 there has been no fresh feature in the shipping world, and in spite of competition from State-owned and State-subsidised tonnage, the British shipowner continues to hold his own in much of the trade in and out of Alexandria (says Mr. E. H. Mulock, in his recent report on Egypt).

Trade with the United Kingdom, the Far East, and the Dominions.—The shipment of cotton from Alexandria to England and the import of cotton goods from England is entirely in the hands of British liners, so is practically the whole of the import of machinery and general goods from the United Kingdom. The transport of coal from England, and the shipment to England of cottonseed, oilcake, eggs, and onions, is open to competition from ships flying all flags, which naturally has the effect of keeping freights at a low level, and often at a very unprofitable one; but in spite of this, British tonnage predominates. Imports of flour from Australia and rice from Burma are usually carried in British bottoms, the bulk of the former ships being owned by the Commonwealth Government.

Trade with the United States.—The British shipowner has been almost entirely driven out of this trade, in so far as imports are concerned, by American-owned boats, the losses on which are understood to be high. As regards exports hence to the States, principally cotton, these are carried, roughly speaking, half by British ships, and the other half by Americans, in accordance with the arrangements which exist between the United States Shipping Board and the English liners.

Trade with Europe.—Both the French and the Italian Governments subsidise their Mediterranean regular liners very heavily, and the whole of the trade between Egypt and their ports is in their hands. With Germany, nearly all the trade is done by German boats. With Greece and the Near East, a proportion of the traffic is catered for by one British Steamship Company, whose activities are confined to the Levant and the Red Sea, but a large share of it goes to French, Italian, and Greek boats. The French and Italian lines trading in the Eastern Mediterranean are able to compete keenly with the British steamship company in question because, although their ships, which are maintained in a high state of efficiency, are understood to run at a heavy loss, they receive considerable subsidies from their respective Governments. Thanks to this factor the first-named Italian lines are also keen competitors in the Red Sea. This, however, is not all, as competition in the Eastern Mediterranean is further increased by the fact that many small boats of Greek, Italian and other nationalities, are able to quote freights considerably below those of the British steamship line.

The reiterated rumours that a German line contemplated inaugurating a service of passenger boats between Egypt and Europe have not as yet materialised, but this company organised occasional calls at Alexandria of liners carrying German tourists during 1924.

Although nothing has yet come of it, the last has by no means yet been heard of the project, first mooted by the Egyptian Parliament during 1924, for the creation of a national marine under the auspices of the Government. The avowed object of this scheme, which has been under serious consideration by the Miinistry of Communications, is economy on the annual cost of freight charged by the various European shippers of material and supplies purchased by the Government from abroad.

ANCHOR LINE

LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.

KARACHI via Bombay, calling at Gibraltar and Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS UPPER DECK CABINS.
MODERATE FARES.
RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT
Indian Government Vouchers accepted.

Passenger sailing dates :—

CALIFORNIA, Oct. 14.	*MASSILIA, Dec. 11.
*CASTALIA, Oct. 27.	*ELYSIA, Dec. 29.
*OLYMPIA, Nov. 13.	*CIRCASSIA, Jany. 12, 1926.
*SCINDIA, Nov. 27.	*CASTALIA, Feb. 2.

*First class passengers only. Specially low fares.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA, 17,000 TONS, carrying 1st, 2nd and 3rd class passengers, sails from LIVERPOOL Oct. 14. MARSEILLES Oct. 20. All 1st and 2nd class state rooms are fitted with Punkah Louvres and with Fans. This vessel has exceptionally fine 3rd class accommodation.

ANCHOR LINE,
48, FENCHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

NEW ANCHOR LINER.

The twin screw turbine liner Caledonia which has been built by Messrs. Alexander Stephen and Sons, Ltd., at their shipbuilding and engineering works at Linthhouse, Glasgow, for the Anchor Line (Henderson Brothers, Ltd.), ran successful trials on September 25, on the Firth of Clyde. The liner has been built primarily for the company's service between Glasgow and New York, but will also be used for winter cruises and for occasional runs on their Bombay service. The Caledonia is, broadly speaking, a sister ship of the California, which was launched in 1923, but has improvements in the arrangement and design of the passenger accommodation. The vessel's principal dimensions are 570 ft. overall length, 70 ft. breadth, 39 ft. depth, and a load draft of 29 ft. with a gross tonnage of 17,046 tons, and a speed of 17 knots. She has been constructed under the special survey of the British Corporation, and to the recommendations of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, being divided by watertight steel bulkheads into 11 main compartments, which are sub-divided, the vessel having over 40 separate watertight compartments. A watertight double bottom is fitted and adequate provision is made for long voyages and world tours, there being capacity for 5,850 tons of oil fuel and 1,650 tons of fresh water. Accommodation is provided for 205 first-class, and 403 second-class passengers, and 800 third-class.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses :—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Castalia for Bombay (Liverpool, October 24). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Media for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 17).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Gloucestershire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, October 21).

British India Line.—S.s. Madura for Bombay and Karachi (London, October 9); s.s. Manela for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 10).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Phrygia for Gibraltar, Oran, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, October 10).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Simla for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 12).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Dromore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 17); s.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, November 6). (The last steamer of the season for Sulina, Galatz, and Braila.)

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Devanha for Bombay (London, October 8); s.s. Delta for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 17).

Prince Line.—S.s. Egyptian Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, and Haifa (London, October 24).

Hungarian sugar refineries are conducting negotiations with Adriatic shipping concerns with a view to obtain freight rates which would enable Hungary to resume her pre-War exports of sugar, especially to India, Egypt, and Great Britain.

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Motors and Motoring.

The new Clyno is a car of which one is likely to hear more in the near future. The design is excellent and the car has a smart appeaarnce, which is certain to commend it to the discriminating buyer who wants a moderately-priced, yet well made, British car. I have not yet had an opportunity of trying out the new 13 h.p. model on the road, although I have covered thousands of miles in the 11 h.p. model. If the new proposition is anything like its elder but less powerful sister, it will be all that anyone can expect for the money.

I note that four models are obtainable; the four-door saloon at £298; the coupé at £285; the four-seater at £260; and the two-seater at £245. The buyer will naturally ask what those prices include, and I may say that balloon tyres are fitted, 28 inches by 4.95 inches, a 12 volt lighting and starting set is provided, and as standard fittings there are: a Smith's eight-day clock; spring gaiters; petrol gauge; driving mirror; Smith speedometer; luggage carrier and Auster rear screen for the four-seater model; rigid side curtains; motor-driven electric horn; three-panel wind screen; dash lamp; calometer and automatic wind screen wiper. It will be seen that this generous provision leaves very little for the purchaser to buy before he takes the car on the road.

As regards the build of car, I may say that the engine is of the four-cylinder monobloc pattern, with side by side valves, water cooled with the thermo-syphon system. The bore and stroke are 69 by 100 m.m., giving a cubic capacity of 1,496 c.c. Lubrication is on the simplest system possible, by means of a plunger pump, and the gear-box gives three speeds. The changing of gear is by the usual side lever and gate quadrant. Suspension is by semi-elliptic springs in front and by cantilever springs behind. The chassis is swept in at the front so as to give ample steering lock and is upswept at the rear to give a low loading line and to provide ample clearance for the back axle, which is a special Clyno design and driven by spiral bevel. I do not know that I can add much to the above description, but I shall be only too pleased to send a complete description to any reader who is interested in this well made little British car.

A Show Competition.

Mr. S. F. Edge writes to me about a competition that he is introducing for his A.C. cars in connexion with the forthcoming show at Olympia. I give the outline of the scheme and hope it will be a reader of The Near East and India who gets away with Mr. Edge's £100.

Messrs. A.C. Cars, Ltd., are presenting £100 as a prize to the purchaser of a new A.C. car during Olympia Motor Show, who gives the best reasons for doing so. The terms and conditions will be announced in due course, but the rules covering the competition stipulate among other points that the entrant must have placed his order for a new A.C. car during the period of the Olympia Motor Show, October 9-17 inclusive, and must send in his reasons in writing for having bought an A.C. car.

The New Triumph.

The latest production of the Triumph Motor Co., Ltd., of Coventry—I believe I was the first journalist to mention their first car in the Press; I was motor editor on the *Financier* at the time—is a car that is claimed to offer unfailing service under all conditions of road and weather. The makers have just sent me some preliminary data regarding this car, and from the accompanying photographs I regard it as a smart and stylish-looking proposition. The specification of the chassis is as follows: engine, four-cylinder, mono-bloc, 15-50 h.p., detacnable head, 77.5 mm. bore by 115 mm. stroke; capacity 2,169 c.c.; mechanism entirely enclosed and readily accessible. Side-by-side valves; detachable valve cover plates; valves are interchangeable and are mechanically operated by a single chain driven camshaft; adjustable tappets; aluminium pistons. The dynamo and magneto are chain driven, the chain being automatically adjusted by means of an eccentrically mounted spring loaded jockey wheel. The cylinders are cast with the crankcase, which is split horizontally below the crankshaft centre, making the big end bearings and connecting rods readily accessible. The starting handle is detachable and the shaft is protected by means of a covered cap in radiator base. Unit construction engine, clutch and gear-box. The cooling is by pump and fan and the radiator is of special honeycomb design. Lubrication is by gear pump in sump supplying oil under pressure to crank and camshaft bearings and also to the camshaft driving chain. There is a pressure gauge connected to this oil supply on the dashboard. The clutch is of the single plate type, extremely flexible, self-contained, and operated by a ball thrust withdrawing device. The gear-box gives three forward speeds and reverse. Central change; speedometer drive from gear box main shaft. Ratios: first, 17.6; second 8.4; top 5.2 to 1. Reverse 21.7 to 1. The whole box is very accessible and readily removed from unit.

The chassis frame is of pressed channel steel; springs are extra long, semi-elliptic front and rear, and shock absorbers are fitted on each. Electric lighting and starting sets are provided, with speedometers, clock and horn as standard, and the tool kit is very complete. Overseas readers may be interested in the dimensions which I give in full:—wheelbase, 9 ft. 4 in.; track, 4 ft. 8¼ in.; overall length, 13 ft. 5 in.: overall width, 5 ft. 7 in.; ground clearance, 10 in. Weight of chassis, 13 cwts. approximately.

The Rolls Abroad.

Mr. Claude Johnson has sent me two wonderfully good photographs of the 'New Phantom" Rolls Royce car in overseas surroundings. I should like to reproduce them here, but unfortunately space is not available for the purpose. Quite a number of Rolls Royce cars have been sold in India and the Near and Middle East this year, and there is noticeable a great and growing curiosity amongst the more favoured inhabitants of that part of the world as to this car which has so high a reputation. G. B. B.

NEW COMPANY.

RUSSO-CAUCASIAN COMPANY.

The Russo-Caucasian Company has been registered as a private company with a capital of £100 in £1 shares. The objects are to carry on in South Russia, the Caucasus, the Near East and elsewhere the business of merchants, etc. First directors:—R. L. Benson, 24, Old Broad Street, E.C.2., merchant; R. R. Tweed, 48, Cannon Street, E.C.4, managing director of Baku Consolidated Oilfields. Registered office, 81, Cannon-street, E.C.4.

It is interesting to record that the Lopulco Pulverised Fuel system, the rights of which belong to International Combusion Limited of London, is to be installed in a new boiler of the Berlin electric light works on 12 large boilers. This order has been secured in face of the most exacting investigations by the German engineers into all known Continental and American systems of pulverised fuel. This following as it does the success of the Lopulco system at the electric light works in Paris, where repeat orders have been received, and the recent order which has been placed for Lopulco by the New York Edison Company, for what will be the largest power station in the world, namely 750,000 k.w., indicates the tremendous strides being made in the use of pulversied fuel.

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"BALKAN FIRE AND MARINE"
(ESTABLISHED IN 1895
"BALKAN LIFE AND ACCIDENT" and
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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended September 24, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has been very active and wide fluctuations have been registered; the net changes on the week are the following:—Sakellaridis 2.88 dollars down for November, 2.75 dollars down for January, 2.70 down for March; Ashmouni, 1,21 dollars down for October, 1.30 down for December, 1.35 dollars down for February. The week opened with very firm markets due principally to an improved inquiry from abroad especially for Ashmouni, but a complete change in the position took place on Wednesday as a result of the drop in New York following the publication of the American Bureau report giving a condition of 53.8 and estimating the crop at 13,931,000 bales. The demand from abroad shows signs of expansion and although the major part of the demand is still confined to Uppers and Zagora a somewhat improved inquiry for Sakel is to be noted. It appears that there exist a few commitments for end of September shipment which the exporters are now fulfilling. The daily arrivals from the interior are now assuming important figures but they are still behind the corresponding quantities of last year owing to the lateness of the Sakel crop. Our opinion is that, for the time being, the Ashmouni market will more or less closely follow New York fluctuations. Owing to the reported success of the American long staple cotton crops, however, a slight narrowing in the difference between the two markets is probable as the season advances and the weight of arrivals is felt. As regards Sakel, although it is at present very difficult to give an opinion on the future course of prices the outlook is for somewhat heavy markets owing to the smallness of existing commitments with spinners compared with those at the same time last year, and to the rather poor demand ruling at present for this variety. The week's receipts amount to 188,077 Cantars against export 89,452 Cantars; the stock stands at 660,014 Cantars.

Spot: A good business has been done at Minet el Bassal this week and sales for the five business days amount to about 14,800 B/s of which we estimate 4,200 B/s Sakel, 8,500 B/s Uppers, 1.750 B/ Zagora, 300 B/s Pilion and 50 B/s White.

Sakellaridis: Considerably more interest has been shown in this growth and an improved business has been done. All styles have been dealt in but the good grades have attracted most attention. With the exception of Good which is cheaper, spot differences are unchanged but with a tendency to ease.

Ashmouni and Zazora: A good business has been done and all grades have been dealt in. Spot differences are unchanged for Fully Good Fair and Good, cheaper for Fully Good, but for the grades below Fully Good Fair, which are extremely scarce, they are very much stiffer and high parities have to be paid to secure cotton.

Pilion: A moderate business has been done. Spot differences are without much change.

Brown: is neglected and no business is reported.

White: A retail business has been done. Spot differences are quoted nominally cheaper for the good grades and inclined to harden for the medium and lower styles.

Crop 1925: News from the interior regarding the crops is somewhat better than last week. The Upper Egyptian crop and varieties other than Sakel planted on the Delta continue to be in a satisfactory condition. With regard to Sakellaridis, a small improvement is to be noted; delay still exists but varies widely from field to field; we estimate the delay, on average for all the Delta, at 10 to 15 days. It is difficult as yet to determine the consequences of the lateness of the crop, all that can be said at the moment is that it is exposing the plant to fogs and humidity and to a more intense attack of the pink boll worm. Favourable climatic conditions during the coming three or four weeks will limit or reduce the risk of damage; it may already be said with some certainty that as a consequence of the delay the final yield per feddan for Sakel will be inferior to that of last year, we are of the opinion, however, that the increase in the acreage referred to in previous reports will more than compensate for the deficit in the yield per feddan.

MANCHESTER COTTON MARKET.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Ottoman Bank, for the week ended October 3, states:—

Last week's American Bureau Report seems to have broken confidence in present values and business during the past week has been on a much smaller scale than recently. Such buying as has taken place has been chiefly for goods which can be delivered quickly.

The most important event of the week has been undoubtedly, the report issued by Mr. Pearse, the secretary of the International Federation of Master Cotton Spinners, as to the method by which the American Agricultural Bureau during his presence made up one of its estimates. The statements contained therein, if allowed to go unchallenged, are such as completely to destroy any confidence in reports coming from that source.

Yarn.—Spinners of American cotton have experienced an unsatisfactory week. Demand has been on a very small scale and poor prices are said to have been forced upon spinners desiring to do business.

The position of Egypt spinners continues to be a little better although here, too, negotiations are difficult.

Cloth.—In this section also there has been a marked falling away as compared with recent weeks. Buyers abroad seem to have bought only from hand to mouth except in cases where manufacturers in urgent need of orders have accepted very low prices.

Only a quiet business has transpired for either India or China and demand from South America and the Near East has been slow. Continental business is still fairly good and the Home Trade has shown a slight improvement.

Raw Cotton.—There has been no special feature during the past week. Demand for cotton in Liverpool has not been so brisk as was the case after the recent sharp fall in prices.

A further report from the American Agricultural Bureau on the condition of the crop as at October 1, should be published on the 8th inst., but, after Mr. Pearse's report of the way in which the figures are arrived at, the trade is at a loss to know to what extent they should be relied upon.

Closing quotations yesterday were as follows:—American Middling 12.72; Egyptian Fully Good Fair 28.20.

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COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

SUDAN PLANTATIONS.

The report of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, Ltd., for the year ended June 30, 1925, states that the issued capital of the syndicate stands at £600,000. It has been decided to issue forthwith 150,000 shares, making the issued capital £750,000, as authorised. These shares, which will rank equally with the other issued shares for any dividend that may be declared in respect of the financial year ending June 30 next, will be offered for subscription, at £3 per share, to shareholders registered on the books on the 21st inst., in the proportion of one new shares for every four shares then held; fractions to be disregarded. At the forthcoming annual general meeting it is intended to place before shareholders proposals for the reorganisation of the syndicate's capital, including the capitalisation, by the issue of shares to the shareholders, of the greater part of the existing share premium account. The financial position remains satisfactory, notwithstanding the great demands made upon the company's resources in the past year for capital expenditure in preparation for the largely increased area to be cultivated during the coming season.

The Kassala Cotton Company Limited, in which the syndicate is substantially interested, is making steady progress, and the greater part of the past season's crop has been marketed at satisfactory prices. The shareholding in the Brazil Plantations Syndicate Limited, promises to become a valuable asset; that company has acquired upon favourable terms considerable areas of land suitable for cotton growing and is proceeding with their development. A small interest has been acquired in the Cambuhy Coffee and Cotton Estates Limited, and one of the syndicate's directors has joined the board of that company.

The subjoined table shows the cotton crops dealt with during the past season, and also the corresponding quantities of the preceding year:—

	1924.		1925.
Zeidab	3,088	...	2,814
Gezireh			
Tayiba	1,025	...	913
Barakat	1,887	...	1,425
Hosh	4,507	...	3,920
Wad el Nau ...	7,172	...	4,612
Total bales	17,679	...	13,684

The Zeidab Cotton Crop was practically disposed of before June 30 last, and about four-fifths of the Gezireh crop had been sold at that date. The remainder of the Gezireh cotton is entered in the balance sheet at a valuation made by the directors which realisations since made have shown to be conservative. The decrease in the Gezireh crop as compared with that of the previous year was due mainly to the unusually severe damage caused by insect pests. It is hoped that the measures taken with a view to reducing damage from this source in the coming season may be successful. Meanwhile, owing to the higher prices realised, the results are not less satisfactory than those of the previous year. The Sudan Government have succeeded in completing the construction of the Makwar Dam, and in consequence gravitation water is now available for the large area to be cultivated this season.

The profit and loss account for the twelve months, after deduction of all outgoings, shows a net profit of £162,884 12s. 9d., which, added to the balance brought forward from last year, viz., £176,565 14s., brings the total credit to £339,450 6s. 9d. The interim dividend of 2s. per share (10 per cent.) paid in June 3 last (less income tax) absorbed the sum of £60,000. The directors now recommend the declaration of a final dividend of 3s. per share (15 per cent.) on the issued capital of 600,000 shares, less income tax £90,000, leaving a balance to be carried forward of £189,450 6s. 9d., £339450 6s. 9d. Meeting Winchester House, E.C., October 28, 12 noon.

BARSI LIGHT RAILWAY.

The report of the Barsi Light Railway Company for the year to March 31, 1925, states that the net earnings, less Indian income-tax and super-tax, amounted to £54,135, or, adding exchange adjustments of £5,888, £60,023. After providing interest on the debenture stock, £5,600, and interest and sinking fund instalment, etc., on the Latur Extension Debentures, £5,652, there is left £48,771, plus £10,692 brought forward, making £59,463. The directors have transferred £8,834 to the reserve for equalisation of dividends, etc. (making £190,000), £3,500 to the taxation reserve as a provision for income-tax, and £1,000 to the staff provident fund. They recommend a final dividend of 3 per cent. with a bonus of 4 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 12 per cent. for year, leaving £14,929 to be carried forward. As against the previous year, there is an increase of 129,382 in the number of passengers, and an increase of Rs.45,478 in coaching traffic and sundry receipts. The goods traffic shows a decrease of 19,156 tons and Rs.1,30,569. Meeting, Winchester House, October 14, 2.30 p.m.

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL COMPANY.

At a meeting last week of the Board of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Sir Charles Greenway, chairman of the company, intimated his desire to be in a position to retire should circumstances at any time make the step desirable. It is announced that it is not the intention of Sir Charles Greenway to resign in the near future, but he has taken this step as a precaution to ensure that the affairs of the company shall not suffer from an unprepared-for change in the administration. Sir John Cadman has been appointed to succeed Sir Charles in the event of his retirement, and in the meantime has been elected deputy-chairman.

At the same meeting Mr. J. Douglas Stewart, the director in charge of the shipping interests of the company, and also chairman of the management committee, sent in his resignation on the grounds of ill-health, Mr. G. C. Whigham, a director of the Burmah Oil Company, was appointed to the vacant position on the Board.

HARRISONS AND CROSFIELD.

The directors of Harrisons and Crosfield, in their report for the year ended June 30 last, state that increased profits have been earned at home and abroad, and they consider the position of the company's affairs to be satisfactory. The net revenue amounted to £276,902, as compared with £242,475 for the preceding year, and after payment of the full dividends on the cumulative preference and on the preferred ordinary shares, and interims of 10 per cent. on the deferred ordinary and management

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shares, the directors recommend a final dividend of 20 per cent. on the deferred ordinary, making 30 per cent. for the year, as against 25 per cent. for 1923-24, and the payment of a final dividend, less tax, on 500,000 management shares of £40,629. It is also proposed to transfer £10,000 to general reserve as before and £20,000, compared with £12,000, to income-tax reserve, the carry-forward being £75,736.

DANUBE NAVIGATION.

The report of the Danube Navigation Company for the year ended July 31, 1925, states that the net profit was £25,598, plus £2,679 brought forward. In view of the stabilisation of the Austrian exchange, currency dividends, interest, etc., accumulated to July 31, 1924—namely, £15,336—are also brought in, making available £43,613. £40,000 has been transferred to depreciation of investments, leaving £3,613 to be carried forward.

TEA COMPANIES.

The Panawal Tea Co. announces a second interim dividend of 10 per cent. actual, less tax at 4s. 1½d. in the £, for the year ending December 31, 1925. The dividend for the whole of 1924 was 30 per cent.

The Lethenty Tea Estates Association have declared a second interim dividend of 2½ per cent., less tax, on the ordinary shares, payable October 17.

The Pabbojan Tea Co. has declared an interim dividend of 10 per cent., less tax at 4s. 1½d. in the £, payable October 15 to shareholders registered September 29.

This year's Greek tobacco crop is estimated at 143,000,000 lb., an increase of 40 per cent. over the yield for 1924.

The contract concluded by an Anglo-American group for the drainage and irrigation of the Salonika plain was ratified to-day (says a Reuter message from Athens dated October 4) by Executive decree, as the National Assembly is dissolved. The group is headed by Mr. Franklin Remington, chairman of the Foundation Co., of New York, who secured the contract against rival German, French, Belgian, and Greek groups.

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Bombay: A. N. Wheeler and Co., Hornby Road.
Karachi: Standard Bookstall, Elphinstone Street, Karachi.

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Sofia: Librairie Francaise et Etrangere, 4a, Bvd. Tsa Ostvoboditel.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia: George and Sons, P.O. Box 6.

GREECE.
Athens: Th. Vafiadis, 24, Rue du Stade.
Eleftheroudakis and Barth, Place de la Constitution.

ROUMANIA.
Bucharest: Librairie Universala, 37, Calea Victoriei.

TURKEY.
Constantinople: H. D. Marianopoulos, Librairie Mondaine, 280, Grande Rue de Pera.

NEAR EAST MARKETS

SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended September 26:—

Sultanas—The arrivals on the Smyrna market since the opening of the season are estimated at 12,670 tons, and the sales to date are put at 11,360 tons. Closing prices, Smyrna, per cwt. c.i.f. London-Liverpool are Type 12, 60s.; type 13, 63s.; type 14, 66s.; type 15, 68s.; type 16, 72s.: type 17, 77s. The market is quiet but with a strong undertone Business has shown some expansion resulting in the maintenance of values. Some advance has been paid for fine grades which have been demanded and are in short supply.

Figs.—The arrivals since the opening of the season are put at 97,962 bags, the sales to date being estimated at 89,717 bags. The market closes very strong. Sellers are very reserved. Shippers throughout the week have been obliged to buy below their requirements to avoid prices being further put up against them. The market, however, appears to be artificially kept under control. The procrastination on the part of shippers to cover engagements is a dangerous policy and may result later in a squeeze.

DRIED FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., of Liverpool, in their report dated October 1, state:—

Currants.—Prior to the arrival of first shipments of the 1925 harvest, considerable anxiety was evinced to unload the remaining unsold stocks on hand of the previous season, and under the influence of sustained pressure the early days of the period under review witnessed a further fall in values. This was accentuated by the attractive c.i.f. offers of new crop for early shipment, rendered possible by the weakness of the Greek exchange. The season opened with the arrival of s.s. Erato, bringing about 500 tons medium class for the market. Quality speaks well for the crop as regards colour and general attractiveness, although running on the small side. Some animation set in at the opening, but proved transitory, and only by repeated concessions in price was progress possible. Sales of cleaned varieties were made at 37s. to 38s. 6d., of Gulf uncleaned at 40s. to 42s., a few special parcels making up to 45s. S.s. Kantara with further supplies is discharging, and the first steamer bringing Vostizza, s.s. Phrygia, docked on October 1. Old fruit changed hands at 30s. to 33s., showing very good value. Quotations: —Pyrgos, 34s. to 35s.; Amalias and Patras (cleaned) 37s. to 38s.; Gulf and Panariti, 39s. 43s. Shade dried Vostizza selling on overland samples at 53s. to 60s., Smalls 53s. to 56s., ex quay terms.

Sultanas.—Smyrna—S.s. Etrib inaugurated the season with 5,000 boxes. Opening prices were considered satisfactory, as the quality is below the average of a normal crop, prices ruling 80s. to 90s. So far there is an absence of fine fruit. S.s. Lesbian and s.s. Cypria are following, but the quantities are reported to be quite insignificant for the time of the year. Cretans—some sales were put through on a forward basis at 82s. c.i.f., and at 95s. quay terms. The first arrival via the Continent was disposed of at 95s. to 100s. Australians have met a ready sale at advancing prices. Boards are now bare of first hand fruit. Closing prices were 72s. to 78s.

Figs.—The first small shipment of new season's goods per Etrib was mostly disposed of as follows:—large boxes 85s. to 95s.; small boxes, 90s. to 110s.; locoums, 115s. to 130s. Bags naturals realised 36s., while genuines were done at 27s. 6d. c.i.f. for September shipment.

The Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, have placed a contract with Messrs. Hadfields, Ltd., for the supply of 3,000 waggon buffer shells unmachined.

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DEVELOPMENT WORK IN THE GEZIREH.

An interesting glimpse of work in the development of cotton land on the Gezireh plain is given in the current issue of the Empire Cotton Growing Review by Mr. C. M. Hodgkinson.

When one has time to think of it, he writes, there is something romantic in converting this great stretch of formerly unproductive land into a plain, green with cotton. The initial work of development is, moreover, of a satisfactory kind in that it shows results according to the work put into it. When you are growing cotton, on the other hand, you work like a slave, and your cotton dies—at least it always seems to. Out in the blue one forgets the heartbreaking damage being caused some miles away in the old cultivation by bacteria and insects. It is, moreover, a good change from the daily routine on cotton where one is dealing with natives who are no longer strange to the work, and who know fairly well what to do, even if they do not do it. It is more interesting to deal with the quite raw material. They know nothing, and everything must be drummed into them. Some are keen, some disgusted with the idea of having to do a genuine job of work. Except during the few months of the year, when they sow and harvest their doura crop, it is hard to imagine how they originally spent their time, what they talked or thought about.

The ploughs start their work as soon as possible after the rains, and before they come the plots of land to be sown the following year have to be marked out and cleared of trees. They are called "trees" here, but in reality they are nothing more than small thorny bushes, rarely more that 2 feet high. However, what they lack above ground they make up for in their roots below. They are insignificant enough to look at, but if overlooked they make their presence felt on the unhappy cultivator that may cross their path. A pair of ploughs, working from sunrise to sunset without stoppages, will cover 30 acres or more in a day.

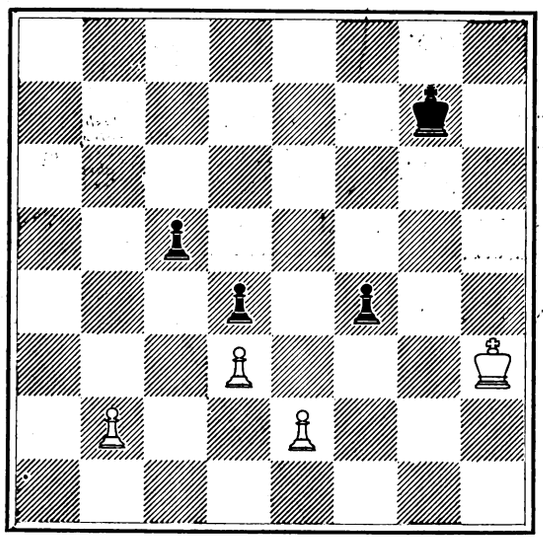
The allotting of the 10-acre plots (hoarshas) to prospective tenants is done, village by village, by the senior inspector of the area, accompanied by the block inspector. And long tedious days they are, seated in a mud house at a small rickety table and surrounded by maps, notebooks, coffee, and natives. Each landowner is entitled to one hoarsha, and any land remaining he allots to his sons, relations, and friends.

Their first job after receiving their 10-acre plot is to dig their minor irrigation channel—½ metre square in section, and 280 metres long. Of the whole year's work I think this is the job they like the least, and it takes many of them several months of grievous toil! Each tenant has also to build a straw house, a thing about which they really do know something. They are expert thatchers, and they appear to enjoy the work. There always is gathered a particularly cheerful group, from boys to old men, when a house is in course of construction. About March or April the ploughing engines return, this time to make the ridges on which the cotton will eventually be sown, and bulls afterwards plough irrigation channels across them, so that every hoarsha is divided into sixteen "angaias." Each of these is afterwards irrigated separately. The tenant makes up the channels and every ridge with a native implement called a torea. The hoarsha is then ready for sowing. To an Englishmen it does not seem that the tenant has much to complain about on the side of hard work, but to a habitual sunbasker it seems to be rather trying.

In these days the Gezireh swarms with large gangs of Sayidees, a race of people who live in southern Egypt, and who are introduced to this country when there is really strenuous digging to be done. Without them the Makwar Dam and the whole Gezireh scheme would have been almost impossible. They are very unlike the Arabs in every way; they have not their courteous manners, but they have a capacity for work which must make the natives gape with wonder. Their energy and the speed with which they can dig a canal is truly amazing. They simply eat earth! It is a pathetic sight to see a tenant toiling away alongside at a small channel which will probably take him months to finish.

CHESS.

By "CARO-KANN."



PROBLEM No. 16.
Black to play. What result?

Solution to Problem No. 15:—1, K—R5, P—Q3; 2, KxP, PxP; 3, K—Kt6 (if K—Kt5, P—Q5; 4, PxP, P—B5; 5, K—B4, K—B3 and wins, for the White King must look after the Pawn at B5 while the Black King is capturing the isolated Black Pawns; if 3, PxP, P—Q5; 4, PxP, P—Kt5 and wins), PxP; 4, PxP, P—Q5; 5, P—R5, P—Q6; 6, P—R6, P—Q7; 7, P—R7, P—Q8 (=Q); 8, P—R8 (=Q), Q—Kt8 (ch);; 9, K—R2, K—B2 and wins. There are many varieties on the main line indicated above which lack of space prevents my giving. The other main line is a defensive attitude on the part of White. It makes no difference to the result. 1, K—B4 (it is immaterial to which of three available squares White goes), K—B3; 2, P—R3, P—R4; 3, K—B3, K—B4; 4, K—K3, K—K4; 5, K—B3 (forced), P—Q5; 6, PxP (ch), KxP; 7, K—B4, K—B5; 8, K—B5, KxP; 9, K—Kt6, K—B5; 10, KxP, P—Kt5 and wins.

The production of the Steaua Romana, Burcharest, for September was 31,750 tons. This is the highest post-War production figure recorded, and compares with 26,380 tons for August. The total production for nine months this year 224,853 tons, as against 199,242 tons for the corresponding period of 1924. Well No. 4 Ceptura continues to produce up to 250 tons per day. On September 30, well No. 2 Runcu started flowing and produced 250 tons on that date, and on October 1 it produced 140 tons and is still in eruption.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £ ...	97⅛	97 15/32—17/32
Athens	Drachmæ to £ ...	25 22½	337-343
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	271—274
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.32—20.34
Berne	Francs to £.....	25.22½	25.09-25.10
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 5/32—18 7/32
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	107 90—108.40
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	1,010
Budapest	Kronen to £	24 02	345-347,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 5/32—18 7/32
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	865—880
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.84 1/16
Paris	Francs to £.....	25.22½	104.80
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	163⅜
Rome	Lire to £	25 22½	120½
Sofia.....	Leva to £	25.22½	670
Teheran	Krans to £	50	42.60
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	34.35
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	29

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Reserve Liability of Shareholders - - - - £1,000,000
Paid up Capital - - £1,000,000
Reserve Fund - - £360,000

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41

NOV 2 1925

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A Weekly Review of the Politics and Commerce of the Balkan Peninsula, Turkey, Egypt, and the Sudan, Syria, Palestine, Arabia, Iraq, Persia and India.

No. 753.—Vol. XXVIII.
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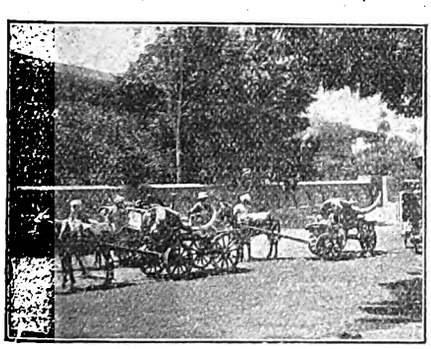

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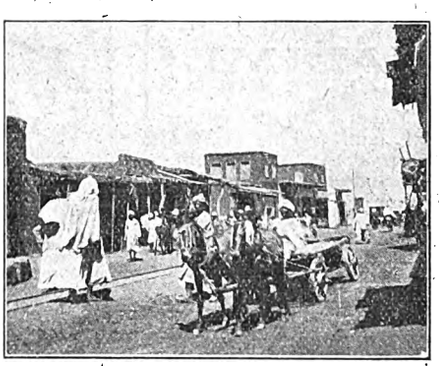

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No. 753.—VOL. XXVIII. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1925.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	Page
NOTES OF THE WEEK	455
SPECIAL LETTERS—	
Egypt	458
Cyprus	458
Palestine	459
SPECIAL ARTICLE—	
A Masri Memory	460
LEADING ARTICLE—	
Mosul in Perspective	457
BOOK REVIEWS	462
THE WEEK AT HOME	463
PERSONAL AND GENERAL ...	465
INDIAN AFFAIRS—	
The Nationalist Demand ...	466
Current Topics	467
Special Letters : Calcutta ...	468
Bombay	469
The Indian Mail	471
Indian Exchange	472
COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
Notes and News	473
The Improvement of Danube Navigation	475
Motors & Motoring. By G. B. B.	477
Near East Markets	479
British Consular Reports ...	479
Company Meeting—	
South Indian Railway ...	482
Chess	483

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

Mosul and Mars.

The critics of the Government's policy in Iraq are anxious to connect Mosul with the God of War, but their discussion of the subject bears a strong likeness to the controversy over the planet named after him. It is equally remote from the facts in dispute, for the critics, having made up their minds what the issue with Turkey should be, refuse to listen to the spokesmen of the Government who point out that it is something entirely different. So long as a controversy is in this way being fought out on two widely separated planes, with no common ground in between, it is perhaps not to be wondered at that neither side shows signs of being converted to the views of the other. In ordinary circumstances an exchange of artillery fire between two forces out of range of one another would entail little harm, beyond the waste of material; but in the present instance, unfortunately, every shot fired by the attacking party is a present to the Turks and tends to prolong the real struggle between Turkey and Great Britain. Both Mr. Amery and Mr. Baldwin have tried hard to explain what was at issue at Geneva; but the critics will have none of it. They pretend that the British Government is where it was at any time between 1917 and 1921, with a free hand to decide whether it will evacuate the country immediately or not. In vain the Government points out that it has accepted, with the full concurrence of the nation, a mandate over Iraq; that it has a Treaty with Iraq, ratified by the Parliaments of both countries, which binds it until 1928 and then pledges it to renew the Treaty; that it is in honour bound to support Iraq and plead that country's case before the League of Nations. Each of these points is carefully ignored by the critics; but all manner of extraneous argument is cited as a reason why the Government should do something that it has no opportunity to do with violating a Treaty.

Tweedledum and Tweedledee.

The Mosul question will be debated in the House of Commons, and we can but hope that there at least Members will feel obliged to listen to the Government's case and will not be allowed to ride off on deep-seated prejudices or mere anti-Government propaganda, which form the basis of most of the present Press campaign. In the *Observer* we read that the "great point" in the question is one to which Mr. Baldwin makes not the slightest allusion. It continues: "Mr. Baldwin has the ultimate responsibility for a vast Asiatic Empire. In the era of Indian reforms friendship between Britain and the new Turkey is eminently desirable. Nothing prevents it but the Mosul imbroglio." The argument would be stronger, if India were predominantly Mohammedan, if the Turkish Republic had not abolished the Caliphate, and if it did not display complete ignorance of the Turkish character. It would be interesting to know why, in the opinion of the *Observer*, friendship between Turkey and Britain is possible after a war of the Turks' own seeking in which they were decisively beaten. It is possible, but only for one reason, and that is, because Britain has shown herself strong and the Turks respect strength. To-day among the nations of Europe Great Britain stands, in Turkish estimation, on a plane by herself, and Turkey feels the need of her friendship. The surest way of bringing Britain off that plane and making Turkey indifferent to her friendship is for the British Government to show weakness over the Mosul question and to prove false to her pledges to the Iraqis. Turkey can have for the asking the friendship of any of the other Great Powers of Europe, present or past. Why should she set store on Britain's friendship—as she most certainly does—if it were not for the fact that Britain in the past has not done the thing that the *Observer* and other critics of the Government are urging that she should now do? In the circumstances the country must be grateful to the paper for its decision, after wasting much powder, to "reserve our fire," until the decision of the League is given. That is precisely what all level-headed people wish that the *Daily Mail* and its echo, the *Observer*, had done in the first

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instance; for all that this long-range firing at non-existent targets has accomplished is to encourage the Turks to believe that their bluff has some chance of proving successful. If the League's verdict is adverse to the Turks and they accept it, Tweedledum and Tweedledee have been frightened to no purpose; if the Turks declare war on Great Britain, it will then be time enough—and only then will a decision in its proper perspective be possible—to decide whether the British shall run away from them.

The Situation in Greece.

It is hardly a matter for surprise that some foreign observers in Greece find the political situation obscure. The promulgation of the fourth Constitution before it had been ratified by Parliament had been to some extent anticipated, in view of the Prime Minister's leanings towards direct action, and there was the precedent established in the case of a previous Constitution, when the tendency of the Constituent Assembly of that date to prolong its existence indefinitely had had to be arbitrarily checked. Even the dissolution of the Chamber evoked only a nominal protest. Considerable feeling, however, appears to have been roused by the omission to specify a date for the general election, and there are indications that the Government may find it prudent to change its intention to postpone the elections until next spring and to hold them towards the end of the year. Prosecutions of the Press have emphasised the bitterness of feeling between the hostile political camps, and it seemed, therefore, a sound move on the part of General Pangalos to quash the proceedings instituted against M. Papanastasiou, a previous Prime Minister, for a published criticism of the Government. At the same time the prosecution of the newspaper *Hestia* for an article which is understood to have been written by M. Michalakopoulos, General Pangalos's predecessor in office, has been indefinitely postponed. Against these steps, however, may be set the extension of martial law, hitherto confined to the Peloponnese, to the whole of Greece—a measure prompted, it is said, by the desire to exercise a preventive censorship over the Press and so to avoid trouble from this source—and the establishment of a Special Police organisation designed to keep watch on suspects and foreigners and to check espionage. Evidently things are not yet normal in Greece, nor are they likely to be until free elections have been held, and the Greek people can feel that they have again a voice in the government of themselves.

A Balkan Monarch's Opportunity.

The great value of the monarchical system in countries where political passions can run very high lies in the fact that the Sovereign is above all parties and can take a more dispassionate view of the national situation than can any politician struggling in the arena of party interests. By common consent King Alexander, by his tactful handling of the political deadlock with which Yugoslavia was confronted, has contributed in no small measure to the satisfactory developments that have recently taken place in that country. A few weeks ago King Boris broke through the reserve with which he has hitherto approached State affairs, and made a personal appeal to the military and political leaders of Bulgaria to set themselves to heal the unfortunate breach between the existing régime and the Agrarian Party, whose moderate wing has done nothing to identify itself with Communism. Last week it was King Ferdinand's turn in Roumania. Taking advantage of the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of a Church at Temesvar, he reminded the local authorities of the need for patience and tact, if all sections of the Roumanian people were to attain the moral union that they desired to see realised. Using words of significant directness, his Majesty pointed out that the military and civil authorities must not forget that all his subjects must be treated like brothers, and that these authorities should not expect to see the hand of friendship held out to them, unless they held it out themselves. The soundness of the advice is unchallengeable, and if it has escaped the notice of the peoples of South-Eastern Europe hitherto, it is because they have been brought up in the hard, rough school which sees safety only in the striking of the first blow. Gradually these peoples have to be brought to realise that a blow on either side may not only be unnecessary, but may even be an effective obstacle to the accomplishment of what they have in view.

Minorities in the Balkans.

In ordinary circumstances it would be expected that peoples whose whole history has been conditioned by the injustices suffered by themselves or by their nationals under alien jurisdiction would have been the first to ensure for minorities within their borders complete freedom from all the disabilities of which they themselves had occasion to complain before. Yet, if there is anything behind King Ferdinand's words, it must be that there is a tendency, at least in certain districts in Roumania, for minorities to consider themselves just as badly off as ever Roumanians did in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. An opportunity of giving practical application to King Ferdinand's advice would seem to be offered in Bessarabia, where three hundred persons are on trial for their share in disturbances at Tatar Bunar last September. The position here, it is true, is complicated by the proximity of Soviet Russia; but, generally speaking, it can be said that the best safeguard against the spread of Bolshevist doctrines in Bessarabia will be the contentment of the people with their new lot. The proneness of gullible peasants to believe what is told them is well known; and it may be that an initial discontent, helped by economic conditions, made these Bessarabians an easy prey to Soviet intrigue. The Roumanian Government has to guard against making these simple-minded folk martyrs and thus spreading discontent among Bessarabians.

King Faisal.

King Faisal of Iraq, whose health had materially benefited from his stay in England, left London last week for the South of France, where he will be for a short time before returning to Baghdad. It was merely a coincidence that his visit to this country coincided with the public attention now being given to the Mosul question. King Faisal was a sick man when he landed in England, and he has had the satisfaction of being able to confirm the opinion of his medical advisers that the treatment which he came here to undergo would restore him to a state of health which he had not experienced for a long time. Inevitably the present phase of the Mosul question has to be outlived without any action on the part of Iraq. King Faisal's Government had said its say to the League of Nations' Commission, and from that point onwards the dispute has been in the hands of the Council of the League. No political significance, therefore, could attach to the King's visit. As sovereign of an Allied State, enjoying a special relationship with Great Britain, he was assured of a cordial welcome, unofficially as well as officially, and he left well pleased with the time that he had spent in England. With the Iraqis the interests of Iraq come first, and it is part of Great Britain's task to convince them that those interests are indissolubly bound up with British interests in the Middle East. Two or three years ago Iraq had not had time to make up its mind on the subject. Recent events have convinced it of the fact. King Faisal's brother is an undergraduate of Oxford, and the King hopes that a vacancy will be found for his son at Eton College.

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MOSUL: IN PERSPECTIVE.

At the meeting held last week at Brighton, in connexion with the Unionist Party Conference, Mr. Baldwin urged that the Mosul question should be considered in its true perspective, and he proceeded to subject the question to a dispassionate analysis. To those who believe that the whole country is gravely exercised in mind over Mosul the cold measured terms in which the Prime Minister spoke on the subject will seem an inadequate, if not dangerous, method of meeting a political crisis *in posse* of the first order. Yet further reflection should show that Mr. Baldwin chose the only possible way of discussing the question. Sooner or later the British electorate must decide for itself whether it is going to retain essential British characteristics or whether it prefers to cultivate a temperament more typical of the Latin races. At no time has there been anything in the Mosul question about which it was worth while for the British public, still less for the British Government, to become excited. The attempt to stir up public misgiving has been based on a perfectly definite misrepresentation of fact—that Great Britain had pledged herself to evacuate Iraq in 1928—and on a pusillanimous appeal to fear, for it was urged that Turkey intended to declare war, and that for that reason Great Britain must cringe before the threatening Turk. Now, the British electorate as a whole has no liking for a crude falsehood; still less, if there is any talk of war, has it a fancy for showing the white feather. On the other hand, it is in no mood for wild ventures, and while refusing to be stampeded by the stunt-mongering section of the Press, it has indicated a desire to know something more about the matter. Let it be admitted at once that it is disconcerting to be told from several quarters that a British Government is deliberately breaking a formal pledge, and that it is adopting a course which some of its most prominent military advisers have counselled it not to take. But when proof is forthcoming that the allegation about a pledge is demonstrably untrue, there is justification for supposing that the utterances of prominent soldiers, no longer alive, have also been twisted for the purpose of anti-Government propaganda. It may be quite true that Field Marshal Sir Henry Wilson four or five years ago, dealing with a wholly different set of circumstances, uttered certain advice on the subject of Iraq. But the premises on which he based that purely military opinion do not exist to-day. The quidnuncs of a sensational Press do not stop to consider that the Government has military advisers to-day as well, if it should feel tempted to play with war from wholly frivolous motives.

It was to this un-English orgy of misrepresentation, pusillanimity and dishonesty that Mr. Baldwin applied the cold douche of an unemotional statement of facts. There is, indeed no occasion for heroics in regard to Iraq. Our presence there is an aftermath of the War, just as much as is the British debt to the United States. Great Britain would be much better off if she had not to pay a considerable sum of money to America every year. The British custom, however, is to honour one's bond, and it may be inferred that, in spite of a misguided Press agitation, Great Britain will honour her bond in Iraq. To withdraw from the country to-day would entail the violation of actual pledges—not imaginary ones—and would be a deliberate betrayal of a trust. Yet this is the course that the Government is urged to adopt on account of its dispute with Turkey and because it does not adopt it, it has been accused of being provocative. Mr. Baldwin, therefore, first of all analysed this dispute. All the pother is about the implementing of a treaty of peace. Under the Treaty of Lausanne, Turkey and Great Britain agreed that, if the disputed question of the frontier between Turkey and Iraq could not be settled by direct negotiations within nine months, it should be referred to the Council of the League of Nations. It was so referred a year ago, both parties agreeing in advance to accept the decision of the Council, whatever it might be. The Council sent out a special Commission to investigate and report, and during its recent session it has been engaged in considering that report and the case which both sides have laid before it. Is it the suggestion, Mr. Baldwin asked, that it is an act of provocation to state a case, as we are entitled to state it under the Treaty, or to base that case, as we have done throughout, upon the report of the League of Nations' own Commission? Apart from a mutual rectification of the frontier, there is no question of claiming territory from the Turks which is not under our control to-day. The vilayet of Mosul has constituted an integral part of Iraq, and has enjoyed the same administration, ever since it was liberated from Turkish rule by British troops. The legal right of Iraq to the province of Mosul is exactly as good as her legal right to any other part of her territory. In the Treaty of Alliance between Great Britain and Iraq it is expressly stipulated that negotiations for a fresh Treaty shall take place before the expiration of the Treaty. When, therefore, the report of the Mosul Commission involved a direct question as to whether the British Government was prepared to carry out the preamble of the existing Treaty and replace it by a new one, only one answer was possible, and the British representative stated that Britain did intend to implement the preamble and to continue to co-operate with the Government of Iraq to ensure the stability and progress of the country until such time as her help was no longer necessary.

There the matter can be left for the present. The decision of the League of Nations has yet to be given. All that took place recently at Geneva was that Great Britain argued the case on behalf of Iraq with knowledge and conviction, as she was morally bound to do. Unless the Council has some other surprise in store, its decision will either give the Turkish Government what it wants or it will not. If its award should be unfavourable to the Turkish claim, it will be known then how Turkey intends to take it. To attribute to-day warlike designs to the Turks is an insult to the honour of the Republic and is a suggestion that can emanate only from quarters unfriendly to Turkey. If the Turkish newspapers lend colour to the suggestion, it can only be said that a country ought not to be judged by irresponsible organs in the Press. The true perspective for which Mr. Baldwin appealed provides no place for the least uneasiness on the part of anyone in Great Britain. The less the knowledge of the subject, the easier the coining of epigrams and jeremiads. A good case can be made out for wishing that things had worked out differently, but that is at best a particularly foolish form of indulgence; and the wise man knows that in a matter where her hands are perfectly clean Great Britain has little to fear, if she remains true to herself and continues to honour the principles on which the greatness of the British race—that has nothing to do with territorial possessions—has been built up.

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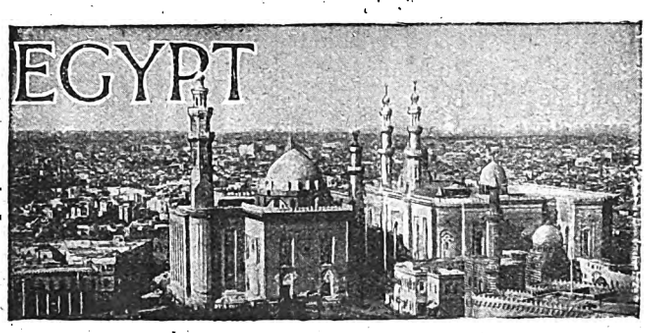
The Near and Middle East*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, October 3.

The New High Commissioner.

The Residency are moving up from Alexandria on October 17, so as to be ready to receive the new High Commissioner, and it is supposed that the Palace will follow suit shortly afterwards, as it is understood that Sir George Lloyd wishes to present his credentials in Cairo and not in Alexandria.

The Liberal Constitutional Party.

The Abdel Razek affair threatens to have even more far-reaching consequences than the break up of the Coalition which it produced. The withdrawal of the Liberal Constitutionals from the Cabinet has, in fact, been followed by discord in the party itself which may well affect its very existence.

For some time there has been considerable discontent in the party owing to the attitude, antagonistic to the Coalition and to those members who actively co-operated in the Coalition Cabinet, adopted by the party's organ. There has in addition been dissatisfaction with the manner in which the activities of the party were being directed, and certain members are alleged to have acted contrary to the accepted policy of the party. The whole question has been brought to a head by the resignation of Tewfik Pasha Doss, and an important meeting of the party will be held this evening to deal with the matter. The result of the meeting will, unfortunately, be known too late for inclusion in this letter, but there is every reason to believe that whatever decision is arrived at its execution will be postponed until various prominent Egyptians, friends of all those concerned in this internal quarrel, have returned from Europe and it has been possible to ascertain their views.

The plight of the Liberal Constitutionals to-day is not unlike that of our own Liberals, whom in certain respects they much resemble. Even its warmest friends are compelled to admit that the party has sadly disappointed expectations and has failed through lethargy, lack of leadership, and lack of party organisation.

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To a very large extent the recent crisis was due to failure on the part of the Liberal Constitutional leader to realise its political significance, and if to-day the party finds itself at a disadvantage, it is because those directing its destinies have lacked political sense, have scorned throughout to carry on propaganda like their political adversaries, and have allowed themselves to be outmanœuvred. It is sincerely to be hoped that the party will weather this internal storm and that, profiting by the bitter experience it has had, it will reorganise itself on sensible lines, for, as the *élite* of the Intelligenzia, it should be able to play a very prominent part in the future politics of the country and constitute a salutary check to the two extreme elements which now dominate Egyptian politics.

The Egyptian Minister in London.

This week the vernacular Press announces the resignation of Aziz Izzet Pasha. No confirmation can as yet be obtained, and it is possible that the rumour has had its origin in a letter which the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs wrote to the Minister in London on the question of the recent escape of Prince Seif Eddin and to the tone of which Izzet Pasha is said to have taken exception. At the same time there may be some truth in the news, for it is know that Izzet Pasha has been ailing in health and that he would welcome the opportunity to escape from the strain of public affairs.

From every point of view, however, his retirement would be regrettable. During the comparatively short time he has been in London he has won considerable esteem, not only from those English people with whom he has come in contact, but also from his foreign colleagues, owing to his dignity, tact, and *savoir faire*. Only those in close touch with affairs realise the extent to which his personality counted in the re-establishment of friendly relations after what took place during 1924; and since the existence of good feeling between Egypt and England is now recognised as an essential factor—even those who accuse their fellow-countrymen of being friendly with the British are themselves constantly making efforts to improve their relations with them—it would appear to be highly injudicious to allow the retirement of the representative who at the present juncture is so markedly *persona gratissima* at the Court of St. James.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, September 22.

The Emir Abdullah.

Ex-King Hussein, who is in good health, is expecting a visit from his third son, the Emir Abdullah, who rules in Transjordan, and resides at Amman. The ex-King is in frequent communication with his other sons, Ali, Faisal, and Zeyd, who has recently paid him a visit at Nicosia.

The Fez and the Police.

Another effort is likely to be made shortly to persuade the Government to abolish the red fez, now worn by Turks and Christians alike in the Police force, and to adopt some new form of cap. In the Ottoman Army a peaked cap is now worn, while another has been introduced into the Navy. Already some Turks in Nicosia, including an Ottoman Consul, have adopted hats, as recommended by Mustapha Kemal Pasha, President of the Turkish Republic, at Angora; so that the opposition to the fez, which affords no protection against the intense heat of the sun in the summer months, is now much stronger than it was.

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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The Coming Elections.

The prospects of the candidates for seats in the new Legislative Council are now the absorbing topic of interest. The election of certain members in all the electoral districts seems to be assured. For Larnaca, e.g., M. Luke Pierides, who has been a fairly frequent visitor to England in late years, should be one of the elected. His father was for many years Mayor of Larnaca, and his grandfather, John Pierides, who was educated in England, was a distinguished student of the ancient Cypriot language and inscriptions, and of island archæology. He was sent to England as a boy, with several other Cypriots, during the critical times that followed the Greek rising of 1821. For Nicosia and Limassol some candidates are fairly sure of success. The Greek Archbishop has recently issued a long encyclical, urging electors to vote for the patriotic, "National" nominees, to the exclusion of the seven members of the late Council who have not found favour with the Greek Nationalists, and have been the subject of much criticism and vituperation in the Greek Press.

General News.

Large quantities of carobs have already been exported, especially from Limassol, the largest producing district: one steamer having taken 2,500 tons. Fairly large quantities of raisins are also being shipped.

Much interest is taken in the question who is to be the next Governor. Rumour, based on a statement in the Egyptian *Mokattam*, has it that it will be Sir Ronald Storrs. It is believed that the Governship of Sir Malcolm Stevenson will not be extended: but nothing is known.

Jerusalem, October 3.

Palestine Arabs and Syria.

As was anticipated, nothing whatever came of the proposed pro-Syrian rebel demonstrations, for which the Arab Executive asked permission three weeks ago. Perhaps the petitioners themselves expected nothing, and only intended to show a willingness to repay the Syrians the kindness which the Syrians extended to them by their reception of Lord Balfour in Damascus. Rumour has it that the only response to the petition by the High Commissioner was a suggestion that the would-be demonstrators be granted cheap tickets to Syria in order that they might hold their demonstrations there and see what would happen. Few signs are apparent of any really deep-seated sympathy with the Druses.

Arab Grievances.

The Arab Executive continues to pour in upon the High Commissioner petition after petition; they seem determined to recapitulate in as short a time as possible all the accumulated grievances—some real and some not—which have moved them during the past five years. But one new "grievance" they *have* produced, namely, that the Government has deliberately gone counter to the terms to the Mandate and the Palestine Constitution—which enact that, in all official items, such as coins, stamps, and so on, everything given in Arabic shall also be given in Hebrew, and *vice versa*. Encouraged by the success of the Urtas villagers in proving before the Jerusalem High Court the illegality of the Government's action in using part of the Urtas water supply, the Arab Executive are bringing an action against the Government, because in all Hebrew official translations and on the Palestine stamps, after the name "Palestine" it brackets the initials "E.Y." (Eretz Yisrael—Land of Israel), whereas in the corresponding Arabic title "Filastin" there is no such addition. The names, both in Arabic and Hebrew, are unnatural. The Arabs maintain that "Suria Junubiya" (Southern Syria) is the correct Arabic name of the country; but this name has been officially suppressed because of the danger of confusion with French Syria. The Jews maintain that the only name for the country in the Hebrew language is "Eretz Yisrael," and that to style Palestine in Hebrew "Palestina (E.Y.)" is precisely as if, in the English language, Great Britain were to be officially styled "Ecosse (G.B.)"—since "Palestina" is in Hebrew ears merely a foreign spelling of the name of a portion of the country which it is intended to name. "Palestina (E.Y.)" was, of course, only adopted as a compromise for the benefit of the Arabs who, as we can well comprehend, saw in the Jewish name "Land of Israel" too wholesale a begging of the question as to the meaning of "a national home in Palestine."

The "Wailing Wall."

The position of the Jews with regard to the "Wailing Wall" has again come prominently to the fore. The problem is whether the Jews should be permitted to place chairs and benches in the area facing the Wall. The question came to a head in the early summer three years ago (see THE NEAR EAST, June 15, 1922), when, as the result of complaints of Arabs living near by (who maintained that their lawful ingoings and outgoings were incommoded by the presence of these benches), it was officially decided that no chairs or benches might be used by the Jews. A week ago, on the eve of the Day of Atonement, the Jews had started their long day of fasting and praying before the Wall. Owing to the long ordeal before them and the rigid fasting rule, certain of the more aged Jews and Jewesses had provided themselves with chairs of sorts. Before long, the police came, and there was a horrid, unseemly scene, during which the seats were forcibly removed. Feelings were bitter three years ago, but nothing to compare with the present outburst of Jewish rage. According to the ruling of 1922 the Jews were in the wrong; a representative of the Government, in response to the prompt deputations of be-shawled, barefooted Jews, had to go and inform them that they might sit on cushions or even on empty petrol-tins, but they must not sit on chairs while holding their religious rites at the Wailing Wall.

The Jews seem determined not to let the matter rest at its present stage. Pending the formation of the League of Nations' "Committee on the Holy Places," the High Commissioner is empowered to decide matters in dispute, and the Jews wish this matter to be settled at once, and, of course, settled in their favour. They maintain that save during the régimes of Sir Ronald Storrs and the Emperor Hadrian, the rights of the Jews to practice their worship in the Wailing Wall area have never been restricted or questioned or hindered in any manner of way. Throughout the entire Turkish period they never—so they maintain—suffered any interference; whereas now, under enlightened British rule, they are made the victims of a senseless tyranny unparalleled even in Tsarist Russia.

It is impossible that any easy way out of the difficulty will be found. The Jews see only the ignominy of it—petty vexations on all occasions by the neighbouring Arabs, police bullying them at both the time and place they hold most sacred; the Arabs are minded to do their best to thwart any rights the Jews may seek to claim at this site; while British officialdom can only hold the position that "an order's an order" and must be kept.

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A MASRI MEMORY.

By W. F. S.

The number of revelations since the War by genuine and imaginary secret-service agents would lead one to believe that there remains little, if anything, of interest to add to the enormous output of hair-raising literature on the subject.

Mindful of this fact, I propose to deal, in this little sketch, with the more comic aspects of the "hush-hush" profession, from the point of view of one who dabbled therein, more or less as a dilettante, in Alexandria, Cairo and the Canal Zone from 1916 onwards, in a desultory and sporadic fashion, until the Armistice.

It was not until the close of 1915 that any serious effort was made in Egypt to produce an organisation comparable with that which Great Britain already possessed in Allied, neutral, and enemy countries. Alexandria was chosen as the base of operations of the amorphous body which finally grew into being: it would be unfair to quote the title of the organisation, but it is only necessary to say that it was as unwieldy as everything else connected with it. Starting in a quiet way with a few junior consular officers and one or two stray archæologists (of these latter, however, one at least was to write his name on the Roll of Fame in no unmistakeable fashion) camouflaged in military and R.N.V.R. uniforms, it soon acquired such *vires eundo* that it spread its tentacles all over a large block of flats in one of the main streets of Alexandria. Extraordinary precautions were taken to veil the location of headquarters; need it be said that, as ever in the East, our neighbours soon knew far more about our business and movements than we did? And we were very inexperienced in those days.

Opinion was, in fact, divided among the staff on the best methods to use. The chief, one of the old school, never could get away from what he termed the "Hist!" method; the multitudinous precautions he took to cover his tracks were a source of much amusement to the staff, and no doubt of still more to the blond Danish tonsorial artist who used to attend to the charming young ladies from the Registry, through whose hands, of course, the greater portion of the confidential stuff passed.

On the other hand, some of the juniors were for adopting any easy, unconcerned attitude, and the sight of them sitting in the Windsor or Regina bar, more or less unsuccessfully attempting to carry off the nonchalant ingurgitation of a cocktail was amusing; the only too evident air of mystery which they wore was also not without its humours. Then there was the private whom they dressed up as a perfectly good officer and sent round the town on a roving commission. Job of jobs, indeed! Free "stass," free drinks: in fact, the positive encouragement to buy and "stand" the maximum amount of liquid refreshment. Alas, it was too good to last: the "temporary captain" soon over-rated his capacity for alcohol, and an unfeeling M.P. cut short a brief, but hectic career by haling the joyous sleuth off to the A.P.M. The subsequent scene between the latter and the Chief is another story.

Then, again, there were the "outside" and "inside" jobs: the former were tedious to the verge of monotony: endless cyphering and decyphering with constantly changing codes, endless skimming of the neutral and enemy Press, endless interviewing of mysterious and hybrid candidates for the post of "agent," and the like: the not inconsiderable accounts (one agent earned for a few short days, before he found his end in the Bosphorus, pay at the rate of £800 a week) were capably dealt with by a well-known British business man from Constantinople: the Registry was given over to the weaker sex, and as someone unkindly but truly remarked, every new addition to the staff entailed the engagement of two new-comers to deal with the extra work created by the latest arrival.

The majority of these ladies were engaged in London, and, since the advertisement obviously had to be very discreetly worded and the subsequent interview deal more with vague hints than with hard facts, some of those chosen arrived in Egypt with but the vaguest idea of the nature of their duties.

The "outside" jobs could certainly not be termed monotonous. The writer's own connexion with this organisation started "inside": but he lost little time in transferring to the "outside," in which the gamut of his experiences ranged from the supervision of the office cars and motor-cycles to dining and wining likely agents at Shepheard's or the Continental, and from loading Army petrol destined for our Intelligence motor-boats in Greek and Turkish waters to listening, from the uncomfortable vantage point of an ancient and bug-ridden Turkish bed, to the plotting of a dozen of the most desperate characters among the Nationalist party, seated round a table some six feet away.

This last little job merits perhaps further details, for it was an object-lesson in the advisability of finding out all about a show before you engage on it.

"Catch the midday train to Cairo and report to G.H.Q. at the Savoy Hotel: oh, and buy a fez on your way to the station" were the Chief's instructions, and thinking that nothing more than a pleasant trip to Cairo and a couple of hours' work listening to the conversation of some Turkish plotter or other in a Mousky café was on the programme, I bought the required fez and dropped into a seat in the Cairo diner, feeling reasonably satisfied with sleuthing as a profession.

G.H.Q. soon upset my calculations by handing me over to the tender mercies of a bearded Turk, who promptly proceeded to outdo even the Chief himself in the theatrical nature of the precautions he took. After doubling on our tracks so often that it took us a full hour to get from the Savoy to Ataba-el-Khadra, my guide finally fetched up before a tall, narrow building in the Mousky and whispered gloomily, "It is here." As he failed, in spite of my insistence, to enlighten me what was there, I followed him up to the top story, where an even more villainous-looking Osmanli greeted us. I was invited to crawl under an exceptionally dirty bedstead, which gave about a foot and a half "head clearance."

Cursing myself for not having brought a "gun," I crept under the bed, where I was joined by the bearded one. "They will be here soon: for Allah's sake, do not make a sound: listen and write down what they say: we are in danger." We were certainly in discomfort: what seemed like every available bug in Cairo, with re-inforcements from the villages, started to make a leisurely, but thorough investigation of my person. Just as things were getting intolerable, the door opened and "they" came in—a dozen of the biggest scoundrels and cut-throats in Egypt, among whom I recognised with mixed feelings a well-known Sheikh.

Our Calvary had begun: for four long hours did we lie under that foul couch, afraid to breathe—or to scratch, while the Nationalist crowd plotted and counterplotted, sang the Hymn of Hate (in Turkish) and, adding insult to injury (I had had no dinner), moved slowly but implacably through the endless courses of an Oriental meal.

And, half-way through, horror of horrors, what was that? Yes, a distinct snore, of that particular timbre which warns you that the next one will be an undisguised snort. There was only one thing to be done: if I let my companion go on, we were lost: if I nudged or pinched

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him, he would infallibly start, and knock some portion of his person against the bed, and again we were lost. We were lying on a thin native quilt: locating the back of his neck, I got a good grip on it and forced his mouth and beard into the quilt, at the same time whispering fiercely in his ear. By the time he could articulate, he had wakened enough to grasp the situation. Phew!

When I got back to my room at the Continental, I I found that something like seventy of the Mousky animalculæ had decided that West is tastier than East . . . .

On another occasion, also in Cairo, my hiding-place was a native trunk, into which it was just possible for a small man to double, or rather quadruple himself. It was the month of July! After a time, becoming comparatively expert in the proper negotiation of close quarters, I decided to remove my tie, collar, and shoes. These, on my finally emerging from the trunk, my accomplice positively refused to allow me to don, alleging that one of the conspirators was returning immediately. I was therefore thrust out of the front-door, into one of Cairo's principal arteries, carrying the said garments in my hand!

The hunter hunted! The tables were turned on me with a vengeance, once, in Alexandria. We had come to suspect the confidential clerk of one of the leading Greek residents—a staunch pro-Ally, subsequently Greek Minister at Washington—of relations with the enemy, and I struck up an acquaintance with him. Dinners, picnics, moonlight trips to San Stefano—I was a thousand miles from suspecting that he had any idea it was not mere friendship, until, one day, in the garden of a quiet, isolated villa in Ramleh, I took an apparently harmless whisky, and my wife who was with me, an equally harmless-looking liqueur. "Rather strong," I thought after the first gulp, and added water: but at the second, I tumbled (figuratively and nearly actually), accidentally knocked my wife's glass out of her hand, took the first opportunity of emptying mine into the shrubbery, and alleging a forgotten appointment of the first importance, left, despite all my host's protests: fortunately, the cab was waiting, and we got back to the hotel just before collapsing (though we had both taken but a sip). Twenty-four hours of appropriate treatment left us none the worse, but our friend had left for Suez: besides, it was no good, we had no proof.

Secret Service, though it may be, and generally is, dangerous, affords you many a quiet laugh, particularly in retrospect.

KING FUAD'S ACCESSION DAY.

To celebrate the eighth anniversary of the accession of King Fuad I., of Egypt, Sesostris Sidarouss Bey, Egyptian Chargé d'Affaires, held a reception, followed by a dinner, at Claridge's Hotel on October 9.

Among those present at the reception were:—Prince and Princess Nicholas Galitzine, Prince Nader Mirza Arasteh, Lady Allenby, Lady Clanmorris, Ahmed Ferid Bey, Lady Clayton, Lady Mackenzie, La Baronne d'Orgeval, Lady Rogers Pasha, Sir Edward and Lady Boyle, General Sir George and Lady Milne, the Earl of Meath, Lord Headley, Colonel Lord Arthur and Lady Browne, General Sir William and Lady Harcourt, Brig.-General R. B. D. Blakeney, the Countess of Westmorland, Lady Napier and Ettrick, Count de Miremont, General Sir John and Lady Maxwell, Sir Henry McMahon, Sir Charles and Lady Walpole, Dowager Lady Boyle, Dowager Lady Raglan, Sir E. Denison Ross, Lt.-Col. and the Hon. Mrs. George Schuster, and many others.

At the dinner the guests present were:—General Sir J. Hanbury-Williams, Lady and Miss Hanbury-Williams, Sir Hamar Greenwood, Lady Greenwood, Sir Geoffrey Archer, General Sir John and Lady Maxwell, Sir Maurice Amos, Lady Scott Moncrieff, Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery, Mr. J. D. Gregory, Mr. and Mrs. Murray, the Hon. and Mrs. Mervyn Herbert, Mr. and Mrs. G. N. M. Bland, Mr. J. B. Monck, Mr. and Mrs. Tottenham, Russell Pasha and Mrs. Russell, Major Colin Hindley, Saleh Enan Pasha, Hamid Shawarby Pasha, Faid Sabit Bey, Moustafa El Sadek Bey, Madam El Sadek, Mr. A. Badawy, Mr. Soliman Sabet, Mr. Murad Heshmat, Professor Azzam, Mr. Gheit, and Mr. Radi.

ETCHINGS OF THE PALESTINE CAMPAIGN.

The fame as an etcher of Mr. James McBey, who is now holding an exhibition at the Galleries of the Fine Art Society, Bond Street, was, of course, established, before the War, before, that is, he had given to the world those biting memories of what he saw in the last two years of the War in France and in Palestine. It is, nevertheless, largely for the way in which he gave to History a visible record of the Australians' exploits in the Holy Land, that he now can claim the admiration of those to whom the masterliness of his sea-sketches and the detailed vivacity of his Moroccan studies may perhaps not have duly appealed.

Certainly his etchings of the Palestine campaign are amazingly fine. Look, for instance, at his "Dust—Beersheba" and the whole picture of the lot of these Anzac horsemen in November, 1917, comes at once before the imagination. Of his "Dead Sea" it may be merely remarked that when Mr. McBey touches water he touches beauty: all the dim mystery of this low sheet is there. Again, his representation of scenes in Sinai—"Midday Halt," a sketch of camels and the tents in July, 1917, "Strange Signals," showing two lean "Aussies" peering from their seats on camels into the distance, "Deserted Oasis," and so on—are vivid to a degree. There is a striking reproduction of "Gunfire—Mount of Olives, '17," eclipsed perhaps only by "Moonlight Attack." There is, further, the very effective "March on Jerusalem," showing the artillery moving through defiles in November, 1917; and there is "First Sight of Jerusalem"—a sight gained through the bursting of shells. "Jerusalem from Olivet" reveals a certain limitation in which artist, for it is action rather than architecture in which he is so strong.

Possibly only one who was a soldier can rightly appreciate the strength of his "The Sniper," which bears the mark of Kurd Hill, Gaza, October 31 1917: it is grimly alive. But what will be most notable in this collection of war scenes may well be the famous "Surrender of Jerusalem," in which the historic incident of December 9, 1917, when the remote inhabitants of the Holy City advanced from its walls to hand over to two British "Tommies," clad in shorts and full fighting kit, the immemorial keys of the town.

There are many other things than these memories of Palestine in Mr. McBey's etchings. It is interesting to note, for example, how he has progressed from the years before the War, represented here by numerous studies of Tetuan and Tangier. Then he paid great attention to detail; now he is swifter, more eliminating in his methods

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR EGYPT AND THE SUDAN.

Sir George Lloyd, High Commissioner for Egypt and the Sudan, on whom the King conferred the honour of a Barony a few days before his departure for Egypt, left London, with Lady Lloyd, on Monday, with the intention of spending a few days in Paris before joining the P. and O. steamer Morea at Marseilles to-morrow. A large company had assembled at Victoria Station to bid farewell to Sir George and Lady Lloyd, among those present being Sir Geoffrey Archer, Governor-General of the Sudan, Sir Walter Tyrrell and Mr. Murray, representing the Foreign Office, Sidarouss Sesostris Bey, Egyptian Chargé d'Affaires, and the staff of the Egyptian Legation.

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Book Reviews and Notes.

A FLYING VISIT.

"A FLYING VISIT TO THE MIDDLE EAST." By the Rt. Hon. Sir Samuel Hoare, Bart., C.M.G., M.P. (Cambridge University Press. 3s. 6d.)

In this small volume the Secretary of State for Air, Sir Samuel Hoare, tells the story of the visit paid by him and Mr L. S. Amery, Secretary of State for the Colonies, to Iraq last spring. It was in two senses of the word a flying visit, and rendered possible only by the fact that the whole of the travelling from Cairo to Baghdad and back, with separate journeys to Mosul and the Persian frontier in the north and to Basrah and Mohammerah in the south, was done in aeroplanes. In fifty hours of actual flying time, the "Whitehall tourists" covered 3,500 miles. To those who, as a result of a campaign of misrepresentation, are wondering whether Iraq from the British point of view is "worth while" we recommend this simple narrative of what the two Secretaries of State saw and did in the country. There is a welcome absence of political propaganda in the book, but here and there in its pages occur references which give food for thought to anyone who can read with understanding. For instance, among those assembled to meet the visitors in Mosul were found "two Englishmen with the indelible stamp of British N.C.O. impressed upon them. They had stayed on in the country after the War and set up a dairy business in the neighbourhood of the town." Not much thought is given by the advocates of "scuttle" to possible British interests in Iraq, with its trade with Great Britain rapidly catching up that between Great Britain and Turkey and with as many shareholders of the newly formed Dialah Cotton Plantations as there are in England, although their holdings are naturally on a much smaller scale. The account of a visit paid to Lady Surma, Chieftainess of the Assyrian Nestorians, gains an additional interest from the incidents of recent days, when Turkish hostility to these hapless people has broken out afresh. Although much in the public eye as persecuted Christians, the Assyrians (i.e., Nestorians) make first-class fighting material, and our author suggests that with further training and experience they will become an important factor in the defence of Iraq. Boy Scouts at Kirkuk open up a different conception of Iraq from that which some newspapers would inculcate when they publish a photograph of a railway running across a desert and label it as "the country that we are asked to fight for." Sir Samuel Hoare touches on the political side of his tour in pointing out that in the course of five years British expenditure in Iraq has been reduced from 38½ millions to less than four millions, and he adds: "I have every hope that in a not far-distant future we shall be able to make still further economies of a substantial character." He also lays stress on the advantages of Iraq from the point of view of the Royal Air Force, not only in the matter of maintaining law and order, but also as a wonderful training ground and for the provision of many unique opportunities for applying Air methods. Squadrons are engaged on survey and mapping work; there is the constant flying practice for young pilots, often under conditions that resemble active service. "No country and no Air service has reached anything like the amount of flying hours flown by the Air Force pilots in Iraq." Sir Samuel Hoare, however, would probably be the first to protest that his slight sketch was not meant to provoke political controversy. He is out to write "shop," but it is "shop" in the setting of the attractiveness of the problem presented by Iraq, and combined with it the enthusiasm of the tourist in covering new ground. In this connexion a special word of praise is due to the excellent photographs included in the book.

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BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Some Sayings of the Buddha: According to the Pali Canon." Translated by F. L. Woodward, M.A. (Cantab.). (London: Humphrey Milford. Leather, 7s. net; cloth, 5s. net.)

"The Lost Oases." By A. M. Hassanein Bey, F.R.G.S., Introduction by Sir Rennell Rodd. Illustrated. (London: Thornton Butterworth. 21s.)

"Beled-es-Siba." by W. E. D. Allen. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd. 8s. 6d. net.)

"THE MOSLEM WORLD."

The October number of *The Moslem World* has as its leading article an important contribution by Professor D. S. Margoliouth, Litt. D., of Oxford, on the "Textual Variations of the Koran," exposing a popular fallacy that the Koran text is more accurate than that of the Old and New Testaments. The Editor gives the result of his recent investigations on Islam in South Africa and in a brief article also describes "Two Moslem Catechisms" published at Cape Town. The present condition of "Government and Religious Education in the Dutch East Indies" is summarized by Samuel MacF. Anderson, and the effect of such Western education in producing "Modern Types of Moslem Thought" by Mr. S. A. Morrison, of Cairo. Two other articles are "Baghdad To-day," by Dr. Calvan K. Staudt, and "Non-Conformist Moslems in Albania," by Margaret Hasluck. Medical missions find place in this number in the description of a new Moslem Hospital in Kansu, China, and an account of the evangelistic work carried on in one of the largest hospitals of Africa, by one of the staff, Dr. J. E. Bateman, of Cairo.

PICTURES OF TURKEY.

There is at this moment being held an exhibition at the Macrae Galleries, Fulham Road, S.W.3, which should appeal particularly to readers of this journal. For there Ali Sami Bey, who is Director of Evkafs at Constantinople, and who studied painting in Paris and was a Director of the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Constantinople, is showing some paintings and etchings that he has made of Turkey. So far as we know, he is the first Turkish artist so to exhibit in London.

It is still the Turkey of romance that Ali Sami Bey depicts; for there is little visible evidence of the psychological change that may have come over the Turkish nation. It is true that his largest work, "Old Turkish School," showing the form of tuition that obtained in the pre-Republican régime, has been made rather from his memory than from his immediate observation, but for the most part his landscapes are ones that might have been done at any period in recent Turkish history. Ali Sami Bey draws extremely well; he has a sense of character, and a very definite ability in reproducing the atmosphere, so to speak, of buildings. Old mosques and terraces and houses on the Bosphorus he especially delights in; and one particularly effective comparison he makes, in a painting called "The Two Old Ones," between an aged hoja reading in the garden of the Evkaf Museum and a hollow tree which is said to date back to Byzantine times. Ali Sami Bey's etchings are even more charming than his paintings, which do not always show such a balance of tone as is common in the West. Among these one notes particularly "St. Sophia," "A Cemetery on the Bosphorus," and "Moonlight—Golden Horn."

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Prime Minister's Policy.

The annual conference of the Unionist Party was opened at Brighton last week, and the key note was struck by the Prime Minister, who made a comprehensive statement upon the achievements and the intentions, both at home and abroad, of the Conservative Administration. (Discussion on the fact that individual choristers subsequently wobbled from the pitch which he had set them, may, perhaps, be left to another occasion). Mr. Baldwin's speech, though received with apparent acclamation by the conference itself, has been variously commented upon by those whose conservatism is not quite of a piece with the Prime Minister's. But of that, more later. To one who is not violently moved by the cry of sectional remedies, it would appear that the bed-rock foundation of this speech was English common-sense. Eschewing the arts of the demagogue and the wiles of the showman, Mr. Baldwin undecoratively unfolded the tale of his Administration. Something, he claimed, had been done by this Government which was sometimes rebuked as *fainéant*: the Widows Pension Act, the working of the Food Council, housing. Again, intention balanced achievement in the matter of the reform of the House of Lords, agriculture, and economy. Upon what Mr. Baldwin said on the Security Pact and the Mosul question it is not within my province to deal, except in so far as to remark that his speech here again seemed to the ordinary observer (not the Sunday edition) to contain the soundest sense. And it was on the very burning problem of the Government's relations to Communism in this country that he most abundantly displayed his innate, unscared Englishness. Communism, he said, was a foreign production, begotten of ignorance out of misery. But just as America has shaken off this alien doctrine, so also will France; and so Great Britain. No minority would in this country be allowed to tyrannize over a majority, which, through the Government, was protected by legal means. It was upon this matter of using the existing legal machinery to crush the monster of Communism that possibly his most significant words were uttered: for not the Home Secretary, whose name was not mentioned in this speech, but the Attorney-General, who spoke recently of the chariness with which the liberty of the subject would be interfered with by a Conservative Administration, it was whom the Prime Minister praised and followed.

Its Reception.

Yet, whatever the rank and file at Brighton thought of their leader, it was already obvious on the day of the publication of the speech that many Conservatives were disappointed with it. First came those who complained that it contained no inspiring slogan, no ringing challenge to the time, no personal magnetism which might draw all men to *the* Party. On those whose ideal of leadership is based on Coalition rhetoricians like Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. Winston Churchill, Lord Birkenhead, and so on, the absence of any individual call came with chilling effect. Such commentators deplore the Prime Minister's elementary sense of the value of advertising, and almost fear that, through lack of hoardings and "stunts," their Party's virtues may be neglected by a forgetful public. A man of the nature of the Home Secretary, who puts more "pep" into the expression of his convictions, is more after their heart, for in studious modesty, they say, there is ample room for misunderstanding. Another objection that has been quickly levelled against the Prime Minister concerns his references to economy. His optimistic remarks on this hand have been brusquely described as fatuous, his praises of the Exchequer in having reduced taxation by one-third in the last five years as childishly deceiving. It is true, however, that most of this criticism in this direction comes through the gap which loyal followers of the Party feel to have been created in the absence of genuine and popular Conservative morning and evening newspapers. There remains the broader, less analysable, contention that Mr. Baldwin, though he has made a good case, has not inspired the confidence of his party. It is stated that evidence is to be found in his speech that his weakness is as marked as his good-will; and, it is argued, strength is the order of the day. There is no appearance, according to these disappointed Conservatives, that Mr. Baldwin is manfully grappling with the vast problems that have beset us; his reiterated desire to make good is, indeed, becoming a little monotonous in their ears; and they have recommenced, even, to think of a stouter, less compromising substitute. The time has come, they say, for a man with more grip and nerve to assume control of the buffeted ship of State.

Its Outcome.

Much of this criticism, however, is, no matter how honestly some Conservatives may imitatively indulge it, tainted at its source and therefore inconsiderable. The whole world—even as far as Angora—is aware that certain journals whose proprietors possess a culture which is scarcely equal, say, to that of Mr. Baldwin, and certain journalists whose servile ears are used as earth wires, are making a dead set against the Prime Minister. A propos of this, it is gratifying to record that a resolution at Brighton which condemned the personal Press attacks upon the Prime Minister was passed with extraordinary enthusiasm. There seems to be little doubt that among the humbler adherents of the Conservative Party the Brighton speech will have a steadying effect. The country wanted to know exactly what the Prime Minister thought of all the attacks that have in the past few months been made upon him; it was getting uneasy, not to say apprehensive. Now they know that until the country decides against the Government, as Mr. Baldwin said, "we stay where we are." And that's the Truth—if you think it is.

The Class War.

Argument concerning the desirability or folly of the institution known as the O.M.S. still continues: it has been raised to fever pitch, in fact, by two things—a letter which Mr. Ramsay MacDonald wrote to *The Times* inquiring whether there was an identity of views between the Home Secretary and the Prime Minister, and Mr. Baldwin's obviously pointed silence over the matter of Sir William Joynson-Hicks' relations with the O.M.S. That school of thought which all along opposed the formation of the O.M.S. as likely to provoke class-antagonism is naturally delighted with what the Conservative Premier said upon the danger of an industrial dispute

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it was an utterance which, according to this school, might equally have been made by a wise Liberal or Labour Prime Minister. But Mr. Baldwin patently disappointed several Conservatives Letters have been pouring into the papers which suggest that, however creditably class-war Communism may have been ejected by the Liverpool Conference, its *vis-à-vis* still lingers in a considerable number of remote clubs and country houses. Other, more moderate Conservatives, have been at pains to point out that the principles of the O.M.S. are sound enough, but that it has not been made presentable because of the ambassadors and peers and admirals under whose auspices it came before the public eye. But the majority of the Party, it is manifest, are with the Prime Minister when he, as has been said, "always speaks like one who is aware that the five or six million young men who pulled us through the War are also, in the main, the men whose minds are expressed in the votes of every post-War Trade Unions Congress." They, like Mr. Baldwin, know that, if a Socialist Party were returned to power, a Socialist Home Secretary might enrol a special constabulary organised by a Socialist party committee, and, like the wise Englishmen that they are, remembering that what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander, prefer to work within the machinery that has served them in so many other historical crises.

The Liberal Land Report.

Mr. Lloyd George has been crusading over Scotland on a land campaign. Mr. Baldwin has described that land policy as a "cold linseed poultice"; another eminent Conservative, Mr. Garvin, has, in his sabbatarian illumination, described it as "the vigorous preparation of a very hot mustard-plaster." It is possible that the Prime Minister, who, as he recently confessed, was brought up on pickled onions, knows something more of agriculture than Mr. Garvin, who brought himself up on pickled politics: but that remains to be seen. According to Mr. Lloyd George, landlordism is in ruins and nothing in the way of doles or of subsidies can save it. What was the remedy? The acquisition of the soil by the nation. This was not nationalisation, for development of the soil would be left to private enterprise. The monopolist must be got rid of: it was an outrage that alien chiefs, who could not stand a Highland winter, should be lording the Highlands. This last reference was the inevitable particularisation of the speaker's general policy. That policy, as detailed in the rural report of the Liberal Land Committee, published last week, is to "cultivate tenure" as the panacea for present ills. According to these Liberals' view, cultivating tenure would secure for the landlord an income equal to the net income which he now derives from the land. The farmer, moreover, would have the legitimate rights of ownership without its risks, and the advantages of yearly tenancy without its insecurity. And for the British labourer, who is to-day the only landless peasant in Europe, cultivating tenure meant the recognition, for the first time in any British agricultural policy, of his real status and function in the industry and in the nation. Most of the comment upon this Report and upon Mr. Lloyd George's land speeches have been in two senses; first, a particular criticism, that security of tenure to the farmers is useless without security of price, and secondly, a general inference, that this remedy is Socialism undisguised, that there is now little to divide anti-Communist Labour from Liberal, and, therefore, that the two-party system is well on the way to being restored.

The Church Conference.

The Church Congress, which met at Eastbourne last week, had a very comprehensive programme, which dealt relations to the pressing problems of to-day. The Archbishop of Canterbury struck the key-note in his examination of the apparent indifference of the present age to Christianity. He found the main explanation of the falling off in the number of churchgoers to be in the poverty of the sermons that are nowadays preached, and it will not widely be doubted that he, whose Church is one in which the value and place of the sermon in worship are accounted high, was correct in his diagnosis. He pleaded for the restoration of the preacher—the kind of power with the masses in which the Nonconformists had so great an advantage over the Evangelicals. His exposition and his prayer for the better manning of the Church appear to have made a profound impression. But what those outside the Congress have been wondering is, whether the underlying principles of Christianity still have their attraction, whether, that is, it is merely, as the Archbishop says, the poorness of the Ministry which drives men into the indulgence of other attractions on a Sunday, or an indisposition to accept the fundamentals of their fathers' creed, by whomsoever they be expounded.

What is Art?

The ordinary man in the street, perplexed perhaps by the utterances of clerics and politicians at Eastbourne and Brighton, was able to read last week at least one speech that he could understand. This was by the Royal Academician, Mr. John Collier, who as has been said, "got back on the map" by a frontal attack on the Modernists in Art whom the ordinary man in the street so much loathes. To Mr. John Citizen it was delightful to see Mr. Epstein and the Hudson Memorial put in their improper places. Mr. Collier said that Rima was a horror. There was a danger that young men might take her as an ideal of female beauty. Hence the future generations might resemble this "bestial figure horribly mis-shapen." Nor did this fresh outbreak on the Hudson Memorial finish here: papers like the *Morning Post* were impelled to write leaders entitled, "Take it Away," and kinema favourites like Miss Betty Blythe had discreet photographs of themselves taken showing how Rima should really have appeared to the multitudes who might or might not have flocked to Hyde Park to see her. Perhaps it does not greatly matter. After all, Shakespeare still lives, though Tolstoy belittled him, Thomas Hardy has not relapsed into obscurity because of George Moore's criticism, Brahms is no less popular a song writer because Hugo Wolf pointed out his syrupyness. All artists have prejudices, though they are not so omnivorous as those of the ordinary man in the street. There must be disagreement in art, for, as Oscar Wilde said, it is only the auctioneer who should admire all schools of art.

The Tri-National Exhibition.

It was with a feeling of the imperious duty of preserving an open mind that one went to the recently-opened exhibition of "Tri-National" art at the new Chenil Galleries, Chelsea. The organisers there have hit upon the happy idea of showing us, not only whither our own artists are tending, but their inevitable yet largely unknown affinities with artists of other countries. The nations represented are British, French, and American; and that, as it would seem from this exhibition, is also their order of merit. It is amazingly alive, this show, but one needs to keep a cool head, to remember that painters love toying with forms and with colours as musicians love toying with sounds, that, there is, in other words, great fun, if nothing more, in a meaningless pattern. To treat all their pictures as serious works of art would be the heaviest kind of folly. But let it be said at once that the cloven hoof of the impostor does obtrude itself. For there is not only an abundance of superb Augustus Johns, there is a perfect plague of pitiful and inferior imitations. There is the cubist nonsense of Picasso, and there is the childish nonsense of Picabia. But what good things in compensation! Amazingly fine sculpture, for instance, by Dobson and Epstein and Heseltine (the last the best of the American artists), paintings by A. R. Thompson and Derain and Roger Fry, and drawings by Howard and Colin Gill and Roberts.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY

October 15, 1925 (New Style).
October 2, 1925 (Old Style).
Rabia I, 27, 1344 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Tishri 27, 5686, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Earl of Altamont left London last Thursday for Marseilles to embark in the Ranchi for India.

Sir Atul Chatterjee, High Commissioner for India, and Lady Chatterjee have returned to London from Geneva.

Abdulhamid Soliman Pasha, the General Manager of the Egyptian State Railways, arrived in Paris last week from London.

Sir Milne Cheetham, British Minister to Greece, who had been staying in London, left Claridge's Hotel last week for the British Legation, Athens.

Mr. Hoffman Phillip, American Minister to Persia, has arrived in London, and will be at the Berkeley Hotel for a few days before proceeding to Teheran.

M. Titulesco, the Roumanian Minister in London, who will head the Roumanian debt settlement delegation to America, leaves London this month for Washington.

Commander Gerassimos Vassiliades has been appointed Naval Attaché to the Greek Legation in the place of Captain Panas, who is returning to Athens to take up a naval command.

Ex-King George and Queen Elizabeth of Greece, last Sunday, concluded their visit to London and left for Paris, where they purposed staying a few days before proceeding to Roumania.

Sir Thomas and Lady Smith, Lady Wheeler, and the Hon. Mrs. Nixon left London last Thusrday by special train for Marseilles, to embark in the Ranchi for India.

The Maharajah of Patiala, last Friday, returned to London from Dunrobin Castle, Sutherland, where he has been the guest of the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland for the shooting. His Highness will remain at the Savoy Hotel with his suite until he leaves for India next Sunday.

The Duke of York will preside next Tuesday at the Royal Navy Club dinner to commemorate the Battle of Trafalgar. The gathering will take place at the Hotel Victoria, and Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby will be the guest of the evening.

Miss Gertrude Bell, Oriental Secretary to the High Commissioner in Iraq, has left England for Baghdad. On the night before her departure, Miss Bell was present at a dinner given by the Secretary of State for the Dominions and Mrs. Amery to King Faisal.

The Hon. Harold Nicolson has been appointed Counsellor of Legation in Teheran, and will shortly leave London to take up his new duties. Mr. Nicolson, who, incidentally, was born in Teheran, has for many years been in the Department for Balkan Affairs in the Foreign Office, and is also well-known as the author of several books: "Paul Verlaine," "Tennyson," and a novel, "Sweet Waters," which was based on knowledge of Turkey gained in the British Embassy at Constantinople.

KING FAISAL OF IRAQ.

On October 7 King Faisal placed a wreath on the Cenotaph. He was received at Buckingham Palace by the King last Thursday morning. King Faisal left England last Friday for the Continent.

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Indian Affairs.

THE NATIONALIST DEMAND.

The papers to hand this mail from India show—what did not appear from the cabled reports—that the fundamental difference between Nationalist and official ideas as to the future of the Reforms lies in the Preamble to the Government of India Act. The full text of the Nationalist amendment, that was passed by the Legislative Assembly and rejected by the Council of State, is given elsewhere in this issue; and the *Bombay Chronicle*, in its comments on the proceedings of the Assembly, says that clause (h)—which gives power to amend the Constitution—"would involve the eradication of the insolent preamble of the present Act, which gives Parliament the right to judge the time and manner of each advance." In moving the amendment, Pandit Moti Lal Nehru said that no greater tribute could be paid to the judicial mind which Lord Birkenhead and Lord Reading had brought to bear upon the most important questions that they were considering, than was implied in the fact that, after months of full and free discussion, they arrived at no decisions whatever; but, in Lord Birkenhead's statement in the House of Lords, the effect of the preamble of the Act of 1919 was declared to be permanent and static. "That," said the Pandit, "is a view that we cannot accept in any circumstances. Our position is that the fundamental principle on which a constitution for India is to be based must be the principle of self-determination. We are absolutely clear on that point, but Lord Birkenhead appears to be equally clear that this principle cannot be applied to us. If that be so, then good-bye to all hope of settlement." He went on to explain how the Nationalists proposed to give effect to their point of view: though India had not yet arrived at the proper stage of organisation to have the capacity for civil disobedience, yet "when there is no alternative open to us, we must take that road, however long and weary. Civil disobedience may not come for years, but it has to come some day, and the sooner we begin our preparations the better. The struggle for freedom once begun must, sooner or later, have its appointed end: and that end is no other than the achievement of the fullest freedom. It remains to be seen whether England will share the credit of that achievement by wilingly giving a helping hand, or suffer that achievement to be wrested from her unwilling hands. These are the only alternatives, and it is for England to choose." Lord Birkenhead's suggestion that Indian politicians should concentrate on preparing a constitution that should meet with general acceptance by all parties in India, which would then receive careful consideration from the British Government was, therefore, based on a postulate—the sanctity of the preamble—that the Nationalists did not accept: and their answer to it was to be found in the amendment, which had been deliberately framed to express the common view of Swarajists, Independents, and Liberals. The Pandit declared that, had it been drawn so as to express the Swarajist view alone, it would have been different: but, as it stood, it represented India's minimum demand. Incidentally, he condemned Diarchy as "a mad scheme of speculative constitutionalists," the failure of which was admitted even by Government, who yet asked Indians to continue to work it.

The Nationalist rejection of the preamble has merely been ignored by the Government of India. In introducing in the Council of State the original resolution that had been defeated, by the adoption of the Nationalist amendment, in the Legislative Assembly, the mover said that all responsible public opinion, however divergent in other matters, was agreed or, at least, was prepared to accept the preamble as the basis of all practical discussion. Parliament, and the tribunal that Parliament was to set up to examine all claims and all evidence, must be satisfied as regards every step that it was proposed to take. The co-operation invited and required by the Secretary of State and the Viceroy was not a stipulation made by one party to the negotiation, but the statement of a fundamental condition for the solution of the problem that lay before both parties, without which neither could succeed in solving it. The rejection of the Nationalist amendment by the Council of State was looked upon by the extremist Press as a foregone conclusion: which it tried to discount by denouncing the Council as a "political infirmary," a "museum of political fossils," and a body that "is not moderate, not even reactionary—it is merely stupid." But it is interesting to observe that one of the leading Moderates in the Council, while supporting the Government resolution, did not advocate the complete rejection of the amendment, but only its deferment to the proper moment: "let us," said Sir Dadabhoy Maneckjee, "wait for the Royal Commission to be appointed and then place these demands before that Commission. Meanwhile, let us accept the resolution of the Government." The suggestion of another leading Moderate, that the Government resolution should be accepted with the addition of a rider that the Viceroy should consider and recommend the appointment of a Royal Commission, or other suitable agency, not later than 1927, was not only opposed by Government, on the ground that it could not commit itself to any fixed date, but also by the supporters of the amendment "because the rider implied acceptance of the preamble" and—in one case—"because no Royal Commission was needed to find out what India wanted—the Assembly had informed the world of that." The Nationalist view was similarly ignored by the Viceroy himself, in his speech at a farewell dinner given in his honour by the Indian community at Simla on October 6. In replying to the speech of the chairman, which included the expression of the hope that, before his retirement next spring, the Viceroy would be authorised to announce "a generous gesture by the Imperial Government regarding Indian constitutional progress," Lord Reading said that Lord Birkenhead's speech in the House of Lords constituted the most generous gesture imaginable, and that he regretfully realised that the appetite for generous gestures grew with their receipt. He declared that he was not only disappointed, but surprised that "the political sagacity of India did not rush to seize the hand that was held out from England and did not grasp it warmly." Even if such a response was accompanied by a reiteration of the opinion that the advance to self-government ought to be faster, at least it should be admitted that the only avenue lay through the British Parliament, who could be trusted to respond generously to a generous offer of co-operation and good will. In the course of the same speech, Lord Reading also said that he "gladly acknowledged that the vote during the Reforms debate in the Legislative Assembly had cleared away doubt and established the fact that Indians wanted Government on a Parliamentary basis as conceived by England, and not an Oriental constitution."

The position is, then, that the Nationalists have definitely repudiated the claim of the British Parliament to be the final arbiters of India's destiny: and their proposal, to resign their seats in consequence of the rejection of their resolution by the Council of State, is intended to create the impression that "the country" is behind them in this repudiation, and in the form in which they profess to intend to give effect to it. *Forward* (Calcutta), the organ of the late C. R. Das, gives expression to this policy in the following words: "Sir Alexander Muddiman had the impudence to assure the House that the door of acceleration will not open to menace, still less will it be stormed by violence. Is it to be inferred, from these words, that the Government are counting on our physical helplessness in the presence of superior odds to force co-operation out of us? If they entertain that notion, they are mistaken. The country has, through its leaders, repudiated violence as a political weapon: but they are not so hopeless or so helpless as their opponents think. The Swarajists, now with the whole country behind them, must pursue their programme of national work and prepare India for civil disobedience." The Government of India, strong in the belief that civil disobedience is only a wordy threat that can never be implemented, meet the Nationalist repudiation of the preamble by the simple process of ignoring it: and who shall say that they are not right?

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But, if the future holds a Labour Government, not only in office but in power, in England, it is as well to remember that, on September 30, the Labour Party Conference at Liverpool passed a resolution recognising the right of the Indian peoples not only to full self-government but also to "self-determination": and asking that "a conference should be called of representatives of the various Indian parties with a view to the immediate application of a Constitution in accordance with the wishes of the Indian peoples." The Labour Party, by their signal defeat of the Communists, have published to the world their acceptance of Parliamentary methods in their efforts towards progress: it may be wondered whether they realise that, in supporting the claim of Indian politicians to self-determination, and to the immediate application of a constitution of their own making, they are supporting a negation of the right of the British Parliament to have any say in the matter. It is true that the Constitution, supported in the resolution, is to be one framed "in accordance with the wishes of the Indian peoples"—not with those of the Indian politicians; but it may be doubted whether its adherents understand how wide and deep is the real divergence between the two.

CURRENT TOPICS.

India at the Church Congress.

The discussions at the Eastbourne Church Congress included two striking pronouncements on India: one by Lord Willingdon, the other by Mr. B. C. Allen. It is permissible to think that the latter, which strictly confined itself to facts, provided a wholesome corrective to the former, which dealt mainly with generalities.

Lord Willingdon said that, if the white man was to bring healing and contentment to the peoples of the East, he must discover some means of doing so by peaceful methods and not by the clash of races. The War had roused the people of India to a sense of nationhood and to an intense desire to have more control over the management of their own affairs. He was convinced that the only solution lay in treatment, by the white races, of the coloured races in a spirit of absolute equality. Years ago, the white man had been placed in the position of a trustee, but his wards were now rapidly growing up. Even for their own good, the white man could no longer dominate them: the most he could do was to try to guide them tactfully past particular dangers: and he had now to meet them on terms of absolute equality. If he would only do that: if he would alwys act in the spirit of giving equality of opportunity to those who are coloured, the latter would respond with enthusiasm, and disagreement would vanish. Such a spirit could only be expressed by always carrying into our relations with the coloured races the principles and teaching of our Christian faith.

Mr. Allen said that there was a strong feeling among a considerable section of English-speaking Indians, which, for want of a better term, might be called nationalist. But the size of that community was considerably less than one per cent. of the population of India. Though they had an influence out of all proportion to their numbers, it neither penetrated far nor persisted for long. Their power to stir up the masses could not be disputed, but an edifice of unrest, so erected, could not endure because it was built upon sand—the grievances which agitated political India did not touch the mass of the people. Writers spoke of the existence of political questions on which "all India is at white heat and absolutely one"; whereas the fact was that fully 95 per cent. of the population neither knew nor cared anything about the matter. In no vernacular with which he was acquainted was there any word for "Indian"—neither the word nor the idea existed. In spite of all the fuss and fury of the political arena, Englishmen were still wanted for the administration of the country and the conduct of its business. Political India was young, and there was no need to be unduly disturbed by the exuberance of youth. He did not ask our young men to go out to India in any missionary spirit he was not sure that this was quite the right spirit for an administrator. Nor did he ask them to leave an assured career at home—if they knew of a "better 'ole," by all means let them go to it. But this he did say, that it was not easy to find work bringing a fuller reward in every sense of the term, work more thoroughly worth the doing.

It is true that the "absolute equality" of which Lord Willingdon spoke is not yet to be found in administrative India: but, in the higher official posts the scales are already beginning to be weighted in favour of the Indian. Not only every Englishman in India, but practically every member of the Indian intelligentsia, is fully aware that the sole claim to office of the holders of some of the highest administrative posts (as Ko-Ko says, "Such as Tut-tut-tut and Whatsisname, and also You Know Who—but the task of filling up the blanks I'd rather leave to you") is the fact that they are Indians; on a footing of absolute equality they would not have stood the faintest chance of selection: and it is these officials, more than the ordinary run of their fellows, whom it has been one of the special tasks of the English administrator to "guide tactfully past particular dangers"—especially the danger of avoiding decisions and preferring to let things slide. Socially, of course, the theory of absolute equality is far more repugnant to Indians than it can ever, by any possibility, have been to even the most intolerant of Englishmen; but this, however much one may deplore it, is not susceptible of alteration by anything that Englishmen can do: not even by the completest change in their "angle of vision" that has always been one of Mr. Gandhi's most insistent demands—one to which he will now be able to claim a distinguished convert in Lord Willingdon.

The Bombay Mill Strike.

The latest cables seem to show that the mill strike in Bombay is now complete, and that all the mills have ceased working. It is said that an improvement in the piece-goods market coincided with the declaration of the strike and that the stocks on hand in the mills, which amounted to about 200,000 bales at the beginning of August, only 9,000 of which were cleared during that month, have been reduced during September by no less than 50,000 bales. The increased demand appears to be confined to Indian goods and not to include Manchester goods—the reason for which seems to be that such foreign-made goods, as are specially in demand, are being fully supplied by Japan. Indeed, figures recently made avilable, of the imports of yarn and piece-goods into India for the three months April to July of this year, foreshadow a further decrease in imports from the United Kingdom and a further increase in those from Japan. During the financial year 1924-25, the imports of yarn into India from the United Kingdom and Japan respectively were 20,760,000 and 32,325,000 pounds: and of cloth, 1,600 million and 155 million yards: while, during the first three months of the financial year 1925-26, the figures are—yarn, 4,860,000 and 16,160,000 pounds; and cloth, 416 million and nearly 67 million yards. If the rest of the year keeps up the average of the first three months, this will mean a decrease in the share of the United Kingdom of over six million pounds of yarn and 35 million yards of cloth, and an increase in the share of Japan of over 16 million pounds of yarn and 45 million yards of cloth.

When the Bombay mill operatives' deputation to the Governor of Bombay urged the advisability of short time working in the mills rather than a cut in wages, the Governor explained that short time working, which entailed suspension of all the work in the mills for an agreed number of days per week, was bad for the industry as a whole; because, even at the existing time of depression, there still remained a good demand for some of their products, for which extensive forward contracts were in existence. The strike must necessarily have led to the cancellation of these contracts: and the recovery of a demand for the products of Indian cotton mills in general, which is what seems to have followed on the strike, has spurred into activity the previously tepid desire of the mill owners to end it. It is said that some of the owners are even considering a withdrawal of the decision to reduce wages, in hopes of getting the mills started again in order to compete with the new demand: and the figures given above make it pretty obvious that, if they are unable to do

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so, the consequent gain to imported goods will favour Lancashire considerably less than Japan, which is now recognised to be the most dangerous competitor in the cotton trade, not only to Lancashire, but to India as well.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, September 24.

The Council of State.

On the eve of its dissolution, the Viceroy congratulated the Council of State on the achievements of its five years of office, and said that the members had established a record, which would endure as an example, in the exercise of the powers entrusted to them by the Constitution. Their task has been no sinecure, so far as the latter portion of their term has been concerned: and this is not surprising, when the action of the Assembly in regard to the bill for the regulation of the use of firearms in riots and disturbances, and the vote in connexion with the Muddiman Committee report are taken into consideration. The political classes of India have begun to realise the amount of real power which has been vested in them as a result of the Reforms Scheme: and this consciousness tended to hotheadedness in some of their later deliberations, in which the Assembly did not stop to consider what the results would be; for instance, they ignored the fact that the use of firearms is primarily necessary for the preservation of law and order, and as such does not affect the law-abiding citizen in any way. Similarly, had the Assembly been called upon to put their recommendations on the Muddiman Committee report into practice, it is safe to say that not one of them would have known how to start about it. It is here that the Council of State has proved its usefulness. Its members, despite what the extremist press say to the contrary, are men who have a real stake in the country and hence look to its best interests. During its term of office the suggestions of the Lower House have received careful consideration: and, if they have been for the well being of India, they have met with little opposition. In common with Second Chambers the world over, its task has been a thankless one; it has been criticised and abused freely, and any revision which has gone against the Swaraj element has been attributed to ulterior motives. *Forward*, in its usual wild style, would make it appear that the Council has been working merely to earn the "well-done" of the Viceroy on the termination of its labours. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* sarcastically remarks that, "the Council of State should not be regarded as a mere gramophone. If it obeys the master's voice it is not due to any compulsion, but is due to its concentrated wisdom, experience and sobriety of judgment."

The members of the Council of State will return to their constituencies with the knowledge that they have fearlessly acted up to their convictions; whether their efforts have met with the approval of the voters is hard to say. The Swarajists are busy endeavouring to set up their own candidates; but, with the changes which are taking place almost daily in the extremist ranks, it is too early to predict the outcome. Internal bickerings have been the undoing of the Swarajists in the past.

The Quest of Sensation.

Sensation is the life blood of the Swaraj movement, and the period of monotony which has followed the death of Mr. C. R. Das has been found somewhat perturbing to the Swarajists. When a stalwart supporter of the extremist cause such as the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* has so little sensational "copy" that it sets about investigating the Swaraj Party Funds, it becomes clear that normality has gone too far. Sen Gupta, the new leader of the Swaraj Party in Bengal, has failed to raise public enthusiasm to the correct pitch; Gandhi made several gallant efforts to no purpose, and even the coup planned by Pandit Motilal Nehru for the defeat of Government on the Muddiman report has come to an inglorious conclusion.

A slight stir was caused at a meeting during the week-end, at which several patriots ventilated their grievances against the Tramway Company of Calcutta and resolved that, whenever possible, they would patronise the army of small Indian-owned buses which have appeared on the streets. In this connexion one speaker referred tenderly to the fact, that the buses which were run by the Tramway Company were fitted with solid tyres, and hence riding in them was very prejudicial to health by reason of the bumping! There was no counter suggestion, however, that there should be a return to *Swadeshi* methods in the shape of bullock cart transport, which is perhaps a little surprising.

Pandit Motilal Nehru must have been deeply shocked by this attempt at frivolous sensationalism, particularly when the Independents were championing his cause by suggesting that, as a protest against the action of the Council of State, they should join with the Swarajists in a wholesale resignation from the Legislative Assembly. To have secured a number of by-elections would have roused the country from its lethargy and, judging by the enthusiasm with which the proposition was taken up, there seemed to be every hope that the spectacular would happen. After thinking the matter over, several of the members of both parties felt that, although their leaders would have little difficulty in retaining their seats, the smaller fry might be less successful: and consequently the glamour of resignation has passed. At a meeting of the Swaraj Party at Patna, the Pandit announced that the Independents were not quite sure of themselves and had not been able to decide to resign in unity, and he thought the resignations would not materialise. There is no mention of difficulties with any of his own party, but it is broadly hinted that very real doubt exists in the Swarajist camp. All this from the self-styled leaders of a nation which claims that it is ready for self-government!

The Congress.

Although Mahatma Gandhi was not a success in his meddling with the political affairs of Bengal, he has shown, at the All India Congress, held this week at Patna, that he is still a power to be reckoned with Assuming the rôle of a servant, he has scored off the Swarajists all along the line. He began by conceding the point of the yarn franchise, a rule which made membership of the Congress conditional upon the gift of a certain quantity of home-spun yarn, and in its place accepted a proposal for a money franchise. He was adamant that the ceremonial dress of Congress members should be *khadder:* and, despite the opposition which came from Pandit Motilal Nehru and Sen Gupta, he carried his point.

Perhaps the most surprising item of business which was transacted at the Conference was the pledging of the Congress to support Swaraj policy: while this is flattering to the extremists there is little doubt that their heritage will not be an unmixed blessing. The Congress purported to be a body representative of all shades of political opinion in India; it was termed a national organisation. By the adoption of the Swaraj policy it becomes little more than a branch of that movement, and ceases to exist as a Congress. Among its adherents there are many to whom the change will be distasteful: among them that veteran fighter, Pandi Malaviya: and it is safe to say that he will not take it lying down. His opinion is respected by a large section of the community who will form an opposition which will give the Swarajists trouble. The future of the extremists is not as brilliant at it might appear. Although they have captured the Congress, they have to contend with a feeling of distrust which it will take much to allay—and the elections are not very far off.

Markets.

Quiet conditions have ruled in the Jute market during the week under review, though at the close a little more interest was shown by the Mills, business being done at round about previous rates. Gunnies, in sympathy and through lack of demand, have eased slightly, buyers having apparently suspended operations in view of the Pujah holidays which commence this week.

The Tea market continues to fulfil expectations, there being a further marked improvement; the sales here show

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a strong demand with an increase in rates for almost all descriptions. Piece-goods have been steady but featureless.

In the share market, there has been a fair turnover in Jutes with rather more inquiry for the higher priced denominations; rates have remained steady at about previous levels. The chief feature of interest has been the further all round improvement in Tea shares, the better position of the industry having been well reflected by a keen demand for the more popular scrip, of which there was little offering, with the result that buyers experienced great difficulty in satisfying their requirements. Cottons continue quiet with a slight marking down in rates, but a few dealings were recorded in Coal shares at previous quotations. An amount of interest still centres round the rubber market, with holders unwilling to sell at present prices. In the miscellaneous market, Railways have created considerable interest at increased rates, and the long-dated Government securities have been in good demand. The Stock Exchange here closed yesterday, and will reopen on October 12.

The trade returns for August make a satisfactory showing compared with those of the previous month; imports have increased from Rs. 580 lakhs to Rs. 681 lakhs, and export from Rs. 901 lakhs to Rs. 1,331 lakhs. In comparison with the corresponding period of last year, imports show a decline by Rs. 59 lakhs, but exports an increase by Rs. 282 lakhs.

The money market has been dull but steady, with sterling at previous rates. In this connexion it is interesting to note the opinion expressed by the Finance Member in Bombay that, pending a report of the Currency Commission, Exchange will not rise materially above the present level.

BOMBAY LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bombay, September 24.

Cotton Prices.

In your notes on Current Topics of September 3, it is observed that the real cause of the trouble of the Bombay mills is the high price of cloth: and it is stated, no doubt with absolute accuracy, that, whereas the general income have risen by 35 per cent., the price of cloth is actually 170 per cent. higher than before the War.

This is a fact, but it is not the fault of the mill owners, nor is it peculiar to Bombay or India generally. Most commodities have now reverted to their pre-War level or something like it: and the only important markets which are now definitely on a much higher basis than in pre-War days are those of the raw materials of the textile trades. The price of cotton, which fell below 4d. for the second time in ten years in the winter of 1904-5, was, for the few years immediately preceding the War, somewhere between 6d. and 8d. It now appears to have permanently established itself between twelve and fifteen pence.

This phenomenon, whatever may be its cause, has probably more to do with unemployment and the general dislocation of business than anything else in the world to-day: and the redistribution of the geographical centres of trade, that is due to it, deserves much more consideration than it has yet had.

The high price of cotton has, to begin with, definitely enriched the cotton-growing countries of the w[illegible] notably America—at the expense of the consumers—notably England: and it is only in the last few months that England, by its virtual control of the production of rubber, has been able to hit back. Secondly, the rise in cotton—and consequently in the price of cloth—appears to have, for the time being at any rate, turned the scale very decisively against the agriculturist in Europe. The farmer, who is getting no more than pre-War prices for his produce, is harder hit than ever by the high price of cloth, which has had its effect on all manufactured articles.

But, though America is the protagonist in the advance of cotton, India's position at the present moment is no less remarkable. America's output seems to be now strictly limited: up to 1914 there was a regular increase, and there seemed no reason why it should not extend up to twenty or thirty million bales a year. But such a prospect seems to be a thing of the past: and for any serious increase in production the world's consumers must look elsewhere. Much has already been done in Africa and even Australia by the British Cotton Growing Association: but India, the second largest producer in the world, is still comparatively undeveloped. All that is possible is, no doubt, being done both to increase acreage and to improve quality; but progress is very slow, and it will be many years before any notable improvement is seen.

But even so, we have in India a total crop of something like five million bales, which is valued now at not less than £5 per bale above pre-War prices: and this influx of wealth is alone, if guided into the proper channels, sufficient to turn a poor country into a wealthy one. It is almost unnecessary to speculate on the future of a country with such possibilities: but what is needed at the moment is, first the co-operation of Government and all the various communities in the development of India's cotton-growing possibilities—and here at least, if nowhere else, there is a traditional spirit of co-operation between the various commercial communities of Bombay: secondly, a currency policy which will bring the profits into circulation and not bury them in the ground: and thirdly, a reasonably sympathetic attitude towards the mill industry, to enable it to build itself up to its proper position in the Empire.

In the redistribution of the world's trade, due to the increased price of cotton, Bombay must inevitably play a great part; but, unless that redistribution is properly appreciated, neither India nor England will gain their proper share of the enormous advantages of such a position.

The Mill Strike.

Practically all the mills in Bombay are now idle, the hands having definitely refused to accept the reduction in wages: and 140,000 employees are now out of work.

The mill hands are always a fluctuating population, and their great ambition at the present moment is to get out of Bombay to their own villages: the difficulty being to find them accommodation. A large proportion comes from the Ratnagiri district, 100 miles down the coast, which is accessible only by sea: and all the coasting steamers are being rushed by crowds of passengers.

From the mill hands' point of view, the strike could not have come at a better time. This is the season of the rice harvest all over the Presidency: and for the next six weeks there will be plenty of work and plenty of food in the villages: while the great holiday of Diwali—a sort of Christmas-cum-harvest-home festival—falls about the middle of October. It is therefore a very much more cheerful time for the mill hands to go on strike than any other time of the year: and probably, in a week from now, most of them will be dispersed over the countryside. With a season of plenty, at any rate in their own districts, it seems a little difficult to guess when it will suit them to find their way back to Bombay: and the resumption of work on full time in the Bombay mills may be a very protracted business.

The strike has not yet spread to the mills up country, few of which—catering as they do for a local demand comparatively unaffected by Japanese competition—have found it necessary to reduce wages.

PEASANT AND VICEROY.

By Janus.

One of the most interesting events of the year has been Lord Reading's public acceptance of the doctrine, not unfamiliar to readers of The Near East and India, that the peasant counts. Lord Curzon noticed the fact long ago, but it was lost to sight under his successors, and of late the interests of agriculture have had no very obvious friends in Simla. Now we are told that there is to be a change. Agriculture is, indeed, to remain a provincial subject, but the Central Government is no longer to neglect it, an "all-India" organisation is to be super-

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imposed on the existing machinery, and, as a beginning, the Board of Agriculture has been asked to take over the idea of expanding its personnel and its scope in order to supply what is wanted. Discussion having thus been formally initiated, I am tempted to take a hand, but I have found the diversity of views so great that I despair of presenting them in the usual way, and so I offer a little symposium, in which the protagonists are free to state their opinions in their own words.

First, by pride of place, comes the Secretariat-Man, representing one of the oldest and strongest of the Indian breeds—men who have always been willing, and sometimes able, to rule the country at the point of the pen. "The Viceroy's speech," he says, "comes as a trumpet-call to abandon strange gods, and return to the true faith. Efficiency, co-ordination, uniformity, these are what the country really needs. In the ten years before the War, when Simla was firm in the saddle, and the provinces responded promptly to whip or spur, we built up an organisation for agricultural development which was the wonder of the bureaucratic world. Then external forces induced us to bow for the moment at the alien altars of decentralisation and popular control—and look at the result: our best men scattered over the Dominions in disgust, the Departments starved for staff and money, incompetent Ministers wasting such resources as there are on freaks and fads, the whole thing threatening to collapse. Agriculture is an interest of the whole of India, and as such far too important to be made the plaything of petty provincial politics and personalities: nothing can meet the need but a strong central organisation, competent to lead the Provinces, and to drive those which refuse to be led."

From the Secretariat-Man I turned to a representative of the other great indigenous breed, the Man on the Spot. He gave his opinion, as usual, tersely and colloquially. "Good old Simla!" he said. "She'll change her habits when leopards learn to change their spots. Reading talks glibly of co-ordination, but everyone knows what that means in Simla. They're out to centralise, just as they've always been: far better leave the Provinces to learn by their own mistakes than incubate a new lot of mistakes in a cool corner of the central Secretariat. As things are, however, let them tinker the Board of Agriculture as much as they like. It's too big already, and when it's packed with politicians, it'll be too busy with eye-wash to do much real mischief; you'll get no good out of it anyway, and the great thing is to render it impotent for harm."

Having thus heard the administrative protagonists, I sought out a Man of Science—no indigenous breed this, but a successful acclimatisation from the West. His tone was refreshingly cautious and judicial. "It's quite true," he said, "that things aren't satisfactory, and there's a clear case for experiment. It looks as if a new organism is wanted, and the idea of breeding one can't be discarded without a fair trial, but I'm not very hopeful about the actual proposals. Theoretically, it's possible that agricultural progress might result from the union of experts and politicians, but the cross is so very violent that the more probable result is sterility or else a monster, and the worst of it is that the parents may be spoilt in the attempt. Still, I say, make the experiment, but stand by with a gun, ready to shoot the offspring if it proves to be dangerous or vicious, and, if necessary, to shoot the parents too."

A Rural Economist, still a rare specimen in India, was scarcely more encouraging. "The whole plan," he said, "is upside-down, and inside-out, and utterly topsy-turvy. Bureaucracy did its proper work when it brought the Agricultural Department into being, but it failed decisively to give the lead which the peasants are waiting for, and the failure was inevitable. The transfer to popular control was a hopeful move, because it was, and it still is, possible that the right Minister of Agriculture will be found: when such a man comes up, he'll begin by leading the peasants, and presently the peasants will be driving his successor, as farmers drive their unfortunate Minister elsewhere. So far, however, the Provinces have had no luck with their Ministers of Agriculture, and when you see one man trying to grow political cotton in the rice-swamps, and another talking to his peasants through an interpreter because he doesn't speak their language, you begin to lose heart, as the Central Government seems to have done. It's possible that a week at Pusa might turn a lawyer into a competent Minister, and that would be a great gain, even if he was turned out of office on the next budget; but, short of such a piece of luck, I don't see that the Viceroy's plan offers any real hope. The thing that's wanted most is to teach the peasants their power, and show them how to use it."

Lastly, I got into communication with a very old friend called Ram Pershad Kurmi, who has a comfortable but rack-rented holding not very far from the Ganges. He was particularly busy, for heavy rain had given the weeds a start, and, whatever Simla might be talking about, the only thing that really mattered at the moment was to get the maize weeded before bedtime; but he said enough to show that the orbit of his thoughts was not intersected by the recent proceedings of the Legislature. "What's the good of anything?" he asked. "I grew Howard Sahib's wheat, and the landlord took the money for his motor. If we all grow Clarke Sahib's sugar-cane, the landlord will buy another motor, that's all. My best field's flooded, but the Brahmin curses me whenever I run the water on to his land, and there's no place else to put it. A lawyer came here two years ago, and said if I voted for him I'd get my land rent-free, but the rent has been raised, and he doesn't come here now. The banias have lowered the price of wheat, because they say the lawyers won't allow it to be exported, and they've raised the price of everything I want to buy, because they say the lawyers are taxing it. The Government tries to kill the pigs and the rats, but it leaves the real vermin alone." He broke off to cuff two of the weeders who had lagged behind the line, and went on with his business, a pathetic figure perhaps, but neither placid nor contented.

Do these partial and limited views help us towards an appreciation of the position as a whole? For one thing, they show that something is wrong, because everybody is dissatisfied: and, for another, they give us some pointers which may guide us towards the seat of the trouble. Seven years ago, Lord Chelmsford and Mr. Montagu quoted with obvious approval an anonymous dictum to the effect that "unless the political changes now in contemplation are accompanied by an educational campaign directed to awaking in all classes alike, but especially in this particular class (the peasants), a sense of citizenship, disaster will certainly result." The political changes have materialised: how about the education campaign which was to accompany them, under penalty of certain disaster? It hasn't got into the papers yet, anyway, and the real trouble is just the want of that sense of common citizenship which the Reformers postulated. The peasant sees only enemies in the classes which have taken to politics: politicians see in the peasant only the patient drudge who will certainly find the money for their fads. Both sides need to be educated, but at present the politicians need it most, for the results of their ignorance go far to justify the peasants' view, and they will cease to be his enemies when they learn that they are doomed by mere arithmetic to be his servants. Now I do not for a moment suppose that an enlarged and strengthened Board of Agriculture can cover all the ground; but it does seem possible that such an institution can attack the key-position with some hope of success, if it concentrates on ignorance in high places, particularly the Legislative Assembly and the Central Secretariat. On the strength of that possibility, I feel justified in welcoming Lord Reading's tentative proposals; but there is so much risk of their miscarrying that I must ask him to remember the warning of the Man of Science, and stand by with a gun.

THE INDIAN MAIL.

The Nationalist Amendment.

Last mail brought the full text of the Nationalist amendment to the Government resolution recommending adoption of the principle underlying the Majority Report of the Reforms Inquiry Committee: which was to the effect that

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the existing form of diarchical government should continue, with certain modifications and improvements in detail. It will be remembered that the Legislative Assembly adopted the Nationalist amendment by 75 votes to 45: and that the Council of State subsequently rejected it and restored the original Government resolution by 28 votes to 7. The total strength of the Assembly is 144, consisting of 26 official and 14 non-official nominated members, and 104 elected members. The total strength of the Council is 60, 26 of whom (including 15 officials) are nominated and 34 elected. In the Council, one of the nominated non-officials, and three of the elected members, are Europeans: in the Assembly, the European non-officials are represented by two nominated members (one of whom is an Anglo-Indian) and nine elected members. Three of the Indian elected members voted with the minority in the Assembly: and, from the figures, it would appear that the number of Indian nominated non-officials, who did so, was either eight or nine. The text of the amendment was as follows:

This Assembly, while confirming and reiterating the demand contained in the resolution passed by it on the 18th February, 1924,* recommends to the Governor-General-in-Council that he be pleased to take immediate steps to move His Majesty's Government to make a declaration in Parliament embodying the following fundamental changes in the present constitutional machinery and administration of India:

(a) The revenues of India and all property vested in or arising or accruing from property or rights vested in His Majesty under the Government of India Act, 1885, or the present Act, or received by the Secretary of State in Council under any of the said Acts, shall hereafter vest in the Governor-General-in-Council for the purposes of the Government of India.

(b) The Governor-General-in-Council shall be responsible to the Indian Legislature and, subject to such responsibility shall have power to control the expenditure of the revenues of India and make such grants and appropriations of any part of those revenues or of any other property as is at present under the control or disposal of the Secretary of State for India in Council, save and except the following, which shall for a fixed term of years remain under the control of the Secretary of State for India:

(1) Expenditure on military services up to a fixed limit. (2) Expenditure classed as political and foreign. (3) Payment of all debts and liabilities hitherto lawfully contracted and incurred by the Secretary of State for India in Council on account of the Government of India.

(c) The Council of the Secretary of State for India shall be abolished, and the position and functions of the Secretary of State for India shall be assimiliated to those of the Secretary of State for the self-governing Dominions save as otherwise provided in Clause (b).

(d) The Indian Army shall be nationalised within a reasonably short and definite period of time, and Indians shall be admitted for service in all arms of defence, and for that purpose the Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief shall be assisted by a Minister responsible to the Assembly.

(e) The Central and Provincial Legislatures shall consist entirely of members elected by constituencies formed on as wide a franchise as possible.

(f) The principle of responsibility to the Legislature shall be introduced in all branches of the administration of the Central Government, subject to transitional reservation and residuary powers in the Governor-General in respect of the control of military, foreign and political affairs for a fixed term of years, provided that during the said fixed terms the proposal of the Governor-General-in-Council for the appropriation of any revenue or moneys for military or other expenditure classified as "defence" shall be submitted to the vote of the Legislature; but that the Governor-General-in-Council shall have power, notwithstanding the vote of the Assembly, to appropriate up to a fixed maximum any sum he may consider necessary for such expenditure: and, in the event of a war, to authorise such expenditure as may be considered necessary exceeding the maximum so fixed.

(g) The present system of dyarchy in the Provinces shall be abolished, and replaced by unitary and autonomous responsible Governments, subject to the general control and residuary powers of the Central Government in inter-provincial and all-India matters.

(h) The Indian legislature shall, after the expiry of the fixed terms of years referred to in Clauses (b) and (f), have full powers to make such amendments in the constitution of India from time to time as may appear to it necessary or desirable.

This Assembly further recommends to the Governor-General-in-Council that necessary steps be taken

(a) To constitute, in consultation with the Legislative Assembly, a convention, round-table conference, or other suitable agency, adequately representative of all Indian, European, and Anglo-Indian interests, to frame, with due regard to the interests of minorities, a detailed scheme based on the above principles, after making such inquiry as may be necessary in this behalf.

(b) To place the said scheme for approval before the Legislative Assembly and submit the same to the British Parliament to be embodied in a statute.

* The resolution of February 18, 1924, which was carried in the Legislative Assembly by 76 votes to 48, asked for the establishment of responsible government in India and included a request for the summoning of a representative Round Table Conference to recommend, with due regard to the protection of the rights and interests of important minorities, the scheme of a constitution for India.

Indian Coasting Trade.

It was mentioned a fortnight ago, in these notes, that the *Pioneer* had accused the elected members of the Indian Legislatures of apathy towards the interests of agriculture, though they were always ready to press for matters of minor importance—the creation of an Indian mercantile marine being instanced as one of these. This has drawn an indignant letter to the paper from one of the sponsors of a resolution in the Legislative Assembly for the reservation to Indian vessels of the coasting trade of India. The writer says that, even when compared with agriculture, this is a most important subject, and one with which the future progress of agriculture is closely allied; for the coastal trade between Indian ports, largely consisting of agricultural products, exceeds, in annual value, 200 crores of rupees (150 million pounds), while the money paid in cargo freights comes to nearly 12 crores a year, the cargo amounts to 5½ million tons, and the deadweight tonnage, employed in carrying it, to 600,000 tons. That, if India is ever to attain self-government, the development of an Indian mercantile marine is necessary in her interests: and that the reservation of the coastal trade to vessels built, owned, and manned in India is the surest means of achieving such a result.

So far, the argument is entitled to respect; but acceptance of its further development is not so easy. The writer declares that "the non-official members of the Assembly are determined to put an early end to the monetary drain resulting from the handling of this trade by non-Indian interests": and, in regard to its effect on agriculture, asks, "What will happen to the rice grown in Burma if water transport were not available to distribute it? Will not the prosperity of Karachi and Bombay, and of the hinterland behind them, be seriously affected if they have to rely only on land transport? How will Madras find an outlet for its labour if water transport between that port and Burma were abolished?"

This is an excellent example of the mentality of the present-day politician in India: of his persistent refusal to face facts, of his light-hearted desire to abolish what does not please him and to put nothing in its place. For the writer omits to say that an Indian mercantile marine, of the kind that he postulates, is non-existent: and that its creation—which he appears to think would follow on a stroke of the pen—must be undertaken before it can claim to monopolise the coasting trade. If he and his friends were able to destroy the "monetary drain" of which he complains, the result, to Indian agriculture, is

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quite correctly stated in the rhetorical questions that he includes in his argument.

One may suppose that, if the writer of the letter were asked for constructive ideas, he would suggest the immediate commencement of an Indian mercantile fleet under a Government subsidy: subsidised building and subsidised working, to enable each vessel, as it came into use, to compete with the "foreign" vessels already engaged in the coasting trade; until such time as sufficient Indian tonnage was available to undertake the entire trade, when legislation would be passed reserving to it the right to continue it. Until that moment arrived—and doubtless long after it had passed—the cost of the service would be greatly increased; if for no other reason, at least by the amount of the subsidy; so that the destruction of the "monetary drain" from India would result, if the process were gradual, in an increased "drain" from Indian agriculture: and, if it were as "early" as the writer seems to hope, in complete paralysis of a large part of its activities.

The Central Khilafat Committee.

The struggle between the supporters of Ibn Saud and King Ali continues in India, though it is evident that the former are losing ground and that the latter are gaining it. It seems to be generally agreed that the damage to the tomb of the Prophet at Medina, originally reported from Jeddah and Jerusalem, was, at the worst, only technical—that the dome was hit by a few stray bullets; but the stories of vandalism in other directions, on the part of Ibn Saud's followers, have obtained practically universal acceptance. The only active adherents of Ibn Saud are now to be found in the ranks of the Central Khilafat Committee, which is now practically a one-man show, confined to its President, Shaukat Ali. The fierce antagonism exhibited by Indian Moslems against the Hashimite family—King Hussein and his sons—was entirely due to the propaganda of the Central Khilafat Committee in general and of Shaukat Ali in particular: who stigmatised the Arab revolt against the Turks as base treachery on the part of the Sherif of Mecca, who not only refused to help his Caliph in his holy war against Great Britain and her Allies, but actually helped the latter to overthrow him and his loyal supporters the Germans. The reaction in favour of King Ali, brought about by the fanaticism of the followers of Ibn Saud, has had the inevitable result of discrediting Shaukat Ali and his clique.

The Hedjaz deputation to India, who for a long time were unable to obtain a hearing owing to the denunciation of their master by Shaukat Ali and his followers, left India in mail week, receiving a sympathetic send off from prominent Bombay Moslems, among whom Shaukat Ali was not included. Presumably as a counterblast, Shaukat Ali convened a "public meeting" of the Mohammedans of Bombay, which appears to have been attended by a handful of his own adherents only: they listened to an exposition of the work of the Central Khilafat Committee, and a resolution of confidence was declared passed—as also an expression of opinion that "the formation of any other Moslem political organisation in India would be harmful to the best interests of the Mussulmans": and the proceedings were closed by the presentation to Shaukat Ali of "a purse"—of twenty rupees!

It is unlikely that Shaukat Ali has ever heard of Mr. Wemmick, though he has been, all his life, a disciple of his maxim about "portable property"; but it is a sad come down, for one who has handled so many lakhs of Moslem subscriptions, to have to accept a tip of thirty bob. It looks as if the moment is near when Shaukat Ali will become a fit subject for a repetition of the gibe that *Punch* once launched against a notorious politician: "Mr. — — was last night entertained to dinner by his admirers. Covers were laid for one."

INDIAN EXCHANGE.

London, October 12.

The past week has been featureless, with Rupee Exchange in both Indian markets absolutely unchanged at 1s. 6 5-32d. for telegraphic transfers. Off and on buyers, who have been holding back for 1s. 6 3-16d., have had to be content with 11-64ths for cash remittances. So far as we can gather, Government have not been called upon to make any purchases of sterling during the week, which may be taken as a sure indication of a quieter market.

The premium on forward quotations shows signs of disappearing, and cable advices from India state that for delivery between now and the end of February nothing better is being offered than 1s. 6 3-16d. The same conditions obtain in this market for forward delivery. Spot rupees are 1s. 6 3-16d., at which there has been a moderate inquiry with Banks disinclined to meet the demand freely unless at 1-64th higher.

Although the Imperial Bank rate is 5 per cent., the Indian Bazaars are well supplied, and there is no scarcity of money. Local loan rates are well below the Bank rate.

The monsoon is over and the lack of rain in September has had an adverse effect upon the cotton crop. We understand that the condition is only fair in most areas, but in the Deccan and Gujarat the outturn wil show a considerable shrinkage.

Little, if any, wheat is available from the Punjab, and it is more than likely that supplies will have to be drawn from Australia to supplement local stocks.

The financing of the jute crop has almost all been completed, and the next month or so should be quiet with little change in rates.

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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

170, *Strand, London, W.C.2,*
Tuesday Morning.

Danube Navigation.

The lengthy summary that we give elsewhere in these columns of the report of Mr. Walter D. Hines on the navigation of the Danube is well worth the closest perusal, for it brings out very clearly the handicaps that at present stand in the way of the fullest advantage being taken of this great highway of South-East Europe. Under favourable conditions the Danube should be an invaluable channel for trade promotion in the regions it serves. That it has never yet been, for reasons that are well understood, and even to-day it is not in a position to render the fullest service. Commerce on land in South-Eastern Europe is hampered and restricted by a host of regulations, though the tendency, happily, has been for some time in the direction of their modification; traffic on the Danube is hampered by the tariff barriers of seven different States. Apart from difficulties of this character stretches of the river need to be improved, while port facilities require to be developed. Capital is needed by the riparian States to carry out the requisite works of development, and Mr. Hines points out that it is extremely difficult to secure this capital at reasonable rates, an important factor in this condition being the misgiving on the part of capitalists in other countries as to whether a satisfactory state of international tranquillity exists and will continue in these Danube States.

Cotton Growing in the Sudan.

Cotton growing developments in the Empire cannot be given too much prominence, for it is in the knowledge of what has been, and is being, accomplished that the incentive for future progress is to be found. It is specially satisfactory, therefore, that Sir Geoffrey Archer had an opportunity at a luncheon given by the British Cotton Growing Association in Manchester, of dealing with cotton growing in Africa. He commented on the fact that cotton production in Uganda has been more rapid and remarkable than anywhere else in the British Empire, and he declared that what has been done in Uganda can be accomplished in the Southern Provinces of the Sudan. "I believe," he added, "that were we to start over again in Uganda with the experience gained behind us, we should begin by erecting ginneries, possibly Government owned, and then proceed to encourage the native to grow his cotton in the vicinity. Baled lint will naturally stand transport charges which would kill at the outset the transportation of seed cotton. Under this arrangement the native would probably secure a better price and thus be encouraged to increase his holding. That may be the key to the situation in the Southern Sudan."

Progress in the Gezireh.

Turning to the position in the Northern Sudan, Sir Geoffrey Archer referred to the developments in connexion with the Gezireh scheme. Some 80,000 acres have been brought under immediate cultivation, and next year that holding may be increased to 100,000 acres, and Sir Geoffrey Archer expressed the hope that their water rights would admit later of an increase to 150,000 acres. Further details of the position in the Gezireh were given by Mr. Hewison, Director of Agriculture and Forests in the Sudan, who gave a most encouraging account of the outlook. He said that he had reports from Khartoum that the crop was looking extra-ordinarily well, and that insect pests were less troublesome than in the two preceding seasons. Light rainfall had hindered progress in the Central and North-West Sudan, but the American side of the Sudan crop showed a decided increase from 13,000 to 20,000 bales in spite of deficient rains. The ultimate development possible in the Gezireh was a production of half a million bales. He pointed out that it was more difficult to estimate what was possible in the production of rain-grown cotton, but there was unlimited land, a suitable climate, and in most districts a secure rainfall, and the population was between three and four millions.

The Future of Wembley.

The Exhibition draws rapidly to its close, but so far nothing has been decided with regard to the future of the buildings. It seems clear however, that nothing is likely to come of the suggestion to which I referred recently, that the Exhibition should be continued in its present form. The latest idea put forward is that the Imperial War Museum should be removed there, and that the Dominion pavilions should be maintained as permanent exhibitions of their resources. I should be inclined to think it feasible, were Wembley more accessible, but it would seem to presuppose the continuance of the Amusement Park, if people are to be attracted there in adequate numbers. And I must confess that I am dubious whether even amusements would achieve that end indefinitely.

German Enterprise.

I have on various occasions drawn attention in these columns to Germany's efforts to regain her old predominant position in the Near East. Recently her activities have been particularly in evidence in a number of directions. As might be expected she has been making a special effort to develop her relations with Turkey, and

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a significant development in this connexion is the recent establishment with German and Turkish capital of a broadcasting and wireless company. Again the Deutsche Bank is interested in the enterprise, which perhaps suggests the degree of importance that is to be attached to German participation in an undertaking of this character.

Rubber Again.

A report from Colombo that the restriction scheme is to be modified by the addition on November 1 of 20 per cent. of the standard output instead of 10 per cent. caused considerable flutterings in the rubber market yesterday. The price of rubber for distant positions fell sharply, while the share market showed a number of losses on the day. As a matter of fact, there seems to be nothing in the report; at any rate it at present lacks official confirmation; and it seems extremely improbable at this late period in the scheme that the authorities would think it worth while to modify it. But if it were altered would it make much difference now? As far as the shares are concerned, I fail to see why it should be regarded as a bear point. It is one thing to relax restriction, it is another for it to have much immediate effect, and if the estates are able to produce the additional quantities of rubber, I should think it was rather in the shareholders' favour than otherwise. The consumption of rubber is continually on the increase, and if only 1s. per lb. profit is earned on the standard production (and that would presuppose rubber at about 1s. 10d. per lb, a very unlikely contingency for a long time to come) the rubber companies would earn profits sufficient to justify much higher prices than those now ruling.

Commentator.

The Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture is considering the question of sending some experts to England to study the classifying of cotton.

The revenue of Roumania up to the end of September amounted to 23 milliards of lei (says a Reuter message). It is now estimated that the end of the financial year will see a total surplus of at least 35 milliards more than the original estimates.

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THE MOTOR SHOW.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

With no exhibition in Paris this year, the Motor Show looms larger in the limelight than ever before, and if the attendance at Olympia does not reach a record it will be a matter for considerable surprise. So far all the indications point to an unusual degree of interest being taken in the Show, which is a sure sign of the rapidity with which the habit of motoring is growing in this country. America's ratio of cars per population may be, and probably is, for ever unattainable here—personally I devoutly hope that it is, as otherwise I fail to see how we shall get about the streets at all—but it is certain that the present number of cars in use in this country will be vastly increased in the course of the next few years, and the throngs at Olympia are an index of the appreciation that, thanks to the great reductions in the price of cars and to deferred payments, motoring is now within the reach of the average individual. The bulk of the crowds who throng Olympia may not be buyers at the moment, but they represent potential purchasers, and they are there because of that fact and because they know that of each Motor Show it is true that *semper aliquid novi ex Olympia*, and they want to be kept in touch with developments with a view to the time when they can buy a car.

If it is true that there is always something new, it is truer this year than ever. But I should not rank the alterations and improvements—important as they are—as providing the keynote of this year's Show. There are innovations in the bore and stroke of the engines, for instance, there are improvements in a number of other directions, while there has unquestionably been a great advance in car designing. But these things, essential as they are, seem to me of relatively minor consequence compared with the continuance of the price reductions which has brought within sight the possibility of motoring for the million. Cheapness is, in fact, the outstanding characteristic of the Show. It is now possible to get a good light car seating four persons for practically £100. Bearing in mind the changed value of money as a result of the War, that seems a marvellous achievement. And there is a vast range of light cars to choose from. They may not predominate, but they play a very important part, for the number of firms who specialise in the production of this type is large, and Britain now leads in light car production. It remains to take advantage of this fact in the foreign markets such as those of the Near East. The motor trade is now one of the vital industries of this country, but if it is to pull its full weight, it must play an adequate part in the export trade. Catering for the home market, large and growing though it is, is not enough.

I have referred above to the advance in coachbuilding. This is very noticeable throughout the Show. Indeed, it would seem that in this direction there cannot be much scope for any further advance. The outlines of many of the cars are a sheer delight to the eye, and if I cannot say as much for some of the colour contrasts, my excuse must be that I lack the artistic sense. Dark colours in a car appeal to me. Rich blues, dark clarets, and similar hues, seem to set off a car's lines to perfection, but judging by the Show, light colours appear to be very fashionable. They may give a car a beautiful appearance, but I am not one of those who think so.

The King has also approved of the appointment of Lieutenant-Colonel W. M. Craddock, D.S.O., M.C., Calcutta Scottish, Auxiliary Force, India, as Aide-de-Camp to the King (Additional).

Dr. Ugo P. Mifsud, Head of the Ministry of Malta, has left London for Malta.

The Appendices to the Report by the British Government on the administration under the Mandate of the League of Nations of Palestine and the Transjordan for 1924 have been published as a White Paper [Colonial No. 17], price one shilling.

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THE IMPROVEMENT OF DANUBE NAVIGATION.

Brief reference has already been made in these columns to the report prepared by Mr. Walter D. Hines for the League of Nations Advisory Technical Committee on Communications and Transit on the navigation of the Danube. We give below extracts from the official summary of the report:—

There are no comprehensive traffic or other statistics for the Danube but the investigation indicates that the Danube freight traffic in 1923 and 1924 was only about 56 per cent. of the normal pre-War traffic. The first six months of 1925 show an increase of about 50 per cent. over the corresponding six months of 1924, the result of a special movement of Serb-Croat-Slovene maize to the sea.

No complete comparison could be made of the amount of pre-War and post-War passenger travel, but the accommodation for travellers is greater than before the War, in Austria, Czecho-Slovakia and Hungary, somewhat less in the Serb-Croat-Slovene Kingdom, very much less in Roumania, and somewhat greater in Bulgaria. There has never been any regular passenger service on the Danube in Germany.

Before the War Austria and Hungarian navigation companies carried most of the Danube traffic, except that a part of the traffic below the Iron Gates was carried by Roumanian and Greek interests. This has been greatly changed. Now the traffic is divided among German, Austrian, Czecho-Slovak, Hungarian, Serb-Croat-Slovene, Roumanian, French, and Dutch navigation companies, and the Roumanian companies have been operating above the Iron Gates more than formerly. This makes the river far more international in its actual utilisation than ever before. The Greek boats, on account of their draught, still confine themselves almost wholly to operations below the Iron Gates.

The Danube fleets, as a whole, are about 25 per cent. bigger than before the War, although the Austrian and Hungarian fleets have diminished considerably, owing to parts of them having become the property of Czecho-Slovak, Serb-Croat-Slovene, Roumanian and French interests as a result of the War. The port and shop facilities are in general as great as, or greater than, before the war, while the traffic is still much less. An important development is the growing use of self-propelled barges for certain kinds of goods. Already there is evidence of co-operation. The up-river companies are in a cartel to stabilise rates. The Bavarian Lloyd and Czecho-Slovak Company have arrangements for joint towing, joint operation of self-propelled barges and common use of some terminals.

Influence of Economic Conditions.

The post-War diminution of traffic has been largely due to the economic depression, characteristic of Europe, but intensified in the Danube countries by the breaking up of the wide free trade area which existed in the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. At present this former free trade area is cut across by the tariff barriers of seven different States, and this has seriously diminished commerce among them and promises to do so to a still greater extent, except in so far as the situation may be ameliorated by commercial treaties among them. The conclusion of such commercial treaties would be of distinct value to Danube navigation.

Since old Roumania normally produced cereals enabling it to supply one-third of the total traffic moving on the Danube, the ability of New Roumania to produce and export cereals is of first importance to that traffic. But this outlook is unfavourable, because post-War readjustments in the enlarged Kingdom seem to have shut down production while increasing domestic consumption, leaving for Danube transport much less than before the War.

A new practice since the war is that the Serb-Croat-Slovene Kingdom and Roumania now exclude all foreign navigation companies from handling any internal traffic or "cabotage" on the Danube in their respective countries, and also from handling any traffic on certain important tributaries of the Danube, such as the Save and the Bega, which are now treated as territorial instead of international waters.

This adds to their navigation interests large volumes of traffic handled before the War by the Austrian and Hungarian companies. The latter criticise the new practice as diminishing the total traffic through affording less satisfactory service. The questions of right involved are partly conceded and partly disputed, and such disputes can be settled only in such way as may be found in the conventions among the States. But apart from questions of principle, it is a practical question as to how far Roumania and the Serb-Croat-Slovene Kingdom may not find it in their interest to grant limited permissions to foreign companies to participate in this traffic from time to time upon carefully guarded conditions. This might considerably improve local transportation service. Bulgaria enjoys for a long distance eight times as much passenger service as Roumania on account of the latter's cabotage policy. Already, as a matter of convenience, and without waiving its rights, Roumania has granted foreign companies access to its ports on the Bega.

The general conception of a minimum depth of two metres at low water frequently fails of realisation, at times for substantial proportions of the navigable season, because of obstacles which should be removed. Such removal above Vienna would be so costly that it probably could not be done except in connexion with the development of hydro-electric projects. Improvements of this character would correct the present difficulties of navigation and probably be advantageous to the general economic condition of Austria. Such a project is now nearing completion at Passau in Germany and will greatly improve the condition of the river for a considerable distance.

An important stretch of the river, where it is the frontier between Czecho-Slovakia and Hungary, can and should be improved. It is hoped that the two States can promptly co-operate to that end, because this stretch now constitutes the limiting factor in navigation between Vienna, Bratislava and Budapest. Between Budapest and Belgrade there are two points, one in Hungary and one in the Serb-Croat-Slovene Kingdom, at both of which correction of the existing conditions is desirable.

The most difficult stretch on the river is the Iron Gates section. The necessary depth of water is frequently not obtainable. Operation through this section is especially difficult, even with ample water, because the currents prevents the handling of more than one or two barges at a time through the swifter portions. Elimination of these difficulties calls for a comprehensive study of various alternatives, which are set forth in the report. The amounts of money which would be involved are so large that the co-operation of all the riparian States would probably be necessary. This should be promptly entered upon. The inadequate channel at Sulina, the mouth of the river, is now being corrected. The channel between the newly extended jetties was opened on July 25, with a depth of 20 feet, with the prospect that the depth would be restored to the old figure of 24 feet. On July 31, a depth of 22 ft had already been obtained.

It is highly desirable, in the interest of all the Danube countries, for the International Danube Commission to take prompt steps to draw up a general programme for the comprehensive improvement of the river. This involves a determination as to how far the prospective traffic will justify the cost of any particular programme. Such an investigation will take a long time and will call for the services of competent engineers.

National Insurance Companies.
"BALKAN FIRE AND MARINE"
(ESTABLISHED IN 1895
"BALKAN LIFE AND ACCIDENT" and
General Re-Insurance Company, "BALKAN."
Capital - Leva 5.000,000 each.
Total Guarantees: Leva 100,045,000
HEAD OFFICE: SOFIA, BULGARIA.

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Frontier Formalities.

Navigation could be substantially promoted by cutting down the amount of frontier formalities and the time required for them and by providing more adequate port facilities. The frontier formalities now involve a large economic waste, requiring tug boats and barges to remain idle for long periods, estimated to be about 6,000 barge days per year with corresponding loss of time for tugs. These delays are almost entirely post-War burdens, because before the War the Danube crossed no frontier between Passau and Orsova, a distance of 1,272 kms. In this same section there are now four frontiers and six frontier examinations. Hungary and the Serb-Croat-Slovene Kingdom now maintain separate stations at their common frontier, involving double delay, sometimes amounting to an entire day. Both States have indicated that they have no objection in principle to combining their stations, and the report urges that they come to an agreement upon the necessary details to accomplish that result. Much of the delay at the various frontiers is due to the attitude of the local functionaries. The report suggests that the riparian States would be jusified in concerning themselves very actively with this situation so as to stimulate greater expedition. In these matters river shipping appears to be subjected to burdens, delays, and expense which have no counterpart on the railways that compete with the river.

As to port facilities numerous specific situations are discussed. One involves the difficulty of the Czecho-Slovak Company in obtaining a satisfactory terminal in Vienna. This is closely connected with the Austrian difficulty in obtaining satisfactory assurance as to its terminal in Bratislava. The two questions should be considered together and a fair compromise arrived at. The Austrian and Hungarian companies are denied the right to use many of the port facilities which before the War they owned in the Serb-Croat-Slovene Kingdom and Roumania. This grows out of the policy of these two States that all port facilities should be owned and operated by the State; hence their reluctance to permit private companies to establish their own facilities. Nevertheless, there is at present a great shortage of State pontons in Roumania, and a great shortage of State pontons and other port facilities in the Serb-Croat-Slovene Kingdom. Until a State can itself supply ample facilities to carry out its policy, it is suggested that provisional arrangements should be made whereby private companies could provide their own pontons and other facilities. Roumania has already indicated that it has no objection to making arrangements to let the private companies use their own pontons, subject to eventual transfer to the State.

Belgrade's port authorities subject foreign vessels to double taxation, and exclude them from certain forms of international traffic because the landing facilities are on the Save, a territorial river, and not on the Danube. The great and growing business interests of Belgrade cannot afford to have their city thus advertised as a city which has not the same freedom of access to the Danube as is enjoyed by Vienna and Budapest. The future of Belgrade is too important to admit of such a limitation, especially since the State appears to feel that little if anything is gained as a result of the action of the port authorities.

It is highly desirable, in view of the extremely difficult situation of Danube navigation, for the navigation companies to do everything in their power to improve their own efficiency. The question is raised whether they cannot secure more efficient performance of their barges and tugs than is now observable. Reference is made to the extraordinary results which have been accomplished in the United States by analogous efforts on the part of the railways. There may be room for important economies in this direction. More efficient operation would be promoted by providing special telegraph facilities along all of the navigable river. The companies should also seek to co-operate more and utilise facilities in common, such as port facilities, shop facilities and also tug boats, so as to avoid the waste of capital and labour involved in needless duplication. In Austria and Hungary, especially, the existing port and shop facilities seem much in excess of the needs of their own companies. Many of the tug boats probably should be replaced by modern and more economical types. The question is raised whether there is not a great field for the building up of a profitable tourist passenger traffic.

The Danube, like any other transportation system, needs feeders. In large part these feeders should be the railways, and, therefore, there ought to be rail-and-river through rates and bills of lading. A State making through rates with foreign railways loses all benefits from the traffic at the frontier. When it makes through railway and river rates, the likelihood is that the bulk of the traffic will move in domestic boats to final destination and the State and it nationals will enjoy the entire profits of transportation. At present, in many instances, the railways seem to work against the Danube by establishing extremely low rates via other routes. Here sympathetic attention to the just needs of the river should be given by the States, and should be urged by the navigation companies.

The need of the riparian States for capital for public and private purposes is evident. It is extremely difficult to secure this capital at reasonable rates. An important factor in this condition is the misgiving on the part of capitalists in other countries as to whether a satisfactory state of international tranquillity exists and will continue in these Danube States. The Danube conditions themselves constitute an indication one way or the other in this matter. If the States succeed in removing causes of friction on the Danube, that condition will be a favourable argument to encourage foreign capital. To the extent that friction continues in Danube matters the condition will be an indication in the wrong direction.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97½	97⅜—9/16
Athens	Drachmæ to £ ...	25 22½	352
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	271—274
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.33—20.34
Berne	Francs to £.....	25.22½	25.10
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 3/16
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	106.50
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	1,005
Budapest	Kronen to £	24 02	345-347,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 3 16
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	840—855
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.84⅛
Paris	Francs to £.....	25.22½	105.80—'85
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	163⅜
Rome	Lire to £	25 22½	120½
Sofia.....	Leva to £	25.22½	660 - 675
Teheran	Krans to £	50	42.60
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	34.35
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	29

M. Drosopoulos, pro-Governor of the National Bank of Greece, has arrived on a visit to London.

The Rev. W. G. Batty, formerly chaplain of St. Mark's, Alexandria, has been instituted by the Bishop of Norwich to the rectory of Holme Hale, Norfolk—patron, Mrs. Campbell Broke.

Viscount Chelmsford and Sir Douglas Newton having completed their investigation into the present position and future prospects of irrigation and cotton in Iraq, have left Baghdad for England, travelling by the Amman route.

The King has given Mr. Joseph Clifford, Laboratory Chemist in the Egyptian State Chemistry Department, authority to wear the Insignia of the Fourth Class of the Order of the Nile, conferred on him by the King of Egypt in recognition of valuable services.

The King has approved the appointment of Mr. John Thomas Marten, I.C.S., and Mr. Shripad Balwant Tambe to be members of the Executive Council of the Governor of the Central Provinces in succession respectively to Sir Bertram Prior Standen, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S., and Sir Moropant Vishwanath Joshi, whose terms of office expire on December 17 next.

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Motors and Motoring.

By G. B. B.

The Motor Show.

One of the things which strikes the visitor to the Motor Show at Olympia this year is the great advance which has been made by British light car manufacturers. In many respects improvements have been made, and whilst quality has in no instance been sacrificed, prices have been reduced in connection with most of the products. It is impossible, even after a lengthy survey, to say which is the cheapest car shown.

Cheapness is not only a matter of price; but for those who are studying economy most closely there are cars priced at about £100; on the other end of the scale are those for which prices in the neighbourhood of £3,000 are being asked and obtained.

A Striking Programme.

One of the exhibits of outstanding interest to overseas buyers, by reason of the fact that their requirements are closely studied by the makers, is that of Wolseley Motors, Ltd. For some years it has been the Wolseley policy to introduce improvements whenever opportunity offered, instead of waiting for the end of a season, and many innovations have recently been made in the 11-22 h.p. model. All the four-seaters now have four doors, and the two-seaters two doors, and both types are fitted with sloping screen. The radiator has been altered in shape, and the lines of the bonnet and scuttle modified, giving the cars a very handsome straightline effect, which is particularly noticeable when approaching one of them on the road. The seating accommodation has been made wider, and the battery has been removed from the running board, being now fitted under the front seat. The hood and the rigid side curtains are in black material, and the painting is in cinnamon brown or blue as selected, the upholstery being in brown rexino.

The de luxe 11-22 h.p. models have been slightly modified in that the curved form of screen base has been altered to a straight base, but the specification in other respects remains as previously, the equipment being even more comprehensive.

The 11-22 h.p. light saloon, which is rapidly attaining great popularity for touring purposes as well as for town work, is now listed in two forms. In one of these the entire body is covered in leather cloth. In the other the lower panels are in metal, finished in the usual "carriage" style. This makes a very smart car, and has the appearance of a carriage much more expensive than the price at which it is listed. Four wheel brakes are fitted to any of the 11-22 h.p. models at a small extra charge.

The 16-35 h.p. model, though similar in general design to last year, has several important modifications which not only improve its running, but render it even easier to handle. The cone clutch has been superseded by a single plate clutch, a type which provides an extremely smooth and progressive "pick-up" without requiring too much attention from the user. The three-speed gear box has been replaced by a new patented gear box giving four speeds forward and reverse, the latter being arranged to remain stationary when not in use. Balance weights are provided on the crankshaft, resulting in very smooth running of the engine, and the foot brakes are operated by cable running direct from the pedal shaft to the levers. The foot-brake pedal has been made adjustable, and snubbers are fitted to the rear suspension. Four wheel brakes are fitted as standard. This model is listed with five types of coachwork, of which the most popular is undoubtedly the five-seater touring car, which is upholstered in English leather, and beautifully finished, and its price of £485 is remarkably low for a car of its high class.

The light saloon introduced last year has also proved very popular, especially with the owner-driver. The front glass is now sloped slightly, and the inside of the door is fitted with polished wood fillets. It is also supplied in alternative form with the lower panels of metal painted and finished in "carriage" style, which gives it a very smart appearance.

The other two carriages fitted to the 16-35 h.p. model are the coach-built saloon, a handsome type of inside-drive carriage to seat four, and the landaurette, a beautiful car of town-carriage type, arranged to seat four inside.

The 24-55 h.p. six-cylinder model is a luxury car of the most modern type, in which every refinement is incorporated. It develops a high degree of power, and will carry with ease and speed the heaviest of carriages. Three types of carriage body are fitted to this model—an open car and two closed carriages. The open car is a very smart and luxurious tourer of the de luxe type, very comfortably upholstered, and is an ideal car for long journeys. It is splendid equipped and finished, and four wheel brakes are fitted as standard.

The five cars shown at Olympia are the 11-22 h.p. four-seater, the 11-22 h.p. two-seater de luxe, with four wheel brakes, the 16-35 h.p. touring car, the 16-35 h.p. light saloon with aluminium panels, and the 24-55 six-cylinder saloon limousine. A very attractive little model of the 16-35 h.p. two-seater is also on show.

Commercial Vehicles.

Very shortly Olympia will be filled with representative commercial motors, and it will be interesting to see the comparative popularity of pneumatic and solid tyres. The tendency on the Continent is strongly towards the use of pneumatic tyres, not only in the equipment of passenger-carrying vehicles, but load carriers. Of all orders for commercial motors now being received by manufacturers, between 75 and 80 per cent. are for vehicles mounted on pneumatics, whilst, as yet further evidence of the favour with which the air tyre is regarded, many lorries, coaches, and 'buses are being returned to the makers to be equipped with wheels suitable for pneumatics. On this side of the Channel, says the *Commercial Motor*, the tendency is only just emerging from the fog of doubt and suspicion in which it has been submerged by the prejudice of the commercial vehicle owner.

That prejudice will rapidly diminish as the result of the experience now being gained in the use of air-filled tyres on 'buses and light lorries now being constructed specially for that wheel equipment. Foreign motor manufacturers are taking advantage of the use of pneumatic tyres to reduce the weight of their mechanism, which, insulated from road shock, need not be so heavy or strong, and it is important that British manufacturers are not behind in the employment of resilient tyres and the adoption of any improvement in their vehicles made possible thereby.

THE BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN TURKEY.

An effort is to be made to strengthen the position of the British Chamber of Commerce in Turkey. For many years before the War a voluntary contribution of 1s. per vessel was regularly collected by H.B.M. Consul-General at Constantinople, and the amount so collected annually was of great material assistance to the Chamber. Since the War, with changed conditions, the contribution is no longer collected.

The British Chamber of Commerce of Turkey and the Balkan States has had to face a very heavy deficit in the past period, and but for voluntary contributions to the Chamber's funds would have been unable to carry on. In view of the many past and present services rendered to shipping and trade interests, the Shipowners' Associations recommend that all ships frequenting the port of Constantinople should consent to contribute to that body a voluntary tax of 2s. for each vessel's entry. This sum, without materially increasing the expenses of the owners, would, it is stated, be of the greatest assistance to the British Chamber of Commerce in Turkey.

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Near East Markets.

SPECIAL MARKET REPORTS.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received from the Ottoman Bank:—

Teheran, September 5.—There is no change of interest to report.

The contract for the conveyance of mails, by motor lorry, between Teheran and the Iraq frontier has been given to the Banque Pehleri. This institution was recently created by the Minister of War as a military bank, to make advances of pay to officers and men, and to carry on other operations with the personnel of the army. It is not yet known whether it is intended to utilise army mechanical transport for the mail service or whether a special department will be created.

Teheran, September 12.—The bazaars are very quiet, but an improvement is looked for at the beginning of the new month (Rabiolaral). Trade usually improves here at this period of the year.

Opium prices are unchanged: there are few buyers. A small quantity was recently bought by merchants for shipment to France.

Cyprus, October 5.—There is some demand from abroad for barley. The local price for caroubs is 21s. per cantar steady (4½ cantars equal 1 ton). Exporters of cocoons have sold their goods at Marseilles at remunerative figures.

CROP CONDITIONS IN IRAQ.

The Agricultural Bulletin of Iraq for the month ended September 15 gives the following particulars:—

During the calendar month of August the mean maximum and mean minimum temperatures recorded at Hinaidi were 112.4 deg. F. and 74.9 deg. F. as compared with averages of 109.6 deg. F. and 79.1 deg. F. for the same month over a period of 36 years. No rain fell during the month, the average precipitation at Baghdad for September being .02 in. only.

The season was thus one of hotter days and cooler nights than normal and was particularly characterised by low humidity. In general the conditions were good for all crops, but the low humidity of the entire summer has rendered water demands of crops heavier than is usual.

Irrigation conditions also remain very difficult. The rivers continued to fall and the present levels of the Tigris and Diala rivers are lower than any previously recorded. Pump-owners have experienced considerable difficulty in keeping the plants at work, and water shortage is badly felt on most canals. Where crops received sufficient water, fresh vegetative growth commenced towards the end of August after the check imposed by the previous excessive heat.

Sowing of winter cereals commenced in Northern Iraq during the period under report. It is believed that the areas sown will be less than usual due to the high prices of grain for seed, and also to the lesser areas ploughed last winter. In Lower Iraq early sowings of barley for fodder were commenced.

The reports of the cotton crop continue to be good. Up to the end of August, 220 tons of new season's seed cotton were delivered at the ginnery as compared with 300 tons for the same period last year. Picking was general during the whole period under review, and in early September much new top growth was formed and flowering became profuse. In Mosul the especially early types which were sent up for late sowing (after locust depredations had ceased) are doing very well and promise to give a good yield. A certain amount of damge is now being done by the spotted boll-worm, but it is very insignificant as compared with last year.

The date market opened at Basrah during August. In spite of the good crop the prices opened high but later showed signs of weakening. Only Hallawis were being generally sold during August, but since then the market has opened for Khadrawis and Sayer. The crop has remained more than usually free from disease and the quality of the fruit is reported to be good.

Analyses of Diala river water at the Experimental Farm show the extraordinary high salt content of 285.6 parts per 100,000 of soluble salts, as compared with a content of 38.1 parts per 100,000 in the canal waters which take off above the barrage, and 30.3 parts per 100,000 for the Tigris at Baghdad. This alarmingly high salt content constitutes a record and great anxiety is being caused thereby.

During the period under report the district work of this department was wound up, and the offices at Basrah, Mosul, Hillah, and Baqubah were closed and the district inspectors attached to these offices were withdrawn.

The July-August exports of wheat from Iraq were 117.25 tons and of barley 211 tons, total 328.25 tons as compared with 7,767 tons exported during the same period last year. The August exports of dates were 3,814.5 tons, valued at Rs.4,40,992-2, as compared with 1,573 tons, valued at Rs.2,52,675 for August, 1924. The July-August exports of wool were 1,697 tons as compared with 10,238.5 tons during the corresponding period last year.

SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended October 3:—

Sultanas.—The arrivals since the opening of the season are estimated at 13,600 tons, and the sales to date are put at 12,000 tons. Closing prices Smyrna, per cwt. c.i.f. London/Liverpool are:—Type 12, 70s.; type 13, 61s.; type 14, 64s.; type 15, 67s.; type 16, 70s.; type 17, 74s.

With the covering of forward engagements for September shipment, the market is now lacking the support of forced purchases and shows a weakening tendency. Consuming markets abroad are not responding freely to the high level of prices established during September and the demand is relatively small. Dealers show a disposition to make concessions in prices, but foreign equivalent costs have been adversely affected by exchange rates.

Figs.—The arrivals are estimated at 123,167 bags, and the sales to date are put at 109,842 bags.

The market closes very strong. Grades suitable for packing in layers and pulled have advance during the week on a reduction of supplies and continued demand. Natural grades are firmly held and would undoubtedly advance on the receipt of favourable advices concerning the Corson, Sinala, and Kioto parcels now just arrived or about to arrive in New York.

TURKEY'S TOBACCO CROP.

From the reports received from all tobacco producing centres, (says the British Commercial Secretary at Constantinople in a recent report), it would appear that in spite of the more extensive area cultivated, the total crop will be smaller in quantity, in comparison with that of last year, in consequence of the prolonged drought. This drought was particularly felt in the Smyrna region where the output has been reduced by upwards of 40 per cent.

The estimates of the crop from all districts are (in tons):—Smyrna, 13,00; Samsoun, 5,750; Dousdja, 2,800; Ismidt, 7,270; Broussa, 5,050; Panderma, 2,800; Adrianople, 3,960; Tachova, 4,950; Trebizond, 1,550; total, 47,130 tons. The estimate of the Tobacco Monopoly for the total crop is 46,000 tons.

The quality of the new crop has every indication of being exceptionally good, big leaved tobacco being rare, and practically no cases of diseased plants have been reported.

There is already an active demand for this year's output, the Tobacco Monopoly being a prospective purchaser of 10,000 tons, whilst practically the whole of the Smyrna crop and 4,000 tons of the Samsoun crop appear likely to be bought up by American firms. It would appear, therefore, that the total quantity available for other markets will not exceed 20-23,000 tons.

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British Consular Reports

VI.—GREECE.

The British Commercial Secretary at Athens, Mr. R. F. H. Duke, in his report on the industrial and economic situation in Greece for the years 1923 and 1924, comments in detail on the changes which the country has experienced and is experiencing. He says:—

The unconstitutional régime set up in November, 1922, continued until the end of 1923, and the National Assembly did not take over the reins of government until January, 1924. The Revolutionary Government, though doubtless animated by the best intentions, particularly as regards the economic re-establishment of the country, was not in all respects able to give practical effect to its ideals. The result was a condition of uncertainty in commercial and industrial circles, which naturally hampered economic development to a very serious extent. At the same time it diminished the confidence of foreign capitalists, manufacturers, and exporters in the future of Greece. The efforts of the Government to improve the exchange resulted in the most violent fluctuations of the drachma, and their apparent success in raising its value nearly three times within one month—from 360 at the beginning of May to 120 at the beginning of June—merely resulted in a general dislocation of trade and industry. At the same time their anxiety to increase the revenue of the country in order to meet in some degree their overwhelming expenses showed itself in financial measures which not only alarmed and disconcerted the inhabitants but threatened to alienate entirely the foreign capital of which they were in need. British exporters to Greece found themselves in special difficulties owing to the instability of the exchange and the reduction in business brought about by political uncertainty and the increase of customs duties, while those already established in Greece were continually harassed by the threat and application of burdensome taxation, the rise in operating expenses, administrative delays and legislative innovations.

With the establishment of parliamentary governmen, however, a remarkable change took place, and the year 1924 may almost be regarded as a milestone in the economic development of Greece. The struggle between the supporters of the royalist and revolutionary régimes respectively, which had for so long kept the attention of all Greek citizens fixed on political questions, had closed with the withdrawal both of the Royal Family and of the chief of the revolution at the end of 1923, and although disputes between the different minor political groups continued to prevail throughout the year and frequent changes of ministry took place, there was a general consensus of opinion in the successive Governments that the moment had arrived to devote their energies principally to the internal reorganisation of the country and the re-establishment of confidence among foreign nations in its economic future. In this respect the events of the past few years have, paradoxically enough, resulted in fact in a general strengthening of the economic position of Greece, the full effects of which must take some years to mature. The flight of refugees from Thrace and Asia Minor after the Smyrna débacle, followed by the expulsion of Greek subjects from Constantinople and other Turkish centres, had a twofold effect both in increasing the industrial and agricultural population of Greece by a large number of skilful and industrious elements and in depriving her nearest neighbour and commercial competitor of the backbone of her economic organisation. The influx of Greek merchants, labourers and artisans brought a new and revivifving element into Greek commercial and industrial life, which was gradually decaying under the atrophying influence of continued obsession with military and political interests. A considerable impulse was given to this movement by the decision of the League of Nations to come to the financial assistance of the country by relieving it of the greater part of the burden of supporting and installing the new population, and the confidence thus expressed by foreign countries in the ultimate ability of Greece to rehabilitate herself economically has been of inestimable value. Many years must necessarily elapse before the full fruits of this movement become visible, but at any rate a beginning has been made, and when the extravagances of the present "boom" have been modified an era of steady progress may be expected.

As regards British trade, the situation has shown some improvement. Little attempt was made in 1924 to increase or even enforce the heavy taxation which at one time threatened to make the position of foreign commercial interests intolerable. The Government are beginning to realise the desirability of facilitating the investment of foreign capital in Greece and the co-operation of British industry in the development of the country. A feature of the year has been the movement towards the industrialisation of Greece and the organisation of hitherto petty industries on broad modern lines. The desire for immediate results, however, led to an attempt to ensure for the new industries a complete monopoly of domestic consumption by imposing, in the revision of an admittedly obsolete tariff, a series of heavy protective duties on foreign goods, but the opposition with which the new tariffs were received by the mercantile community and from the point of view of the already excessive cost of living, when it came to the point of application, has ensured the postponement of these operations and the careful revision of the schedule, which will lessen the urgency of the protests which foreign countries must otherwise necessarily make if their trade with Greece is to be maintained. The financial situation of Greece has been improved by the relative stability of the exchange, thanks to the comparatively quiet political situation, the advances of money from abroad, and the direct efforts made by the Government through the National Bank to prevent undue fluctuation and suppress speculation, and repetitions of the disastrous panic of the spring of 1923 have been successfully avoided. At the same time distinct efforts have been made to control and reduce Government expenditure, and a Committee of Economy, established in July, 1924, is still pursuing its investigations with some results.

New Companies.

The general development of trade has encouraged the investment of Greek capital in Greek enterprises of an industrial and commercial value. In 1923 twenty-four new limited companies were founded with a total capital of 48½ million drachmæ, 100,000 francs, and £36,000 sterling, while existing companies increased their capital by 56 million drs. In 1924 the number of new companies was no fewer than forty-seven with a capital of 195 million drs., £145,000 and 100,000 frs., while increase of capital totalled 82 million drs. Provided care is exercised in regard to the taxation of companies, great benefit should accrue to Greece from the investment of money belonging to Greek nationals hitherto prudently kept abroad. The cost of living, as is natural in a country with few exportable resources and heavy demands on foreign exchange, continues to rise, and is out of all proportion to the standard of life in general, which is far lower than that prevailing in the more important European countries. The development of agriculture by the introduction of refugee labour and the creation of new agricultural areas by irrigation and drainage schemes and improved transport facilities should contribute to a reduction of prices in due course. The improvement in the prosperity of the country has reacted favourably upon business transactions with British firms. Complaints of failure to meet obligations are more rarely heard, and practically no additions have been made to the list of claims against defaulting purchasers, so regrettably familiar in previous years following the War. At the same time distinct progress has been made with the settlement of outstanding claims (other than general war debts) both against the Greek Government and against individual firms. The former at the end of 1922 stood at some £774,000, 11 million drs., and 2,714,000 dols. (Canadian). By the end of 1923 the list had been reduced to £670,000, 3,300,000 drs., and 2,714,000 dols. Of this amount the last figure represented

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Canadian Government claims, which were settled by an agreement drawn up in December, 1923, and approximately £250,000 were claims by His Majesty's Government, which have now been included in the general arrangements for the settlement of Greek war debts to Great Britain which are being made between the two Governments. After deducting these items and adding new claims the present figures are £328,000, 4,643,000 drs., and 435,000 frs., and it is hoped that this outstanding balance will soon be satisfactorily settled. The shipping industry has made considerable progress, and has been greatly helped by the stagnation of Constantinople and other Turkish ports. The improvements now being carried out in the port of Piræus and shortly to be effected at Salonika, Cavalla, and elsewhere will greatly enhance the popularity of Greek ports, and British shipping, which already has a preponderant influence, will doubtless profit from the general development.

Industrial Enterprises.

Brief reference has been made above to the effect which the influx of refugees has had upon the development of industry in a country which formerly derived its prosperity almost solely from mercantile shipping and agricultural enterprise. The development was not so marked as might have been expected in 1923 owing to the instability of exchange and the abnormal internal situation. During 1924, however, great strides were made. In 1923 some forty-one new industrial enterprises, fourteen of which were limited companies, including twelve factories for food products and nine textile works, were founded. In 1924 the number reached seventy-seven, of which twenty-eight were limited companies, with a total capital of 120 million drs. In addition, existing industrial concerns increased their capital by 47½ million drs. This development has been assisted by the organisation for the first time in Greece of a general Conference of Industry and Navigation, as well as by the powers granted to the Government for the expropriation of buildings and land for factory establishment and extension; 697 applications were received for this latter facility against 144 only in 1923. Extensions of plant are indicated by the increase in the number of oil engines imported from thirty to 151. It is also worth noting that of the patents registered in Greece some 70 per cent. were Greek, as compared with only 30 per cent. in 1920.

Foreign Trade.

In 1924 Great Britain became the largest supplier to Greece owing to heavily decreased value of imports of foodstuffs from the United States, and Canada appeared in the list for the first time, having previously been classified under other countries, although her total trade with Greece in 1923 actually reached a higher figure. By far the greater part of the imports into Greece from Great Britain fall into two categories—minerals and raw metals and yarns and tissues. The latter alone, both in 1923 and in the first nine months of 1924, comprise more than half the value of imports from Great Britain and about 40 per cent. of the total imports of textiles into Greece from all sources. It is not possible to show the values by countries for the different classes of goods in the main categories. The most important item under minerals and raw metals is coal; the greater part of this trade was in British hands. The other important items in this category are iron, petrol and wire. In 1923 and 1924 we held a comparatively small proportion of the imports of iron and wire, the trade being mainly in Belgian hands. The most important single category of imports was agricultural produce. Wheat, which was imported to the value of 855 million drachmas in the first nine months of 1924, was obtained mainly from Canada, over 60 per cent. of the total quantity coming from this source. Imports from Great Britain in this group consisted mainly of dyes, sulphate of copper, hides, leather, machinery and other metal goods, hemp manufactures, sacks and linoleum. British trade with Greece continues, of course, to be unfavourably affected in relation to her competitors by the rate of exchange and the high cost of freight. In staple commodities, however, there is no doubt that the reputation of British goods is still high and that there will always be a steady market for them.

What is most needed is enterprise in pushing new lines, the careful selection of agents, frequent personal inquiry into the special needs and new development of the market by British travellers. These efforts must be particularly vigorous in the next few years, and British exporters must expect to have to face an increased tariff on many of their leading lines of trade apart from the general increase of about 30 per cent. which results from the classification of goods by kilos instead of by okes.

As is naturally the case in a small country like Greece, with little industry, no coal and limited supplies of cereals, imports largely exceed exports, the difference in 1924 being approximately £18,000,000. This is accounted for partly by shipping profits and remittances from Greek emigrants abroad. The former are hard to calculate, but cannot be inconsiderable, while the latter, after a setback during the years of uncertainty, have begun to come in with greater regularity, and the Bank of Athens estimates the resources thus entering the country at about eight and a half million pounds. Probably, therefore, the net trade deficit is somewhere in the neighbourhood of seven or eight millions sterling.

The country is generally becoming alive to the importance of developing her export trade. In June, 1923, the export dues on a number of local products were removed, including currants and other fruits, olive oil, marble, magnesite and other mineral ores, soap, cement, wines and spirits, silk, preserved fruits, vegetables, and at the same time the remaining duties were appreciably reduced.

(To be continued.)

INDIAN AGRICULTURE.

The following *communiqué* has been issued by the India Office:—In September the rainfall was sufficient on the west coast and the circars of Madras Presidency, in Central India, East Assam, and the greater part of Burma. Excess rain caused considerable damage to crops in the Eastern and North-Eastern districts of the United Provinces and parts of Oudh and Bundelkhand. More rain was needed in the Western and some other districts of the United Provinces, the Punjab, Rajputana, Ajmere-Merwara, Baluchistan, the North-West Frontier Province, most of the Punjab States, Bombay Presidency, Sind, Western India States, Malwa, and Bihar and Orissa.

The condition of the standing crops is generally fair; but the uneven distribution of the rainfall in many Provinces has damaged the crops to some extent. Fodder and grazing are generally available, but insufficient in parts of Baluchistan, Rajputana, and Western India States. Scarcity of fodder and water is apprehended in Rajputana and of fodder in Ajmere-Merwara.

Prices are lower than last year in Burma and most of the districts of Madras Presidency; are fluctuating in Bombay; are tending to rise, or rising, in the United Provinces, Rajputana, Ajmere-Merwara, Baluchistan, the North-West Frontier Province, and the Western India States. Prices are steady at a high level in Bihar and Orissa; are stationary in Central Provinces, Central India, and Assam. The price of rice is rising in Bengal but is lower in Burma. The price of wheat in the Punjab is slightly lower than at the corresponding period of last year. The rise in the price of jute in Bengal is apparently due to the expectation of short harvests, the estimated yield being 3½ per cent. less than last year.

The condition of cattle is generally fair, except in Rajputana, where disease prevails.

On the whole the economic conditions continue to be fair, but the agricultural outlook in Rajputana, Ajmere-Merwara, and the hilly tracts of Assam is unfavourable.

The Armstrong Construction Company, has been entrusted by the Air Ministry with the construction at Karachi of one of the largest air ship sheds in the world.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

MANCHESTER COTTON MARKET.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Ottoman Bank for the week ended October 10, states:—

The American Agricultural Bureau has given another shock to the market. Its report, published on Thursday evening, regarding the total yield indicated by the state of the crop on October 1, gave the figure of 14,759,000 bales of which 7,102,000 had already been ginned. The former figures represent an increase of no less than 828,000 bales since the last report was issued a fortnight previously. The figures naturally astounded the markets both here and in America and so far as Manchester is concerned are held to confirm the adverse opinion of the Bureau's methods which has obtained here for two or three seasons past. Feeling here throughout the season has been that the crop was being under-estimated, and whilst there is still time for the total to be considerably reduced through bad weather, etc., it would appear to have been right.

Whilst the dislocation of prices which a bumper crop would cause may be very disconcerting for the time being there can be no doubt at all that cheaper American cotton and sufficient of it to enable the mills using it to run full time, which latter will in its turn lower production costs, will make a vast improvement in the outlook for Lancashire trade.

Yarn.—Trade in this section shows very little change from the previous week. Spinners both of American and Egyptian cotton find business difficult to obtain, and competition for such orders as are on offer is keen. It is hoped that the fall in raw cotton prices will bring out a larger business.

Cloth.—There seems to have been a larger inquiry for cloth, but the volume of actual transactions is probably about the same as last week. A very encouraging sign, however, has been a notable improvement in the demand from India. As has been the case in recent weeks this runs chiefly on goods for early delivery, and is taken as an indication of an urgent need for goods. Nothing special can be reported with regard to other markets, the business for the Continent which was quite a feature recently having fallen away somewhat.

Raw Cotton.—Prior to the issue of the Bureau report prices had shown a falling tendency, but on the figures becoming known there was, of course, a heavy break. Business in Liverpool has not been very active. Reports regarding the Egyptian crop continue to be favourable; prices for this description are substantially reduced in sympathy with American. Closing prices yesterday were as follows:—American Middling 11.53d. Egyptian Fully Good Fair Sakellaridis 27.cod.

THE EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company in their report for the week ended October 1, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has been rather active with wide fluctuations, but at the close prices show little change on the week. Sakellaridis 0.12 dollars down for November, 0.10 dollars down for January, unchanged for March; Ashmouni 0.10 dollars down for October, 0.02 dollars up for December, 0.20 up for February.

The erratic movements of the Sakel futures contract must be attributed to the contradictory elements to which this market has been subjected in the course of the week: on the one hand, much better inquiry from abroad and rumours of support of prices by Government purchases, on the other hand better news regarding the Sakel crop and increased daily arrivals from up country resulting in heavy depreciation of premiums. With regard to the Government intervention, nothing definite has yet been heard. Our opinion is that the Government will not embark on purchases of any size while November keeps over 40 dollars. Ashmouni has more or less followed New York fluctuations, and it looks as if the present difference between the two markets will be maintained for the time being. The demand from abroad has been conciderably better and the consequence has been an improved turnover of business on the spot market. Although the demand has been again principally for the Ashmouni qualities, the turnover has been distinctly larger than during the preceding week. The week's receipts amount to crs. 297,518 against exports crs. 61,199 the stock stands at crs. 896,333.

Spot: Minet el Bassal has only been open four days this week but a good business has been done and sales amount to about 17,900 B/s of which we estimate 7,000 B/s Sakel, 8,500 B/s Uppers, 1,900 B/s Zagora, 450 B/s Pilion and 50 B/s White. Arrivals are fairly heavy and, with a demand nothing like sufficient to absorb them, there has been generally a tendency for premiums for spot to ease in all growths.

Sakellarides: A fairly good business has been done, mainly in the better grades; the medium qualities have been only in moderate request and the low grades neglected. Spot differences are generally appreciably cheaper, especially for the higher grades and holders have offered their cotton freely.

Ashmouni and Zagora: have met with a good demand. Low grades have been neglected and the good and medium qualities have absorbed the bulk of the business. Spot differences are generally without much change but inclined to weaken.

Pilion: has been in fair request mainly for the better styles. Spot differences are generally considerably cheaper.

Brown: is neglected and no business is reported.

White: A retail business has been done. Quotations of spot have eased considerably.

Crop 1925: News on the new crop may be summed up as follows: Everything goes on well in Upper Egypt and a crop of 3 million kantars is very probable. In the Delta, varieties other than Sakel are in a satisfactory condition and it is expected that the yield per feddan will be equal or superior to last year.. With regard to Sakel, the improvement reported last week has been maintained but present indications point to a yield per feddan at least 10 per cent. inferior to that of last year.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street. S.W.)

YUGOSLAVIA.

Motor Vehicles.—The Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs invites tenders for the supply of a number of motor vehicles of various types. October 24. (D.O.T.)

INDIA.

Various Goods.—The Director-General, India Store Department in London invites tenders for (1) Steam trawler, second-hand, 125 to 140 feet not exceeding 15 pears of age built to Lloyd's or British Corporation requirements; (2) india-rubber buffer springs, etc.; (3) division plates for india-rubber buffers, No. 66,420; (4) engine turntables, No. 4; (5) lavatory fittings, door locks, etc., for railway carriages; (6) steel work for railway erecting shops; (7) two locomotive engine, 2-8-2 type, 2 ft. 6 in. gauge; (8) steel measuring tapes and refills for linen measuring tapes, No. 4,000; (9) buffers, axleguards, etc., for railway carriages and wagons; (10) mild steel plates, tone, 170; (11) mild steel bars, round, flat, angles, etc., tons, 457; (12) bolts and nuts, tons, 85. Tenders due on October 20 for Nos. 1, 2, 3; October 23 for Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8; October 27 for Nos. 9, 10, 11, and 12.

THE SUDAN.

Steamers' Stores.—The Inspector-General of Irrigation, Sudan, Khartoum, invites tenders for the supply of steamers' stores, of the following general description, to the Egyptian Irrigation Service in the Sudan: oils, greases, cleaning materials, packing and jointing, hemp and wire rope and yarn, lamps, small tools, paints and enamels, brushes and brooms, bolts nuts and pins, lifebuoys, oars, piping, minor electric light spares. October 23.

Fuel and Oil.—The Inspector-General of Irrigation, Sudan, Khartoum, invites tenders for the supply of the following fuel and oil for the hydraulic dredger:—(a) 3,200 tons of Welsh steam coal briquettes; (b) grease and oils. Contractors may tender for one only of above groups. October 27.

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COMPANY MEETING.

SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY COMPANY.

The ordinary general meeting of the South Indian Railway Company, Limited, was held on October 7 at the offices of the company, 91, Petty France, Westminster.

Mr. Alex. Muirhead, C.I.E. (chairman and managing director), who presided, said that the accounts and report would, he thought, be considered as showing satisfactory results under the adverse conditions that prevailed during a part of the year when as he explained at the last general meeting, the railway was seriously damaged by the unprecedented floods that occurred in July, 1924. Owing to the difficulties of travel arising from the breaches, there was a falling off in the earnings of the year of nearly 11 lakhs of rupees.

But against that fall in earnings there was a reduction in working expenses of nearly 19 lakhs of rupees, arising from two principal causes, one being the partial interruption by the breaches of their programme of renewals on which consequently expenditure was some 7 lakhs less than in the previous year; and the other being the receipt of a windfall in the shape of a refund of Indian Customs Duty, following on a decision of the Bombay High Court, confirmed by the Privy Council, that stores imported for a State Railway worked by a company, were Government stores, and not liable to Customs Duty. He must add, however, that freedom from liability had since been stopped by legislation, and duty was now payable on material and stores imported into India by railways. By that adventitious aid the net earnings worked out to Rs.8,04,646 more than in the previous year, and amounted to Rs.2,25,99,845.

While the outlook for the next few years required that too sanguine a view should not be taken of dividend prospects, the board felt justified in again recommending a final distribution for the year of the same amount as last year, namely, 4¼ per cent., less tax, making the total for the year 8 per cent., of which 3½ per cent. represented guaranteed interest, and 4½ per cent. the contribution from surplus profits.

The directors, as usual, had been informed by cable of the approximate results of working for the first half of the current year. The gross earnings for that period were higher by Rs.19½ lakhs than those of the corresponding half of last year, and had, therefore, more than made good the fall of Rs.11½ lakhs which occurred in the earlier period of last year. Working expenses were also higher by nearly Rs.14½ lakhs, partly as the cost of earning the additional revenue, and also because the company was getting on with its renewal programme work on which was hindered by last year's floods. The net earnings were therefore about Rs.5 lakhs more for the half year, and the company's estimated share of the surplus profits for that period was Rs.4,45,000, compared with Rs.3,73,872 for the corresponding period of 1924.

Working costs had greatly increased of late years. Salaries and wages which seven years ago cost 72½ lakhs of rupees, and amounted to less than 10 per cent. of gross earnings of the system, were last year Rs.140¾ lakhs, and were nearly 25 per cent. of the gross earnings produced by the higher rates and fares now in force. There was no prospect of any great reduction on the outlay, nor upon the present-day costs of stores and materials required for working, maintaining, and renewing the railway. They could not, therefore, contemplate without anxiety any proposals which might have the effect of reducing earnings even temporarily. They had a fairly heavy programme of renewals before them. Then there was a big programme in hand for the construction of new lines.

The King and Queen of the Belgians will call at Malta on November 5 to visit the Mediterranean Fleet on their way home from India. A great State ball was given at Viceregal Lodge, Simla, on October 8, in honour of their Majesties.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF.

The production of Hamilton's Concessions (Roumania) for September amounted to 1,220 tons.

The production of the Dacia Romano Petroleum Syndicate for September was 1,000 tons.

The production of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields for the week ended October 1 was: Gemsah, 17 tons; Hurghada, 3,324 tons.

The production of the Indo Burma Oilfields for August was 3,420 barrels, being 2,344 barrels from Yenanma field and 1,076 barrels from Paduakpin field.

The production of crude oil by the British Burmah Petroleum Company and the Rangoon Oil Company for September amounted to 56,276 barrels.

The Alexandria Water Company announces a dividend of 4s. per £5 share. Coupon No. 74 is payable on October 15 instead of on December 15, 1925, as printed on the coupon.

The Indo-European Telegraph Company has declared an interim dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, free of tax, payable November 2 to shareholders registered October 16.

The directors of Furness, Withy and Co., Ltd., announce a dividend on the ordinary shares at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year ending October 31, 1925, being 6d. per share, free of tax. Warrants will be posted on October 31 to shareholders registered October 13.

Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons announce that, as the suspension of the payments by the Egyptian Government for the due service of the Ottoman 3½ Per Cent. Loan of 1894, secured by the Egyptian Tribute, still continues, the interest coupons due on October 15 cannot be paid.

The production of the Phœnix Oil and Transport Company for September was 16,393 tons gross, the throughput being 23,064 tons. (Office note.—According to telegraphic advices received from Roumania, well No. 28 in the Stavropoleos area entered the new deep sand and came into production on October 2 with an output of over 1,000 tons per day, but became temporarily stopped in the afternoon of October 4. No further announcement will be made in regard to this well.)

The Egyptian Delta Light Railways announces that coupons for accumulated arrears of dividend on the Five and a-Half per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares for the years ended March 31, 1924 and 1925, are now ready for issue. Preference shares Nos. 1 to 104,078 are entitled to the following coupons:—For 1924 coupon, "X" representing 1½ per cent. (3s. per share), less income-tax; for 1925 coupon, "Y" representing 1½ per cent. (3s. per share), less income-tax.

A Persian Mission, headed by the Persian Minister to Egypt, left Cairo last week for Jeddah in order to get first-hand information concerning the situation in the Hejaz, and to investigate the reports, which have given rise to a certain uneasiness lately in Persia, of the reported damage done to the Holy Places by the Wahhabi followers of Ibn Saoud.

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MODERN DESIGN

AND CONSTRUCTION AT MODERATE COST.

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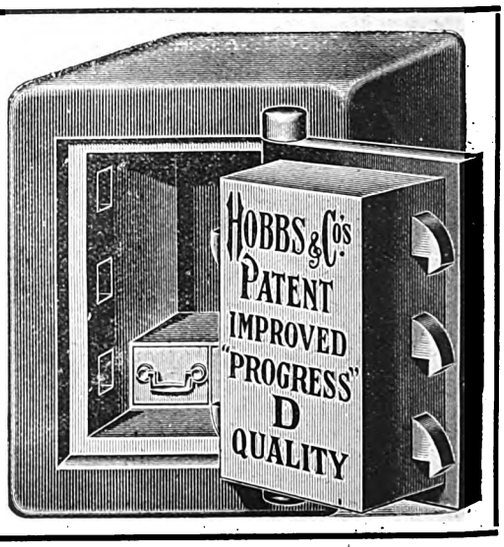

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COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

THE NIZAM'S STATE RAILWAYS.

The report of H.E.H. The Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways Company for the year ended March 31, states that the gross earnings of the broad gauge system were Rs.1,01,58,282, the working expenses were Rs.37,76,942, and the net earnings were Rs.63,81,340. The percentage of working expenses to gross earnings was 37.18. The net earnings in sterling (excluding the Bezwada Extension) were £458,378, compered with £340,338. The sum required to meet the charges for the year in respect of debentures and loans, together with 5 per cent. on the capital stock, and provision for the estimated taxation liability, was £251,062, leaving a surplus of £207,316, divisible between the Government of H.E.H. the Nizam and the company. After adding the profit on exchange on a proportion received prior to March 31, 1925, the company's share amounts to £103,688. The gross earnings of the Hyderabad Godavery Valley Line were Rs.80,15,781, the working expenses were Rs.34,26,168, and the net earning were Rs.45,89,703. The percentage of working expenses to gross earnings was 42.74; the net earnings in sterling being £343,304. The sum required to meet the charges for the year in respect of debentures and loans, and to make provision for the estimated taxation liability, was £111,208, leaving £232,096 divisible between the Nizam and the company. The company's share amounts to £116,048. The board recommend a final dividend of 4 per cent. on the capital stock for the year, plus a bonus of 3½ per cent., less tax, making a total distribution of 11½ per cent. for the year.

BURMA RAILWAYS.

The directors of the Burma Railwys Company, Ltd., recommend a final dividend of £2 per cent., together with a bonus of £3 per cent., both subject to tax, on account of surplus profits, to be distributed with the guaranteed interest of £1 5s. per cent., less tax, payable on January 1, 1926, making in all a return of £10 per cent. for the year 1924-25.

MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

The directors of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company, Ltd., recommend a dividend and bonus for the half-year ending December 31, 1925, payable January 1, 1926, of £5 per cent., viz., guaranteed interest £1 15s., and surplus profits £3 5s., which will make, with the dividend and bonus of £4 per cent. paid in July last, a total of £9 per cent. for the year.

AFRICAN AND EASTERN.

The African and Eastern Trade Corporation, Limited, officially announce their decision to issue to the ordinary members on October 14, 1925, the 439,632 unissued ordinary shares, together with a similar number of 6 per cent. cumulative B. preference shares in the proportion as nearly as possible of one ordinary share of £1 each at the price of £1 5s. per share and one 6 per cent. cumulative B. preference share of £1 at par for every eight existing ordinary shares held by such shareholders on that date.

TEA COMPANIES.

The New Sylhet Tea Estates has declared an interim dividend on the ordinary shares at the rate of 10 per cent., payable October 21.

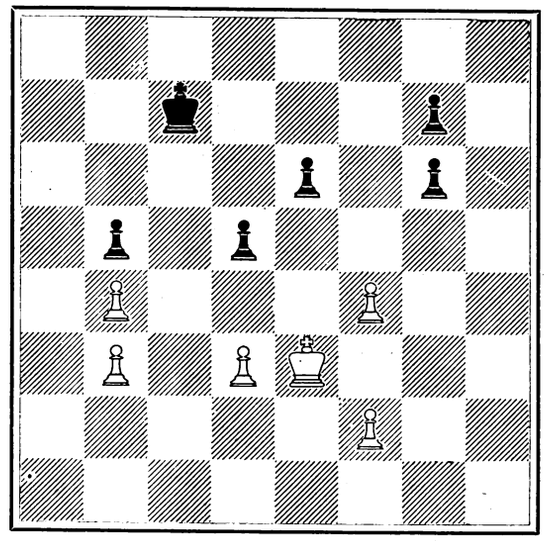
The Bogawantalawa District Tea Company has declared an interim dividend of 7½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, less tax at 4s. payable October 15.

Mr. Himbury, general manager of the British Cotton Growing Association, is leaving at the end of the month to inspect the cotton-growing areas of India, East and Central Africa, Kenya, Tanganyika, Uganda, and the Sudan.

The quantity of gold extracted from the mines in India during July amounted to 32,542 oz., valued at Rs.18,38,623.

CHESS.

By "CARO-KANN."



PROBLEM No. 17.
White to play.—What result?

Solution to Problem No. 16:—1 . . . . P—B6; 2, K—Kt3, PxP; 3, K—B2, K—B3; 4, KxP, K—K4; 5, K—B2, K—B5; 6, K—K2, K—Kt6; 7, K—K, K—B6; 8, K—Q, K—K6; 9, K—B2, K—K7; 10, P—Kt3, K—K6 and wins. It is curious to note that if Black plays 1 . . . . P—B5 he only draws. Play would continue: 2, PxP, P—B6; 3, K—Kt3, PxP; 4, K—B2, P—K6; 5, P—B5, K—B2; 6, P—Kt4 and draws.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Castalia for Bombay (Liverpool, October 24). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Media for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 17).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Gloucestershire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, October 21).

British India Line.—S.s. Margha for Bombay and Karachi (London, October 23); s.s. Dumana for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 24).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Genoa for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 22.

Johnston Line.—S.s. Dromore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 17); s.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, November 6). (The last steamer of the season for Sulina, Galatz, and Braila.)

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Ranpura for Bombay (London, October 30); s.s. Nore for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 31).

Prince Line.—S.s. Egyptian Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, and Beyrout (London, October 23).

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LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.

KARACHI via Bombay, calling at Gibraltar and Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS UPPER DECK CABINS.
MODERATE FARES.
RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT
Indian Government Vouchers accepted.

Passenger sailing dates:—

*CASTALIA, Oct. 27.	*ELYSIA, Dec 29.
*OLYMPIA, Nov. 13.	*CIRCASSIA, Jany. 12, 1926.
*SCINDIA, Nov. 27.	*CASTALIA, Feb. 2.
*MASSILIA, Dec. 11.	OLYMPIA, Feb. 19.

*First class passengers only. Specially low fares.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA, 17,000 TONS, carrying 1st, 2nd and 3rd class passengers, sails from MARSEILLES Oct. 20.

All 1st and 2nd class state rooms are fitted with Punkah Louvres and with Fans. This vessel has exceptionally fine 3rd class accommodation.

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(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889.)

CAPITAL (fully paid) - £650,000 | RESERVE - - - £420,000

Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

Branches in Persia :— *Chief Office, TEHERAN.*

Ahwaz, Bafrush, Bunder Abbas, Bushire, Dizdah, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Maidan-i-Naftun, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad (Seistan), Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz, Yezd

Branches in Iraq (Mesopotamia) :—Bagdad, Basra.
Branch in India :—Bombay.
The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia ; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

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IONIAN BANK, Ltd.

Established 1839.

Capital Authorised - - - £600,000
Capital Paid up - - - £485,580
Reserve Fund - - - - £190,000
Total Assets- - - - £6,536,314

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Basildon House Moorgate, LONDON.

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Central Office :
ATHENS.
14 Branches.

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Central Office :
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Managing Governors in India:—
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Manager in London:—
Sir S. A. H. SITWELL.

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Paid-up Capital - **Rs. 5.62.50.000**
Reserve - - - **Rs. 4.77.50.000**

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London Branch - - 5 Whittington Avenue, E.C.3.

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Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

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Subscribed Capital ... £4.000,000 | **Reserve Fund** ... £2,800,000

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RESERVE FUNDS - Drs. 38,150,045.40

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Branches: Piraeus, Argos, Pyrgos, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Nauplia, Vostizza (Aegion), Calamata, Syra, Chio, Candia, Volo, Salonica, Larrissa, Triccala, Mitylene, Canea, Zante, Plomari, Tripolitza. Associated Bank in London:

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Reserve Liability of Shareholders - - - - £1,000,000 **Reserve Fund - - £360,000**

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The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, purchases, grants advances against or collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency Business in connection with the East.

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MEDITERRANEAN. Malta, Gibraltar.

Subscribed Capital - - - - £1,800,000 **Paid-up Capital - - - - £600,000**
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HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

FULLY PAID CAPITAL - - - - - - - - £3,000,000
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KAISAR-I-HIND	11,430	Oct. 16	Oct. 23	Bombay and Karachi
†DELTA	8,000	Oct. 17	——	Colombo and Calcutta
¶KASHGAR	9,000	Oct. 23	——	Straits, China, Japan
*NARKUNDA	16,000	Oct. 23	Oct. 30	Colombo and Australia
RANPURA	16,500	Oct. 30	Nov. 6	Bombay and Karachi
†NORE	7,000	Oct. 31	——	Colombo and Calcutta
§CHITRAL	15,000	Nov. 6	——	Colombo and Australia

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‡DUMANA	8,600	Oct. 17	Oct. 24	Madras and Calcutta
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SHIRALA	7,752	Oct. 31	Nov. 6	Bombay and Karachi
‡MORVADA	8,193	Oct. 31	Nov. 7	Madras and Calcutta
MALDA	8,905	Nov. 14	Nov. 21	Madras and Calcutta
‡MODASA	8,986	Nov. 14	Nov. 27	East African Ports
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§City of Nagpur	10,138	Oct. 24	Bombay & Karachi
City of Calcutta	7,679	Oct. 31	Bombay & Karachi
‡City of Exeter	9,447	Nov. 6	Colombo, Madras and Calcutta
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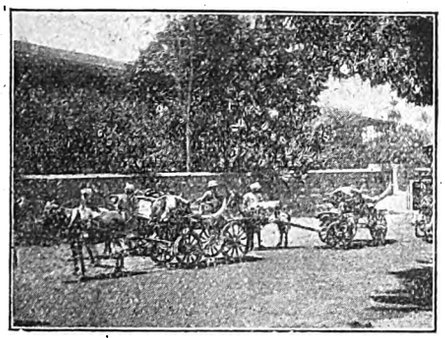

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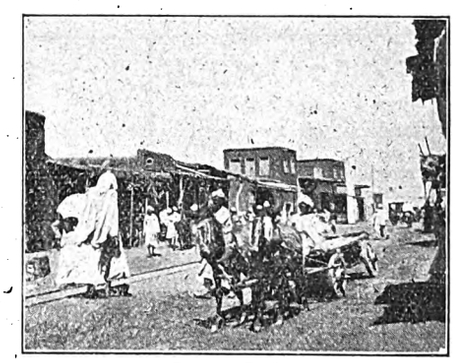

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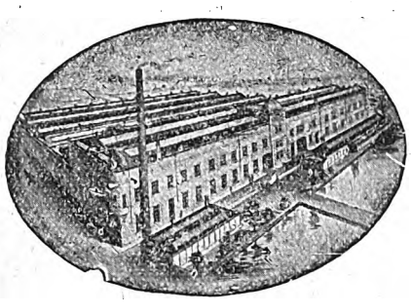
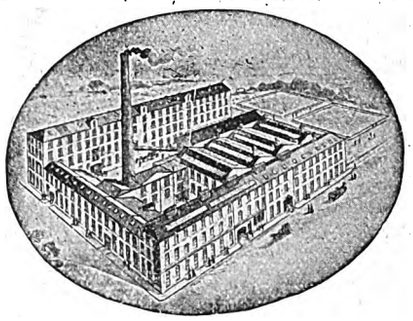
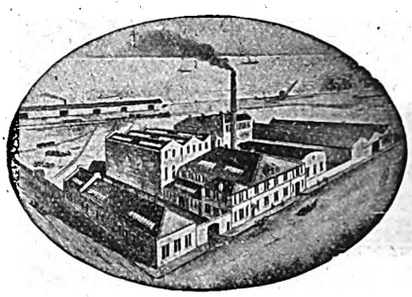

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THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

No. 754.—VOL. XXVIII. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1925.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	Page
NOTES OF THE WEEK	485
SPECIAL LETTERS—	
Egypt	488
Persia	488
Roumania	489
Yugoslavia	490
Turkey	491
Cyprus	491
SPECIAL ARTICLE—	
The Petition Writer	494
LEADING ARTICLE—	
The Tug-of-War in Greece	487
BOOK REVIEWS	497
THE WEEK AT HOME	495
PERSONAL AND GENERAL	493
INDIAN AFFAIRS—	
Propaganda in India	499
Current Topics	500
Special Letters: Calcutta	501
Bombay	501
Simla	502
The Indian Mail	502
Indian Exchange	504
COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
Notes and News	505
Near East Markets	507
Shipping Intelligence	508
Motors & Motoring. By G. B. B.	509
Cotton and Cotton Goods	510
Chess	511
British Consular Reports	512

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

After Locarno—The Balkans.

Now that the seemingly impossible for the West has been achieved at Locarno, the goal of Balkan unity need not appear so unattainable as it has hitherto to most observers. What is wanted is that before the influence of the Locarno example has passed Governments and peoples in the Balkans should have their minds directed into practical channels for removing the evil results of the Great War by the introduction of genuine, that is an agreed, peace in the Peninsula. There is a tendency in some quarters to advocate a piecemeal peace, the conclusion of separate treaties between pairs of States, or a second Little Entente overlapping and so dovetailed into the other one. In these pages we have never ceased to urge the cause of a Balkan federation, believing that sooner or later, however black the outlook appeared at the moment, both the common sense of the nations themselves and economic pressure would work to this end. Nothing short of true unity will meet the case. Behind the conclusion of separate pacts lies the fallacy that a federation can be built up on things as they were left by the Paris Peace Conference. It can not. The essence of that Conference was envy, hatred, and all uncharitableness. It is possible to enforce its provisions and maintain peace; but the spirit required for a successful federation will always be missing, until some of the graver injustices have been removed. We cannot disguise from ourselves that this doctrine is unpopular in the Balkans, but this circumstance does not impugn the accuracy of the contention. The Little Entente has a purely negative value; it has—let it be granted—kept Hungary quiet; but it has not been the means of releasing a single soldier in Roumania or Yugoslavia for productive work, nor has it added directly or indirectly to the revenue of either country. A Balkan Federation will be an active agent for the building up of the internal prosperity of the Peninsula. The sense of internal security will enable individual military budgets to be reduced; the confidence engendered abroad will loosen the purse-strings of foreign capital and lead to unprecedented industrial activity. These and other advantages are well worth the minor sacrifices that are necessary for an agreed peace. The first requirement is a statesman who can inspire the confidence that Mr. Austen Chamberlain has in Western Europe.

Arabs in Palestine.

A change of High Commissioner in Palestine afforded the Arab population an excellent opportunity of reviewing the policy that that they have hitherto adopted towards British administration. Two courses were open to them; after the long trial given to non-co-operation, without any practical results from their point of view, they could have frankly abandoned their former attitude and resolved to try as an experiment straightforward co-operation with the British Government; or they could inaugurate an intensive campaign of agitation with the ideal of pressing home any advantage that they imagine comes to them by the substitution of Lord Plumer for Sir Herbert Samuel as High Commissioner. Apparently they have decided in favour of the latter course. A delegation of fifty Arab notables has waited upon Lord Plumer to submit a memorandum of Arab grievances. It was a long one, and covered all the familiar ground from Lord Balfour to Mr. Bentwich. The High Commissioner listened to the recital and undertook that the memorandum would receive his attention. It is unnecessary to state that such a document will be carefully considered, for Great Britain has the strongest possible interest in removing any source of friction in Palestine. As Arab grievances in the past have been often examined and found to be either imaginary or of such a nature that under existing conditions they could not be removed, even if they entailed the alleged hardships, the British Government would probably prefer that these grievances should be discussed by the Arabs from within the Administration rather than form the subject of a Memorandum presented from outside. From a cabled summary of the Arabs'

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representations it would appear that stress was laid on alleged Jewish infringement of Arab rights; Jewish immigration, it was urged, was fatal to the economic welfare of the country; it increased the price of food, and the communistic ideas that it introduced were slowly poisoning the minds of the inhabitants; the recognition of Hebrew as an official language increased Government expenditure and the burdens of taxation; Jews were securing dominating posts in the Government Departments, and "a certain Zionist leader, acting as Attorney-General, enacted laws for the benefit of the Jews regardless of the needs and traditions of the Arabs." Finally complaint was laid against the Jewish settlements as being an *imperium in imperio*. A reasoned reply to this Memorandum will, no doubt, reach the Arabs in due course. If only they could be brought to realise that, so long as they persist in their present attitude, there can be little or no change in the administration; whereas, if they took part in that administration themselves, they would have a chance of bending it to their way of thinking or of finding that it was already bent.

The Syrian Trouble.

From a rising in the Jebel Druse, France's trouble in Syria has developed into a general effervescence over a large portion of the mandated area, which finds expression in brigandage and isolated outbreaks. Disturbances at Hama have led to the destruction of a considerable portion of the town, a railway station north of Hama has been fired, and numerous posts and villages have been sacked. Naturally the insurgents are not having it all their own way, but from the fact that the bodies of twenty-four rebels were exposed in a public square in Damascus it has to be inferred that the French regard themselves as fighting with their backs to a wall. The net result is the virtual closing of Syria to foreign traffic. Intending visitors are asked to postpone their trips to Damascus; the Desert Motor Service to Baghdad has for several weeks been deflected from Damascus to Amman. Brigandage is now the term applied to the outbreaks, but they are widespread enough to suggest that the driving out of the Druses from the Jebel Druse has scattered the insurgents in small guerilla bands over a wider tract of country, rendering France's task still more difficult. It is inevitable that the amicable relations established between Iraq and Great Britain should cause the Syrians to compare their own lot with that of the Iraqis. The mandatory system, they point out, is the same for both countries; but Syria is far from enjoying the degree of independence that Iraq has won. France is not likely to be willing to discuss the subject so long as the Druse insurrection lasts, and if the rebels regard themselves as champions of the Syrian cause, the best service that they can render the country now is to "call off" the revolt, on an assurance that France will be willing subsequently to discuss the subject of the Syrians' claims.

Roumanian Politics.

The re-opening of the Chamber of Deputies in Bucharest serves to emphasise the fact that the political situation in Roumania has undergone little change throughout the year. The Bratianu Government commands a two-thirds majority, with all the advantage of a homogeneous party over a much-divided Opposition. For the opening ceremony the bulk of the latter—the National Roumanian (Transylvanians), the Nationalist Democratic (led by Professor Yorga) and the Tsaranist (Peasant) Parties—absented themselves; presumably to record afresh the exception that they have taken all along to the manner in which the last elections are said to have been held. In view of the fact, however, that they have not only recognised Parliament by taking their seats and on occasion remaining in the Chamber while the Government Party has withdrawn, it would seem to outside observers that they would have commended themselves more to the country, if they had shown ordinary courtesy to the Crown by attending a ceremony performed by the King in person. At the beginning of the year the Transylvanians and the Democrats concluded an agreement for parliamentary co-operation in their opposition to the Liberal Government. Attempts to extend the coalition to the Tsaranists have hitherto not been successful, but their common action on the opening day may prelude the announcement of a three-party compact. Even so, they remain handicapped in any appeal to the people of Roumania by the abstention of General Averescu's followers—the People's Party—and, if the new elections are held under the Bratianu Government, it will be interesting to see to what extent the alleged dissatisfaction of the country with things as they are is confirmed by the votes of the electorate.

Minority Problems.

The Congress of European Minorities which has recently been held in Geneva passed off in an atmosphere of undisturbed tranquillity, as those responsible for the gathering had wisely prohibited anything in the way of protests by minorities. Discussions were of a general character, directed to the establishing of harmonious relations between minorities and majorities. Resolutions were adopted calling upon Governments to safeguard the free cultural and economic development of minorities over which they have jurisdiction, and the League of Nations was urged to pay special attention to this subject. Although there may be no immediate results of a practical nature, the Congress will have served a useful purpose, if it reminds a number of States that an increasing volume of public opinion in Europe is expecting to hear much less in the near future of minority grievances. It will not be overlooked that minorities have their responsibilities no less than majorities, and a Congress of European Minorities would accomplish half its purpose if it did not bring home to those whom the delegates represented the necessity of making the best of their lot and of not magnifying molehills. It does not appear that Balkan minorities were represented at the Congress; in any case, they might have been tempted to regard as wasted any time devoted to abstract considerations to the exclusion of direct indictments. Even in the Balkans, however, it is beginning to be realised that the times call for some consideration to be given to minority problems. The opening of the Greek Free Zone in Salonika, which took place last Sunday, does not come within this category, but it represents a concession to other than strictly national interests, even if it was originally prompted by a desire to offset the Yugoslav Free Zone. Another novelty is the publication by the Greek Government of a Bulgarian Primer for the instruction of the youthful Bulgarian-speaking population in Greek Macedonia. Unfortunately this praise-

(Continued on page 498.)

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1925.

THE TUG-OF-WAR IN GREECE.

In one of his early speeches after his accession to power General Pangalos, Prime Minister of Greece, stated that he had formed the opinion that the people did not want any of their present political leaders. He did not claim, he went on to say, that they wanted him; but then he was not a politician. What he knew the people did want was order, tranquillity, security, good government and new political leaders. Nothing has happened since that speech was made to show that General Pangalos was wrong in his diagnosis of the situation or that either he or the Greek people have changed their views. There have been, it is true, some direct action, numerous alarms and several "excursions." The Constitution has been put into force by Government decree, the Assembly has been dissolved, embarrassing critics of the Cabinet have been summarily arrested, and nearly every day General Pangalos, in the language of his political opponents, proceeds from one *coup d'état* to another. The Government's version is that it has enforced order, obtained security and refuses to allow the general tranquillity to be disturbed. Whether its administration is good or bad may depend on the point of view; but a Ministry that loses no time in awarding two big contracts for such important services as the water supply of Athens and an adequate system of lighting and traction for Athens and the Piræus establishes a strong claim to be regarded as having the interests of the people at heart and being of a practical turn of mind. Such trouble as there is comes from the political leaders, who are by no means inclined to accept General Pangalos's dictum that it is time for them to retire into private life. Perhaps the Prime Minister would have been better advised to say that what the people of Greece want is new political methods rather than new political leaders. The latter cannot easily be created in a day; but there is no reason why they should not change their methods overnight. Realisation that the Greeks are tired of revolutions may be responsible for the particular kind of excursions indulged in by General Plastiras. As Colonel Plastiras, he was responsible for the revolution that dethroned King Constantine and secured the execution of his Ministers in November 1922, and for the good of his country, as well as for his own, he has withdrawn from public life. When, however, M. Papanastasiou was to be put on trial for criticising General Pangalos's Government, General Plastiras decided to come to Athens as a witness in his defence. M. Papanastasiou's trial was abandoned, and the *raison d'être* for General Plastiras's presence in the capital disappeared. He decided to leave his country retreat, however, and made his way to Athens, in spite of the Government's suggestion that he should stay where he was. On his arrival in Athens, a police officer was sent to question him, but General Plastiras preferred to go into hiding. The Government thereupon gave orders for his arrest; it arrested three people who were known to be in touch with General Plastiras, and it issued a proclamation threatening death to all who harboured the fugitive or failed to declare his whereabouts.

At a distance such measures are apt to appear unduly Draconian, and wonder may be felt that so much fuss should be made over General Plastiras. It may be that his name is synonymous in Greece with revolution, and that General Pangalos was determined at all costs to nip any attempt of that kind in the bud. Fortunately there seems no chance of the Greek people's taking much interest in General Plastiras's movements, and it is subsequently reported that the Government will be satisfied, if he removes himself out of the country. The incident tends to confirm the view that the Greeks are weary of revolution and political strife. On the other hand some sympathy will be felt with any conscientious Greek politician who holds that his position requires him to champion the cause of constitutionalism, when he sees, as he supposes, the country slipping back into a dictatorship. In these circumstances everything will depend on the methods employed in the support of constitutional procedure. M. Papanastasiou appeared to be doing the right thing when he gave his parliamentary support to General Pangalos immediately after the bloodless *coup d'état* that placed the latter in office. Something must have gone wrong somewhere for M. Papanastasiou to have no other means of bringing influence or persuasion to bear on the Government than by a violent newspaper attack which places him within the arm of the law. He will, no doubt, say that the fault lies with General Pangalos, while the latter will remain convinced that he occupies his present position primarily to insure good government and to rid the nation of the curse of "too much politician." The irony of the situation is that both the protagonists may be regarded as worthy men, actuated entirely by devotion to the country, but through lack of someone to bring them and keep them together they drift apart and the rehabilitation of Greece is retarded.

The immediate point at issue is a comparatively minor one. The sum total of General Pangalos's offence is little more than a failure to hold elections at once. The Government has declared its desire for early elections and announces that it has first to come to a decision regarding certain points connexted with the holding of the elections. Not unnaturally it is also anxious to feel the ground in regard to these coming elections. M. Papanastasiou, therefore, is probably defeating his own purpose when he selects this particular moment for fulminating against the Government; for, if General Pangalos is as black as his enemies paint him, he will be capable of postponing the elections as long as he can, in the hope of being more certain of his own chances of being returned to power. Yet, if General Pangalos should adopt such a course, he will be stepping off the high pedestal that he mounted immediately after the *coup d'état*; for he will be showing himself not only a politician, but also a politician not one whit better than those who have preceded him in Greek public life. His wiser course would seem to be to take his courage in both hands and to remain above the struggle for political spoils. He has a good enough record for four months with which to submit his case to the Greek electorate, and if it will have none of him, he will do well for his own reputation to wait until Greece decides that she wants him again.

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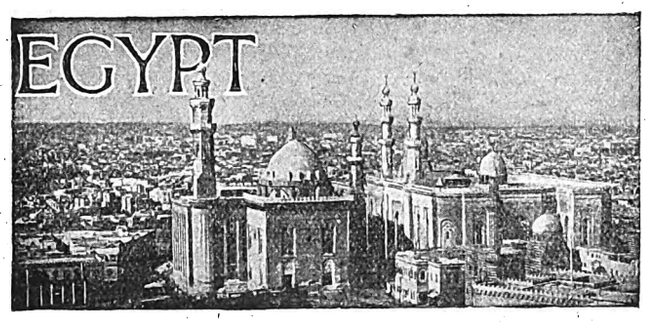
The Near and Middle East*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, October 10.

Accession Day.

As the Accession Anniversary (October 9) has fallen this year on a Friday, to-day is being celebrated throughout the country as a Government holiday, although all the official programme was carried out yesterday. There was a well-attended reception in the morning at Ras El Tin Palace, followed by a tea party given by Yehia Pasha Ibrahim, the Acting Prime Minister, in the afternoon and a banquet by Mohamed Sidky Pasha, the Governor of Alexandria in the evening. In Cairo Sherin Bey, the Acting Governor, gave a tea party in the Ezbekia Gardens, and in the evening both cities were illuminated, the celebrations in Alexandria as the present seat of Government being in the circumstances on a much more lavish scale than the capital.

The Visit of H.M.S. Queen Elizabeth.

The Accession festivities have coincided with the visit of H.M.S. Queen Elizabeth, with Admiral Sir Roger Keyes on board. The British community both in Cairo and Alexandria had organised an extensive programme so as to give the officers and crew as good a time as possible—a dinner followed by a dance at San Stefano Casino under the chairmanship of Mr. Neville Henderson, Acting High Commissioner, a regatta, an amateur dramatic performance (Alexandria) and cricket matches and boxing tournament (Cairo) figuring among the events. And from what one can hear these efforts have been eminently successful.

The New High Commissioner.

It is announced that Sir George Lloyd will arrive on October 21, and in certain circles the visit of the Queen Elizabeth so near to the arrival of the new High Commissioner is regarded as having political significance. That the two events should be linked together is not at all surprising in view of the manner in which, in this country, the obvious explanation for quite ordinary events is persistently passed over for more sensational interpretation. There is in fact not the slightest connection between the visit of the flagship of the Mediterranean Fleet and the advent of Sir George Lloyd. A perusal of the files of the local Press during past years would indeed have shown these gossip-mongers that it is a regular thing for part of the Mediterranean Fleet to make a short stay in the autumn in Egyptian waters, and that as a matter of fact the "display of strength" is very much less this year, since only one ship is now visiting Alexandria.

The Egyptian Honours List.

The honours list published on the occasion of the Accession aniversary is a somewhat uninteresting one, and the only name of considerable importance one sees in it is Taher Pasha Noor, Procureur-General of the Native Courts, who receives the Second Class of the Order of the Nile. To all who know what Taher Pasha did in the Sirdar murder case, what courage and perseverance he displayed throughout, it has been a matter for great surprise that the Egyptian Government, which had such an interest in seeing the murderers tracked down and brought to book, should not long ere this have given practical expression to its appreciation of the part Taher Pasha took in bringing about the successful conclusion to the original inquiry and the trial by securing for him some high distinction from the King. The honour now conferred on him, though a high one, can scarcely be regarded as recognition of the great services he has undoubtedly rendered his country since it is merely what in due course any Procureur-General would receive in virtue of his position. There is a definite table for the decoration of Government officials beyond which the Government cannot go except in very exceptional circumstances. The exceptional circumstances certainly exist in the case of Taher Pasha, and it is to be hoped that in due course a distinction which can be more justly regarded as a recognition of his special services in most difficult circumstances will be conferred on the able and enterprising head of the Native Parquet.

The Political Murder Inquiry.

Meanwhile the further inquiry into the political crimes that have taken place of recent years continues its course. It is reliably stated that the evidence against the two principal Egyptians still under arrest, Ahmed Effendi Maher, Wafdist ex-Minister of Education, and Nokrashi Effendi, ex-Under-Secretary of State for the Interior, is accumulating; and their repeated remands would appear to confirm this. But no information on the subject is being vouchsafed to the public by the responsible authorities, who in view of past experience in similar matters are undoubtedly well advised in preserving reticence until the indictment can be finally drafted.

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The Railway and Sleeping Car Return Coupons are available till 31st January and 15th June, 1926, respectively.

Through Service with Palestine Railways, via Kantara—combined first-class fare. Cairo to Jerusalem L.E. 4.275 m/ms (Lst. 4-7-8) in 14¾ hours.

Enquiry Office: CAIRO STATION. Tel. No. 6777.

PERSIA.

Teheran October 3.

Bread Riots.

Advantage was taken of discontent resulting from a shortage of bread to cause riots in Teheran at the end of September, which resulted in one or two men being shot dead, several wounded, and several hundreds temporarily arrested. Though bread was, and still is, short, there was not sufficient discontent to cause a riot, although it has always been a privilege of Teheranis to vent their feelings on such a question by a noisy demonstration against the head of the Government. In this instance, a mob collected suddenly, entered the Parliament building, broke several windows, and roughly handled several leading Deputies. The leaders were paid agents much in the background, the

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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forefront consisting largely of women. News of the Shah's approaching return had been recently published, and the cries of the mob were for bread and for the Shah.

Though expelled from the Mejliss (Parliament), some of the ladies succeeded, it is said, in holding a mock Parliament in the Council Chamber.

No strong action being taken, the mob remained undispersed all day in the Main Square, but all shops were forcibly closed by it. Next day, with increasing confidence, it rioted more violently in several places, necessitating military assistance, and some firing. The mob by this time was obviously inspired by professional agitators. Propaganda was current that the Russians were prevented from their desire to import cheap flour only by arbitrary Government restrictions. The mob attempted to take refuge in the Russian Legation, the gates of which were invitingly open. A large number succeeded in pushing aside the police, and one or two hundred remained in the Legation grounds under Russian protection.

Since then a double cordon of military has been maintained round the Russian Legation to keep others from following, and stricter Government measures quickly ended the rioting.

The instigators of the trouble are still unrevealed. The Government view is obvious from the stringent measures taken against certain Persian Armenians in Russian Government service, and its notification to the public and to the Russian Legation that there never has been any hindrance to import of flour.

Suspicions were held regarding certain Court officials, who were temporarily placed under arrest.

There is also an idea prevalent that the present party in power created the unrest in hopes of its turning into a demonstration against the Shah's return, and that paid agitators from the usual source seized the opportunity for which they have long been waiting.

The Russian Government has since announced a free gift of 1,500 tons of flour, together with an offer to sell double that amount at a resonable price in Resht. Transport is always the great difficulty, and not only has to be commandeered, but also has to be specially increased by importing from abroad.

The Shah's Return.

His Majesty the Shah has wired announcing his departure from France, and he will return via Bombay and the Holy Cities in Iraq. Recent events showed that despite Republican propaganda the mass of the people want the Shah, and regard his presence as a check to the prevailing military bureaucracy. There is some chafing at the prolongation of military control, and a general idea that the necessity for it has now ceased. An increase in the cost of living is undoubtedly felt by the masses.

Sport.

Sport is now a great feature of young Persia, and the energetic secretary of the Military Club announces an International Olympic Meeting this month, at which international football, polo, swimming, racing competitions will be held.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, October 13.

Opening of Parliament.

The opening of Parliament on October 15 is being awaited with interest, as a stirring session is expected, the Opposition parties, especially the Coalition group, being apparently determined to make themselves heard. Their faith in themselves has been greatly strengthened by their success in the elections for the Agricultural Chambers.

Critical Commercial Situation.

At the present moment the situation of trade and commerce would appear to be very critical. It is a matter of common knowledge that one at least of the largest textile importers is on the verge of bankruptcy. Considerable sympathy is being felt for the proprietor, as his firm was one of the most respected in Bucharest, and he was known as a generous philanthropist.

A number of important Braila grain merchants are also in serious difficulties. One of these has recently disappeared, leaving liabilities, it is stated, of about £700,000. In view of the excellent harvest this year, such a state of affairs was not unexpected, and some of its causes lie beyond the control of the Roumanian Government. One of these, however, is to be found in the very high export taxes imposed on all kinds of cereals, especially wheat and rye. Last week a reduction of most of these taxes almost by half was proposed by the Economic Advisory Committee, and this proposal will in all probability be confirmed by the Council of Ministers. It is feared, however, that this measure comes too late to relieve the situation, and in any case no change is made in the taxes on wheat and rye. The other main cause is the fall in the world price of wheat, owing to the abundant harvests everywhere.

The Government Press admits the existence of a crisis, but attributes this chiefly to the outside causes already mentioned, and especially to the large wheat exports made by Russia this autumn at very reduced prices. It also contends that the high export taxes are being maintained in support of their main aim, i.e., to increase revenues and balance the Budget, which is more important from the point of view of the economic interest of the country as a whole than the prosperity of individuals.

There is, of course, much truth in these arguments, and there would probably be less ill-feeling and party excitement over the depression in trade if more confidence were felt in the equity of the present administration.

Yassy Celebrations.

Interesting celebrations are being held at Yassy this week in commemoration of the sixteen hundredth anniversary of the Council of Nicea, at which, in 325 A.D., the basis of the Orthodox Church was laid, to the exclusion of "Arianism." The King and Queen and a number of Ministers have been present at the celebrations, which are being held in connection of the meeting of the Synod. The Synod of the year 1600 was also held at Yassy, which possesses a beautiful old cathedral. During the two months' reign of Michael the Brave, when the three metropolitans of Nugro-Vlachia, Moldavia, and Transylvania were consecrated, the chief residence being at Alba Julia, another old cathedral town (in Transylvania) where the coronation of the present King took place last year. This meeting of the Synod is being held on the eleventh anniversary of the succession to the throne of King Ferdinand.

Miscellaneous News.

A plan is being considered for the construction of a mint in Roumania, under the auspices of the National

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Bank. According to the *Argus*, it is intended to strike nickel coins of one, two, and perhaps five lei. The copper for this purpose wil be obtained from Roumanian mines, and the nickel will be imported. The machinery is to be adapted for striking gold coins also.

Paper money is already being printed here, and very creditable 500 lei notes of a new pattern have just been issued, the old one remaining in circulation till the end of next year.

A direct goods train service is being arranged between France, Belgium, Luxemburg, and Roumania, with transit over Germany, Switzerland, Czecho-Slovakia, Poland, Austria, and Hungary.

A regular air service for letters and parcels between Bucharest and Galatz was inaugurated on October 1, and a passenger service is to begin in the spring of next year.

The Phœnix Oil and Transport Co. has a flowing well from the same sand as that of the Romano-Americana mentioned in a former letter. It is producing 200 wagons of oil a day.

Liubliana, October 14.

The Coalition.

According to the Constitution, the Skupshtina must reassemble for the ordinary session on October 20. So it is only natural that internal politics should revive again after something like three months' stagnation, and that in all quarters all sorts of forecasts are being hazarded. Most of these forecasts are based upon reputed discord between the Radicals and the Raditch Party, who form the present Government. Of course, it would be idle to pretend that there are no differences of opinion between the two Government parties, since bickerings are of common occurrence even in one-party governments. But it would be an absolute mistake to assume that either party would even discuss the possibility of dissolving partnership. On the contrary, both consider that the understanding between Serbs and Croats—and that is, after all, what the coalition between Radicals and Raditch Party really signifies—is so necessary that it would be a sin against State and nation to undermine it. Everybody knows that nothing better can be put in place of the agreement; and therefore, there is not a politician in either Government party who could muster up the courage or the will to bear the responsibility for wrecking the present Coalition. An added reason to give pause to such schemes is that it is no secret that the King himself is definitely in favour of an understanding, and looks upon the Agreement between Serbs and Croats as a matter of State policy.

The Forthcoming Session.

Thus it is not to be expected that the forthcoming session should harbour any surprises. The only possible change in the Government is an internal reconstruction of the Pashitch Cabinet. Above all things it is certain that M. Stephen Raditch will become a member of the Government, because it is an old tradition of the Radical Party that the leader of the party in coalition with it must, by his presence in the Cabinet, share the responsibility for the joint policy. Besides this, several Radical Ministers may change places, but all these changes would bear a personal, rather than a political, significance.

Opposition Disappointment.

The Opposition Press, especially the Pribitchevitch Press, which is fairly powerful, is determined, of course, to make out discord between the Coalition parties, although so far all efforts of the kind have proved futile.

At first the Opposition hoped that some indiscreet utterance from M. Raditch would cause a breach in the alliance between his party and the Radicals. But this did not happen. Upon his first arrival in Belgrade, M. Raditch said very many things, some of them fairly daring, but nothing that might have troubled friendly relations between the Government parties.

Then came Geneva. Here, too, the Opposition experienced a disappointment. M. Raditch said much that might suitably be uttered by the leader of a young party sprung from the people and would certainly not have been said by an old hand at diplomacy; but he at no time overstepped the limit, and, on the contrary, did the State credit in his capacity of Yugoslav Delegate. His opponents tried to make out a case against him over his remark about Macedonia, but here, too, they failed.

But all the time the trump card of the Opposition has been the rumour that M. Pashitch in his heart of hearts disapproves of the Coalition and the Croats. And when, for reasons known and unknown, the Prime Minister postponed his return to Yugoslavia, the Opposition believed it had at last found grounds to speak of an approaching Government crisis—which likewise did not materialise. All possible combinations were discussed. It was suggested that on account of the forthcoming coronation of the King the Government would be enlarged by the entry of the Davidovitch Party. This argument was at least plausible, but the present position is definitely unfavourable to such a step. At the last elections the Radicals gained over one-fourth of all the Serbian mandates; wherefore they certainly have no cause to strengthen the hands of their worst opponent by inclusion in the Government. The rumour that the Davidovitch party will enter the Government is just a rumour, and not to be taken seriously.

Here and there one is told that the Bosnian Spaho Party may enter the Government. There is no foundation for this either. The Spaho Party is at present in a very precarious position. On the one side M. Raditch is voting against it with his agrarian programme and encroaching upon its peasant electorate; on the other it has to defend itself against the attacks of the Radicals whose influence upon its socially better situated adherents is steadily increasing. Now if you can defeat a party in open struggle, you do not take it into Government partnership, at least not in Yugoslavia.

Remains only the combination with the Slovene Koroshets Party. This is the least unlikely, and has the strong argument in its favour that this party represents the overwhelming majority of the Slovenes. It is only logical that one should wish that in a Government of mutual understanding the Slovenes should likewise have a party; for only then would the Government of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes be in truth a Serb-Croat-Slovene Government. All the same, even this combination is not very probable. For one thing, the Koroshets Party veered so far to the Left in its electoral programme, that it now can no longer find the way back to the Right—and, one may add, does not want to find

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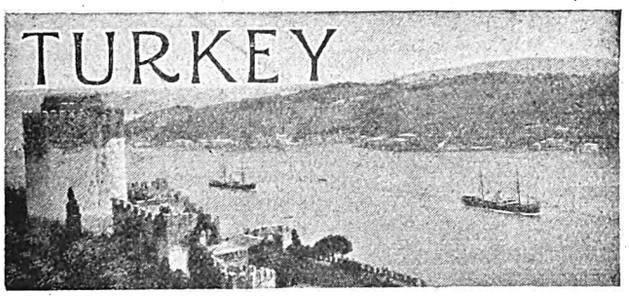
it either, for fear of the electorate. It missed the right moment, which was when M. Raditch took his momentous leap, and now conversion is a far more difficult matter. On the other hand, M. Raditch is at grips with the Koroshets Party in Slovenia itself, where he has already gained a strong position. And so it is intelligible that M. Stephen Raditch should not desire a Coalition with the Slovene People's Party.

This circumstance alone would weigh with the Radicals. But there are other reasons as well why there should be strong tendencies in that party to decline an alliance with the Koroshets Party. And so one may consider this combination ruled out also.

The remaining parties do not come into consideration. Partly because of their insignificance, and partly because, like the Independent Democrats, they are on principle opposed to the understanding.

The present internal political situation in Yugoslavia may therefore be summed up thus:

The present Government Coalition remains and no surprises are to be expected. Yugoslavia is an agrarian country, and therefore the tendency towards a conservative but not reactionary policy is increasing. For this reason, too, her internal politics are consolidating, and she is moving steadily in the direction of the two party system. The forthcoming session of the Skupshtina will surely bear this out.



Constantinople, October 7.

Head-dress.

Apart from the question of Mosul, the feature of outstanding importance here, at present, concerns the newly adopted head-dress, and the cry "off with the old fez and on with the new hat" extends daily. Yesterday, at the celebrations of the anniversary of the deliverance of Constantinople from the Allies, a striking example of the extent to which the fez has been discarded was afforded by watching the procession of the naval and military troops, school children, guilds, institutions, and so on. Not one fez was evident (unless one mentions those observed being carried in the hand) amongst the thousands who took part in the procession. Many hundreds walked bare-headed in preference to wearing the now derided fez, partly because a rag on fez-wearers had been threatened by the University students, and partly because the supply of hats and caps is far and away below that of the demand. This sudden change has certainly had some repercussion on business both favourably and unfavourably. The fez-pressing shops which have so long been conspicuous because of the lines of brass cylinders of all sizes arrayed on benches in their shop windows are now facing financial ruin, while hatters' shops have suddenly become similar to the "end of the season" bargain sales, and are simply coining money. Hats and caps of all descriptions are fetching enormous prices, and stocks which previously were sufficient for a season disappear in one day. Hat factories are being opened up in Turkey, but in the meantime, according to newspaper reports, Athens is reaping considerable profit, as establishments there are working day and night shifts in order to cope with the unexpected orders for hats and caps. Every uniformed branch of the public service now possesses its own style of head-dress which, together with the change effected in the tramway employees, hamals, cab-drivers, chauffeurs and all other unionists has been responsible for presenting Constantinople under a completely different aspect especially to visitors.

Football in Turkey.

Football is now the foremost of Turkish sports, and it is both surprising and gratifying to notice the enormous improvement which the principal teams have made during the last two years. Nearly every month some international game is played in Constantinople (football has been continued during the hot summer), and the only team which the Turks have not beaten, at least once, is that of the Poles, which is now on a visit here. At every match there is a considerable increase in the number of spectators, who are becoming as keenly critical and exacting as professional crowds at Home. During this coming winter a football federation is to be constituted, and teams are now training and practising in order to qualify for a place.

The Mosul Question.

With the exception of occasional rumours regarding the possibility of the commencement of direct *pourparlers* between Great Britain and Turkey the Mosul question is, at the moment, receiving comparatively little attention by the Press. The assurances of Tewfik Rushdi Bey on his return here that there was nothing about which to be apprehensive have, apparently, been sufficient to cause the Turkish Lira to appreciate as much as thirty points in the pound sterling. The delay in the settlement is, of course, causing many with business interests to fret, and numerous schemes with British capital behind them which have been prepared and provisionally accepted are being held up until the final undertaking, which depends entirely on the outcome of the Mosul question, is given.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, October 6.

Settling Down for Winter.

The Governor, Sir Malcolm Stevenson, returned to Cyprus on September 24. Mr. J. Ellis will act as Chief Secretary until the arrival of Mr. Lobb, Mr. Fenn's successor. The railway service reverts to a winter time table: and the mail steamer, which has been running weekly during the summer months, resumes the very unsatisfactory sailings of three times a month. Great dissatisfaction is expressed that this retrograde arrangement is to be in force for another winter. If one looks back on the summer season one has to say that there has been no lack of complaints regarding the island hotels, which are far from being up to modern standards. Many visitors, while giving the highest praise to the climate and scenery of this mountain resort, are not likely to repeat their visit on this account. The old vicious circle is continued: hotel keepers will not do better until there is a larger assured influx of well-to-do travellers, and tourists will not come until there are better hotels. There is still

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no development of systematic tourist-trade, which should advertise itself liberally on modern lines.

The Elections (Legislative Council).

There is considerable excitement in several of the electoral divisions, and in one at least the police have had some difficulty in maintaining order during the activity of rival factions. In the electors' speeches the Greek candidates have dealt for the most part with the following aims and propositions:—the abolition of tithe, the extinction of the Cyprus portion of the Turkish debt, more help for agriculture, and for the establishment of factories, further measures of relief towards the present economic situation, and greater "political liberties." As regards the candidatures, and the active support given by the ecclesiastical bodies, there are those who strongly object to the part taken by the Church, from the Archbishop downwards, especially to the canvassing of the Bishop of Kition, who will probably be elected for a Larnaca division. It is probable that the long-pending question of Church and Monastery properties will come before the Legislative Council. It has long been shelved, and it seems that there is a wide-spread desire that the whole administration of Church funds should be overhauled and placed on a new and satisfactory footing with due responsibilities to a central control; and that the revenues should be devoted to the best interests of the community instead of, as too often at present, in the uncontrolled hands of ecclesiastics.

General News.

The Fleet, which was expected about September 28, having received orders to proceed elsewhere, will not visit the island at present, which causes much disappointment. It is hoped that the visit is only postponed. Two French vessels visited the Larnaca roadstead on October 2: the Diana (Admiral de Caudrie), and the destroyer Capricieuse. The French Consul, M. Du Perrier de Larsan, entertained the Admiral and some officers.

One of the foremost Greek moneylenders of Limassol, while in the district in connexion with the sale of debtors' properties, was shot at at some disatnce. Some of the pellets just penetrated one arm, but did no further injury, and the usurer returned by car to his home.

A merchant, named Joachim Kharalambore, has been awarded a diploma of merit for his contributions to the Exhibition at Wembley.

THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST ASSOCIATION.

Under the auspices of the Near and Middle East Association, Admiral Sir Ernest Troubridge will, on October 27, at 8.30 p.m., speak on "Hungary and the Near East." Sir Edward and Lady Boyle are kindly lending their house at 63, Queen's Gate for the occasion.

PAVLOVA IN LONDON.

Ajanta's Frescoes.

Pavlova is in London again. That fact alone is sufficient to arouse wistful memories among those who saw her for the first time, maybe, twenty or thirty years ago. That fact alone is bringing, in her short season of four weeks, its thousands to the Opera House at Covent Garden. But the great thing about this incomparable dancer—for, though there are many better mimes, Pavlova is yet incomparable as a dancer—is that her artistry is no mere technical accomplishment, it is a progressive, increasing thing.

She has, for instance, been recently to India, and she has brought with her "Ajanta's Frescoes," a stirring representation of the scene in the Buddha's life in which he makes the great renunciation of the world. With the help of experts in Indian art and archæology (notably Mr. Gladstone Solomon, Director of the Bombay School of Art), Mme. Pavlova has beautifully re-fashioned for a Western audience the Ajanta Temple, the pilgrims' worship of the Buddha, and the interior of the Palace of the Prince Guatama, wherefrom the future Buddha makes his grand reunuciation.

It may seem heresy to say so, but the most impressive parts of these tableaux were, not the one in which Mme. Pavlova herself danced, but those in which the Buddhist pilgrims prostrated themselves before the marvellous temples and dreamed of the dance and pomp which 2,500 years ago the Buddha renounced. But alike in choreographical and archæological representation, this "Ajanta's Frescoes" was memorable. The production is, moreover, considerably helped by the apt music of the younger Tcherepnine, music which in its avoidance of harmony comes very near towards conveying the genius of the East.

Besides this artistic ensemble, the miniature but apparently more popular entertainments known as *divertissements* almost faded in the memory, although it is true that in them Pavlova is as charming as she was when she moved Flecker to write on her. K. W.

The report that a fresh revolt had broken out in Sryia is formally denied by the French Prime Minister's office.

General Sarrail, the High Commissioner of French Syria, has appointed Colonel Andrea Governor of the Jebel Druse, in succession to Captain Carbillet.

The Royal Humane Society has forwarded for presentation to Sheik Ebraim Mahomed Essak, an Indian seaman of the P. and O. steamship Ranchi, their honorary testimonial on vellum, which has been awarded him for his courage in saving the life of a British sailor who fell from a launch alongside the Ranchi at Cowes last August.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY

October 22, 1925 (New Style).
October 9, 1925 (Old Style).
Rabia II, 4, 1344 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Sheshvan 4, 5686, of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir Robert Gardiner left London last week for the Hotel Meurice, Paris.

Prince Jelaleddin arrived last week at the Carlton Hotel, London, from Paris.

King Faisal, who is now staying in Nice, received the ex-Sultan of Turkey, Abdul Mejid, last Friday.

The Queen of Yugoslavia arrived in Bucharest last Friday on her way to stay with her parents at Sinaia.

Sir John and Lady Archer will leave by the P. and O. s.s. Narkunda to-morrow to spend the winter in India.

Lord and Lady Cable have returned to 44, Grosvenor Square from Lyndridge, and will remain in London until the end of the month.

The Begum of Bhopal, accompanied by her daughter-in-law and her three grandchildren, visited the Royal School of Art Needlework on October 14.

Sir Horace Rumbold, the British Ambassador in Madrid, entertained to luncheon last Sunday Ahmed Pasha Ziwar, the Prime Minister of Egypt, who is travelling in Spain.

M. Popchristoff, Director of Bulgarian Civil Aviation, accompanied by M. Bandeff and M. Panscoff, arrived in London last week to inspect aeroplanes with a view to purchase.

The Maharaja of Patiala, who represented India at the League of Nations' Conference at Geneva, left for Bombay by the Anchor liner California from Marseilles on October 20.

Mme Titulesco, wife of the Roumanian Minister, who recently returned to London, will accompany the Minister on his official mission to the United States at the end of the month.

Princess Ileana of Roumania has returned to Heathfield, Ascot, from visiting the Roumanian Minister and Madame Titulescu, at 50, Grosvenor Street. Her Royal Highness will leave England in December for Bucharest.

Mrs. Kermit Roosevelt and her four children are visiting friends at Regent's Park until Mrs. Roosevelt leaves for Kashmir to join Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Theodore Roosevelt, who are on a scientific expedition in the Himalayas.

The Mosul Commission, headed by General Laidoner (Estonia), which has been appointed by the League of Nations to inquire into the alleged deportations of Christians in the Mosul area, sailed on October 13, from Marseilles for Beyrout.

The Greek Minister in London returned to 51, Upper Brook Street last Sunday night from Paris, where he negotiated and signed different agreements concerning Macedonian and Thracian railways controlled by the Société des Chemins de Fer Orientaux.

The seventh anniversary of the Republic of Czecho-Slovakia will be celebrated on October 25, 3.15 p.m., in an Anglo-Czech service to be held in Christ Church, Westminster Bridge Road, S.E. 1. The anniversary preacher is to be the Rev. A. B. Workman.

The Rt. Hon. Sir Herbert Samuel, G.B.E., has consented to address a public meeting, which will be held under the auspices of the English Zionist Federation on November 2, at the Kingsway Hall. Mr. Philip Guedalla will preside.

PROMOTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

The following appointments have been sanctioned by the Commander-in-Chief in India to his Headquarter Staff:—Major W. T. Corbett, to the General Staff Branch; Lieutenant-Colonel J. T. Kirby, to the Quartermaster-General's Branch.

Lieutenant-General Sir George M. Kirkpatrick is granted five months' leave out of India on private affairs, and Colonel-Commandant F. S. Keen is vacating the command of the Small Arms School next March, and is granted eight months' furlough.

The Rev. W. W. Cash, who has been elected general secretary of the Church Missionary Society, as from January 1 next, when Dr. Lankester will resign the position, has been home secretary of the society since April, 1924, and was previously secretary of the Egypt and Palestine Missions, and his missionary experience in the Near East covers some 20 years. During the War he was a Chaplain to the Forces, and he preached at the thanksgiving service in St. George's Cathedral after the capture of Jerusalem. Mr. Cash was awarded the D.S.O. and appointed O.B.E.

The King has approved the appointment of Nawab Muhammad Ahmad Said Khan, C.I.E., M.B.E., of Chhitari, to be a Member of the Executive Council of the Governor of the United Provinces in succession to Maharaja Sir Muhammad Ali Muhammad Khan, Khan Bahadur, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., of Mahmudabad, whose term of office expires on January 2 next.

The Secretary of State for India has reappointed Mr. F. C. Goodenough to be a member of the Council of India for a further period of five years. Mr. Goodenough's previous term of office expired on October 15.

The King has given the following officials of the Egyptian Government authority to wear decorations conferred on them by the King of Egypt in recognition of valuable services:—

Order of Ismail.—Insignia of the Third Class: Mr. George Herbert Griffith, O.B.E., deputy general manager, State Railways; Mr. John Montague Ellis Langton, mechanical engineer, State Railways; and Mr. Horace Ardran Mayne, Inspector-General, State Telegraphs and Telephones.

M. Philandros has been appointed Minister of Public Assistance in the Greek Cabinet, and General Panayotopoulos, the Minister of the Interior, has resigned in order to become Governor-General of Macedonia, vice M. Kanavos, resigned.

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ORIENTAL TYPES.*

The Petition-Writer.

By F. W. Chardin.

The *Arzihalchi*, or petition-writer, is a person who performs a very real public duty, one in whose hands rests the interpretation into words of the desires, wrongs, heartaches, and scoundrelly designs of many, and not always poor, unlettered persons. His is a trade which must decline and die with the advance of education and civilisation, and his is a body which the slowly advancing giant Progress will finally crush and fling aside as useless. But that day is not yet, and for many years to come he will continue to perform his quite humble, yet necessary task, and his end will come only after a long, gradual yet steady decline.

His work does not consist wholly of petitions, of course; private letters are also dictated to him, but by far the greater part of his work seems to come from those who have a suit to present, an *Arz-i-Hal*, "Presentation of Condition," to offer.

The *Arzihal* is the Turkish name for a petition presented to Government by a subject who has some complaint to make or request to present, and as, in Turkish days, they had to be set out in a certain form, it was obvious that even those persons who had an idea of writing were not always sure as to the form in which the petition should be written, and they had recourse to our friend in his little shop.

The petition-writer's place of business is a small cavity in the wall, scarcely big enough to contain him and his squatting client. His stock-in-trade and furniture consist of a minimum of articles, which can be enumerated as follows:—A small china pot of violet ink, a few reed pens and a small cabinet containing two or three small drawers, in which sheets of foolscap-size paper, some revenue stamps and a few other odds and ends are kept. No writing-table has he—he has no need of one; such a thing would be only in the way, for he sits on a low stool, or, crouching, on the ground, while his client, more often than not a woman, squats like a black-veiled ghost beside him. He writes with his foolscap sheet of paper held in his left hand and doubled over his left forefinger, the outer surface of that digit serving as the supporting surface of the paper under the particular word he is at any one moment writing. As the writing proceeds, by a movement of his left thumb, he moves the sheet of paper up or to the right and left, in order to keep the edge of his left forefinger under the point of his scratching pen. A European could succeed in writing only a most fearful scrawl in such a position, if he could indeed write at all, but the Oriental scribe can often only write this way, and would find a table a positive drawback. It is really surprising what beautiful script can be turned out in these circumstances. It can, moreover, be continued indefinitely: I have seen a clerk in a court of law take down the whole of the evidence of a murder trial lasting some twelve consecutive days. One would think that this method of writing would soon produce writer's cramp.

In the Succesion States which were formerly the Arabic-speaking portion of the Turkish Empire, Arabic words have been substituted for the old Turkish official titles, and so the Turkish official term *Arz-i-Hal* is now called *Istid'a*, but most of the simpler folk cling to the old term. It has been truly said that one of the Oriental's chief pastimes is that of petitioning the Authorities, and I have no doubt that it is looked upon as a form of sport, much as backing horses is regarded in this country. The sum invested is small, a rupee or two paid to the petition-writer, eight annas for the revenue stamp on the petition, and you stand a sporting chance of securing that desirable donkey, at present in the possession of your *bête noire*, Ali Ibn Muhammad, providing always that you can convince the Official that the aforesaid Ali stole it from you after the departure of the Turkish authorities at or before the Armistice. Even if you fail to pull the thing off, you get value for your money in the shape of having a conversation with the Great Man face to face; there is all the pleasurable excitement experienced on the racecourse by the gambler, and in addition to that, you have the intense satisfaction of forcibly bringing the said Ali away from his ploughing or his threshing in order to defend his case. The villagers or country people are much more addicted to petitioning than are the town dwellers. It seems that even as the Londoner is ignorant of the places of interest lying at his very doors, so is the *blasé* Oriental townee unaware of the great game, so much in favour with his country cousins, of petitioning. It would seem that, when a periodical journey to the town is undertaken by the villager, a petition on some subject or other is an integral part of the itinerary of the trip.

The petition-writer is a sort of verbal alchemist. Under his swiftly moving pen, the rough and uncouth phrases of his client are metamorphosed into what is, to him, the pure gold of formal, official terminology and flowing periods. As a matter of fact, his Arabic is usually villainous, but what more could be expected of a man who, until a few years ago, scarcely ever wrote his own sacred tongue, all his work being performed in the official Turkish of the Ottoman bureaucracy? His screed is generally headed by some such grandiloquent formula as this:—"To the Presence of the Honourable Governor of the District (or Town)." Some three or four inches below the above heading appear the words:—"To Your Presence," and here follows a long recital of the woes, requests and complaints of the humble, unfortunate petitioner, Mahmud ibn Abdullah or Najma bint Haj Ahmad, for women are great petitioners, possibly for much the same reason as their Western sisters throng to celebrated trials or fashionable weddings. The petition ends up with a line or two or honorific expressions, due reference being made to the Nobleness, Prosperity, etc., of the addressee. The last phrases are often written in the shape of a gradually narrowing, inverted triangle or cone, and under the penultimate word, "the prayer," the petitioner affixes, if he possesses one, his *Muhr*, or engraved signet.

In the fashioning of the phraseology and the description, in most humble and affecting form, of the woes and requests of the unlettered petitioner, the *Arzihalchi* is a great expert, for, if he be an artist in his profession, he will believe and tell his clients that the first impression created by a well-drafted petition goes a long way towards winning the suit. Unfortunately for him and his beliefs, however, when the control was in the hands of British officers who could speak, but seldom read, the language, the petitions were given to a clerk to interpret and to précis. A safeguard against clerkly inefficiency and dishonesty was always provided by the subsequent verbal hearing of the case. I myself, as a matter of principle, made it a practice occasionally to have a petition picked out at random and to read it through with the aid of a dictionary. Often these clerkly interpretations were phrased in terms which caused the official to roar with laughter, which fact could not but be disconcerting to the expectant suppliant. One such recurs to my memory, and is an illustration. It ran something like this:—"Badriah bint Mansur, a resident in the Brothel Quarter, states that she is sorry for her naughty life and desires to become a good girl in future. She therefore requests your Excellency to release her from said Quarter so that she may follow her Pious Resolution and marry Abd-ul-Kerim Effendi el Uwaiji, who desires to stand as surety for future good behaviour." The way in which the penitent Badriah giggled and ogled me when I heard her petition, left me

* See The Near East and India of April 30, June 4, and August 20.

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with some doubts as to the true piety of her resolution.

The petition-writer hears almost as much of the private life of his neighbours and clients as a Roman Catholic priest, though there is no evidence that he is under a vow of secrecy. If an *Arzihalchi* should ever do anything like writing his memoirs, he could doubtless retail therein more gossip and scandal than the most celebrated of hostesses in Western Society. It is to the credit of his craft, however, that I have never heard of one incurring enmity from this reason, for it must not be thought that Orientals are indifferent to the breath of scandal; they are very sensitive to it indeed, at least as sensitive as the most respectable middle-class families in our own country.

The petition-writers are persons of varying demeanour and appearance. Sometimes one may be a "grave and reverend signior" with a white turban and long, wide-sleeved, collarless coat. But more often than not, he is a down-at-heel individual, dressed, *cap-à-pie*, in some such garb as this: Ancient and battered fez, rusty frock-coat over a shirt without a collar, khaki riding-breeches, no leggings or puttees, ancient socks and more ancient native slippers. He ought to earn a quite decent livelihood by his pen, but I have never heard of one who really seemed well off. Possibly the hearing of the continual recital of other people's woes tends to drive him to drink for consolation, for I have come across several who were inveterate topers.

The craft of the petition and letter-writer is, as has been remarked, a doomed one. Sooner or later, the bespectacled old gentleman with his reed pens, pot of violet ink, and little cabinet must wither up and disappear before the rays of the light of education; and with his passing will have gone another of the honest, yet picturesque Oriental crafts. The darkness of ignorance will be succeeded by a literary standard approaching that shown in the hundreds of letters censored by many of us during the War. I am not yet convinced that the latter state is really very much to be preferred.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Prince's Return.

The event of the week was, to London at any rate, the return of the Prince of Wales. It is said that no Prince has ever achieved among British hearts the popularity that visibly belongs to the Prince of Wales, and after hearing and seeing the crowds who last Friday disregarded wet and dreariness in their anxiety to welcome His Royal Highness home, one can well believe it.

Probably it is not his kingly or princely qualities that chiefly appeal to Britons, but rather his unaffected humanity. However that may be, there is little doubt that he should, when his time comes, ascend the throne amid the universal blessings of his subjects.

It is curious, however, to note that, in the complete absence of anti-monarchical feeling in this country, there are those who believe that a republican system is to be the future system of England. The argument that underlies such a belief is to be found in the progressive humanisation, if one may say so, of royal families. It is felt that in a democratic age, in which monarchs have democratic desires as much as anyone else, Kings themselves will wish to escape from the responsibilities with which the nation would wish them saddled. There may be something in this, but it is difficult to see how one could abdicate in face of such universal popularity.

Arrest of Communists.

The arrest last week of a few Communists and the threat to arrest more did not appear to rouse great interest. Some observers, it is true, seem to imagine that the Home Secretary has at last made a courageous beginning to what may be the purgation of society of noxious seditionists, but the general comment refers to his making prominent of those who previously were rightly insignificant.

On the matter of principle, again, no great passion has been aroused. If the arrested Communists were actually guilty of seducing the Army and the Navy, there will be no disposition at all to question the step that Sir William Joynson-Hicks has taken; but if it be proved that these men's writings had no effect, there may be some sort of academic outcry against the Government on the grounds of interfering with the liberty of speech. On the whole, it is fair to say that there is an uneasy feeling about the possible consequences of the Home Secretary's general trend of thought. At the moment, so it is held, he is kept in decent restraint by the common-sense of the Prime Minister, but already there are rumours of how he intends to treat the vapourers in Hyde Park and elsewhere. One particularly choice rumour is to the effect that he intends to make use of next May Day as a test of the relative forces of Labour and of the Fascists and the O.M.S. But many a thing may happen before next May Day. For instance, it is conceivable (but mainly by those whose criterion of politicians is the *Daily Mail* or the *Daily Express*) that Mr. Baldwin, because or his leniency towards the Communists, will have to go: it is possible, on the other hand, that those friends of the Home Secretary who are pressing his claim to the Premiership, may be badly disappointed.

Locarno.

Abundant praise has already been bestowed on the statesmen who were responsible for the negotiations at Locarno, but it is not too easy, upon examination of what really was done, to offer much credit. For it must be remembered that a settlement of the Western frontier question was, obviously, only a matter of time: Germany had accepted the frontier in the West, and our troops were bound to evacuate Cologne some day. It was the Eastern frontier, then, the Polish and the Czecho-Slovakian frontier, the frontier which Germany had not recognised where the difficulties lay, and it is precisely here that little appears to have been done. As is known, the French position in regard to this Eastern frontier is very different from the British, so that to accept the view of, say, the *Observer*, that by Locarno Mr. Austen Chamberlain and the other European statesmen have made Europe one again, is simply impossible. One cannot think that the British Government's position will have been greatly improved in British eyes by this last attempt at settlement.

The War on the Premier.

The war upon Mr. Baldwin continues apace. He is, of course, too good a Socialist for the Labour organs to attack him, and too liberally-minded for the Liberal journals to shoot at him: the onslaught comes from a

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quite different quarter—the pseudo-Conservative camp. Night and day, but with much more cleverness at night, Lords Beaverbrook and Rothermere instruct their scribes to undermine the Premier's position, though blithely asserting from time to time that there is nothing in their conspiracy. The climax of their campaign was reached last week when a faked telegram, from Signor Mussolini to Mr. Baldwin, was re-published. Like every other newspaper, the *Daily Express* was assured, before republishing the telegram, that no such message had been received by the Premier, yet did not allow even the chance of embroiling Italy with Great Britain to make it swerve from its anti-Baldwin path. Such conduct as this is, even in these advanced days, definitely beyond the pale. Fortunately, most observers have already estimated the Beaverbrook-Rothermere campaign at its true value, and the probability is that further attacks on the Premier will but consolidate his position, already made considerably firmer by the success which has attended the efforts of his Food Commission.

Beet Sugar.

Just as, in the seventeenth century, it was men of the Low Countries who came to show this country what could be made of East Anglia, so, again Dutchmen have come to show us how little we understand the potentialities of our land. As everyone knows, a beet sugar factory was started a year or two ago at Cantley, near Norwich, by Dutch capital, and last week a similar institution was started in a similar way at Ely. Shortly, moreover, a sugar-beet factory is to be started at Bury St. Edmunds—this time owing to Hungarian enterprise.

As a matter of fact, the high opinion that foreign sugar-beet growers have of the English climate appears to be thoroughly justified. The crops of sugar-beet in Eastern Counties, which are now being harvested, are excellent, and there seems no doubt that an increasing number of farmers will adopt this new thing. Nor is it only private farmers who are looking less askance at this importation from abroad: the Ministry of Agriculture is thoroughly awake to its possibilities.

The Gunners' Memorial.

There are War memorials—though unfortunately it has not been the rule—by artists who fought in the War, but none has so caught the public imagination as the huge Artillery Memorial of which Mr. Jagger was the sculptor and Mr. Lionel Pearson the architect, unveiled in Hyde Park Corner last Sunday. The Gunners are indeed lucky in this their memorial, for it contains reality and seeks to suggest no message that is not based on reality.

Dominated by the gun, the monument possesses the very spirit of the men of the R.A. There is the whole story of the gunners' and the gunners' horses' (and to the Artillery drivers at any rate the horse was more than the gun) endurances: an unvarnished, an unexaggerated tale. Some, it is said, are turning away from it with hearts too heavy once more to hold the anxious griefs of war; others find therein a fresh sympathy with the men, who, as it has been described, were more than anyone typical of modern warfare. And the art critics are naturally divided. It seems strange that the most glorious, most luckless, warriors of all—the P.B.I.—have not yet had their experiences and achievements perpetuated in so considerable a fashion.

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The British Empire Exhibition.

The Exhibition at Wembley is now in the hands of the liquidators. What is to be its future is still uncertain, but facts have come to light which suggest that the position is even worse than had been supposed. For instance, the impression was current that this year was better in the financial sense than last year, but, on the authority of Lord Stevenson, this is not so. Last year receipts were infinitely higher, both from the money accruing from space let and from the dearer tickets. Again, the Tattoo, which had been widely supposed to have saved the Exhibition, certainly has helped, but while the Stadium has been filled, the rest of the Exhibition has been empty.

Lord Stevenson's conclusion is that there is no chance of the Exhibition's being made to pay by any continuation. He also revealed the fact that many of the Exhibition buildings will not stand up much longer: the only four permanent buildings are the Palace of Engineering, the Palace of Industry, the Palace of Fine Arts, and the Government buildings (and, of course, the Stadium)—all the other buildings are mere lath and plaster. Obviously, therefore, those responsible for the future of Wembley have even greater difficulties to face than had been commonly realised.

Sandow.

The death the other day of Eugen Sándow had a curious effect. One thought with a certain guilt of the rust that had been allowed to corrode the dumbells, the chest expanders, and the rest of the apparatus by which we once were moved to emulate the strong man. To the post-War generation he was but a name, if that; but there is hardly a pre-War athlete who will not at some time or other have dabbled in Sandow's theories.

His passion for muscular development was, of course, a passing craze, just as were those numerous "systems," all, curiously enough, deriving from foreigners) which before the War imposed themselves upon us all. Nowadays Swedish Drill has supplemented these developing systems, and our athletes' development is wider but less intense. Yet it should not be supposed that the Sandow cult was a worthless one; it was not. Anyone who can show the visible results of his system is bound in normal times, to make an appeal, and I, at any rate, have little doubt, that when the present effeminate phase of early manhood has passed, some use for the dumb-bell and the Indian club will again be found.

Ashridge Park.

Two things, both characteristic of our time, are increasingly to be noted in our newspapers: the disposition of old families to sell their historic estates to developing syndicates, and the public outcry against the iniquity of such a fate. The latest case concerns Ashridge, the glory of the Chiltern plateau. The Brownlow family, in whose hands it has fortunately been for generations, has received a proposal from a syndicate, and unless the place can be secured for the National Trust, one more link with the past will have irrevocably snapped, and one of the fairest spots on this island for ever destroyed.

I know the region well. There is no finer march than that from the Dunstable Downs, which look down on the little Bedfordshire villages, along the Icknield Way by Ivinghoe, and so through Aldbury and Ashridge, whence you may see Buckinghamshire plain, to the common and the Fulbourne River at Berkhamsted. If such places as these are lost, England, as the land our forefathers loved and our fighting men distantly dreamed of, will

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indeed be at an end. Happily, and, as one may now proudly say, inevitably, the Prime Minister is interesting himself in the affair: so that Ashridge may yet be saved to the nation.

Men's Wear.

The doom of the Oxford trousers has long been known to the sincere sartorial student. Apart from the fact that this lugubrious arrangement of male attire originated in the eccentricity of a Cambridge Lawn Tennis Blue, and that Oxford's responsibility in the pathetic outbreak is in reality quite slight, it does credit to the versatility, or the spirit of rivalry, of the Isis to have invented already a new form of apparel. Details of the new garment are yet lacking, but the ground-plan is said to be formed on the highest æsthetic principles. Once more, therefore, the undergraduate is discovering his true and traditional *métier*. For, after all, it has always, until recent times, been the male who has been the revolutionary, the female who has been the evolutionary, in matters of dress. The effeminacy of man is but a modern jest; in reality it is the manifestation of one of the male's most enduring habits.

October Beauty.

Had the rest of the year been vile (which it certainly has not been), 1925 would have been remembered because of its October beauty. There were, earlier in this month, mornings all swathed in golden mist, when even commercial buildings in London became wondrous palaces, and the forenoon hours were of bewildering, fantastic loveliness. And now with the colder, wetter days have come the scents and the colours that have made of October an immemorially beautiful month: drifting, rotting leaves that have moved and still move many a lesser man than Carlyle to philosophic thoughts, the damp smell of wet earth, an "unforgettable, unforgotten" smell, and all the rich odours of crops in autumn's ingathering; and the colours—who shall describe them? All the countryside is, for those who view it rightly, now alive with beauty. Winter has not yet assumed her top-boots, nor summer quite discarded her sandals. And though the acorns may be fallen, the hedges are still fragrant with honey-suckle.

ALTER EGO.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

French losses in Syria amounted from the beginning of the campaign in 1920 up to July to 6,041.

Ghazi Mustapha Kemal Pasha, President of the Turkish Republic, arrived at Smyrna on October 11.

The Ross Institute and Hospital for Tropical Diseases has received a donation of £50 from the Maharaja of Mysore.

The King of Yugoslavia, who is at Topola, has been suffering from a slight attack of influenza and was advised by his doctors to keep his room for a few days.

Before leaving Simla the King of the Belgians, with the consent of the King-Emperor, conferred on Lord Reading, the Viceroy, the Grand Cordon of the Order of Leopold.

Unknown persons have broken off both the pen and the sword from the statue of Lord Lawrence at Lahore. The damage is to be made good at once, and the police are now guarding the statue.

The tenth anniversary of the defence of Belgrade was solemnly celebrated on October 11. The former Austro-Hungarian monitor Morava, which took part in the bombardment of Belgrade and now belongs to Yugoslavia, saluted the city.

The Turkish Ministry of Marine have informed the Straits Commission that the Ok-meidan wireless station near Constantinople and the station at Seddul Bahr are available for the reception of distress signals from merchant ships.

BOOK REVIEWS.

COELUM, NON ANIMUM MUTAT.

"MORE CHANGES MORE CHANCES." By H. W. Nevinson. (London: Nisbet. 15s. net.)

In some ways the English language is curiously poor. It is often driven to adopting a slang word in order to substitute one word for many, and too often the adopted word itself is insufficient, insomuch as it is asked to do much. Such a word is "crank." It is most frequently used to denote a person whose attitude to certain subjects is of the nature of monomania and who is generally shunned as a bore. But in another sense the crank is the salt of the earth. No one who has read the book of which this is a continuation or who is at all acquainted with Mr. Nevinson's life-work can have any hesitation in placing him in the second category, and a study of the work before us can only confirm this conclusion. Mr. Nevinson's temperament is essentially courageous, chivalrous, and persistent. He is also restless and ever anxious to see and to hear more, so that he has always been ready to proceed to any part of the world at the shortest notice, with a view to educating himself and the public. In this sense he has seen more "Changes" than most men, but through it all he himself remains unchanged. San Thomé cocoa slavery, Suffragettes, Georgian sufferings, Indian Swarajists, Irish Home-Rulers, Macedonia or the Russian Revolutionaries in 1905 all appeal to him and call forth all his powers of advocacy and, it must be admitted, of denunciation. Always we find him fighting with all his might on the side of those whom he feels to be unrighteously oppressed or to be rebelling against injustice. One cannot have everything in this imperfect world, and so we have to put up with the defects inherent in his good qualities. He has, for instance, no use for any of the group of nations usually classed as Balkan, except Bulgaria. The inhabitants of that country he describes as "the most dogged, capable, highly-educated, and silent—the only silent—nation in the Balkans." It would be difficult to construct a juster summary of the qualities of that virile race in so short a space; but it is a defect, though a characteristic one, that he refuses to see the good qualities of their neighbours. All his life he has been a doughty fighter, though never for himself. He habitually ignores danger, makes little of his sufferings, and never allows his sense of humour to be quenched. His book is crammed full of interesting matter written by a past master of the pen. To profess entire agreement with his views in all cases is, for us and probably for most, impossible. But that does not greatly matter. What matters is that we have here, talking to us, a fine specimen of those men who are almost a speciality of England, call them cranks if you will, who help to keep the world sweet.

We trust that the hints as to the possibility of yet another of these delightful volumes are not being lost sight of by the author.

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COLLOQUIAL ARABIC.

"A GRAMMAR OF THE COLLOQUIAL ARABIC OF SYRIA AND PALESTINE." By G. R. Driver. (London: Probsthain und Co. 12/6 net)

The author, as well as the publishers, must be congratulated on their industry and care in the production of this book for the study of the Arabic language. It is the first correct record of colloquial Arabic in a European language, and should be found of the greatest help to European residents in Syria.

But for students on this side, it is obviously of little use. We must, moveover, deprecate the tendency to teach Arabic otherwise than on classical lines with the recognised Grammar which by itself is a treatise of logic of no mean order. Imagine the attempt to teach English with our various provincial dialects and cockney!

We must also bear in mind that colloquial is not equivalent to Modern. Modern Arabic can become classical, being concerned with words and expressions of ideas evolved from wider knowledge, experience, necessity, and contact with foreign nations. The earliest contact of the Arabs was with Hebrews, Greeks, Persians, Turks, and Italians, hence we find such modern words as Jehennam, Angil, Takht, Toubagi, and Bosta, Bolisa, Cambiala, Babor, Sicorta, and so on. Whereas colloquial is a common manner of speech based on mere hearing of the correct language and a variety of pronunciation of certain letters. Egypt, for instance, is peculiar in her accent and in giving the Arabic G the sound of the Greek gamma, Bedouins sound K and Q as gamma also, and some K as tché; Syrians mostly, with Egyptians pronounce Qaf as Af, but Beyrout cockney differs from the colloquial of Lebanon and Damascus. A Syrian, in Beyrout cockney, is shê-may, in Lebanon is shê-me, in Damascus is shâ-me. Likewise Turks, being unable to pronounce the Arabic Dad, say Zabet for Dabet, and so Zabet became the colloquial in Syria and Egypt.

I remember showing the eminent Arabic scholar, the late Sir Chas. Lyall (who did so much for the propagation of Arabic studies, both lingual and intellectual) some written colloquial Arabic. It left him nonplussed, and he would have remained so, had he studied a similar book ever so long.

On the whole, I believe the object of this author would have been better served by his giving us, from the ample store of his knowledge, some colloquial discourses, with his notes on their peculiarities and variations instead of his puzzling out a grammar where no grammar was ever meant. Of course, errors are of necessity in such irregular construction of the language this book elaborates, but they are remarkably few. I am surprised, however, at the author's misinterpretation, at the very beginning of this book, of the function of the "Lam" joined to "Alif." He says: "In print the Lam and Alif are frequently united to form one letter, the combination being called 'Lam-Alif' (class) or la (coll.)."

Apparently he does not know that the "Alif" so joined to Lam is what is called "Alharf Alhawi," which cannot be vocalised, and so cannot begin a word; hence to be able to pronounce it the Arabs joined the letter L to it and called it "La," but school children say "Lam Alif" and find it at the end of their alphabet after Waw. The vocalised Alif is called "Hamza," and in the order of the alphabet comes first.

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BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Opium." An Account of the Traffic in Narcotic Drugs. By Jahn Palmer Gavit. (London. George Routledge and Sons, Ltd. 12s. 6d. net.)

"The English Factories in India, 1665-1667." By Sir William Foster, C.I.E. (Oxford Clarendon Press. 18s. net.)

"The Making of India." By A. Yusuf Ali. (London: A. and C. Black. 10s. 6d. net.)

"Osman Pasha." By William Jourdan Rapp. (New York City: The Century Co. 1.25 dols.)

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

(Continued from page 486.)

worthy departure is handicapped by the fact that the Bulgarian Press seeks to throw ridicule upon it: the language in which it is written, it is declared, is not Bulgarian but a jargon based mainly on a local Macedonian dialect, and, worse still, the primer is printed in Latin characters instead of Cyrillic, which alone the young people for whom it is intended will be able to read. It would certainly have been better, when the Greek Government contemplated the publication of such a primer, to have taken Bulgarian authorities into their confidence, with a view to the preparation of a work that would actually contribute to the removal of a minority grievance. In this connexion it may be pointed out that a solution of minority problems in the Balkans is rendered more difficult by the controversial methods adopted by the Press. In too many countries apparently newspaper attacks on neighbouring peoples or Governments are regarded as a safety valve and a useful diversion from home topics. No Balkan newspaper seems capable of leading public opinion in an effort to find out the best in a neighbouring State, while glossing over or ignoring shortcomings as a phase that can pass.

The new session of the Skupshtina opened at Belgrade on October 20.

General Pangalos, the Greek Prime Minister, has announced that the General Election will be held either in February or the beginning of March, 1926.

A Swarajist candidate has won a by-election in one of the Mohammedan constituencies in Calcutta with 927 votes. The second candidate polled 632 votes and the third 124 votes.

At an informal Durbar, Sir John Wood, the Resident at Srinagar, on behalf of the British and Indian Governments, on October 14, conveyed to Sir Hari Singh the formal recognition of his accession to the throne of Jammu and Kashmir.

Under the patronage of Prince Henry and of Princess Ileana of Roumania, the Young Guild of Empire are giving a ball at Grosvenor House on November 19, in aid of the Women's Guild of Empire. Tickets may be obtained from Lady Muriel Gore-Browne, 7, Kensington Square. W.8.

The Roumanian authorities have decided to reduce the export tax to £5 per head on horses and cattle and to allow the export of horses under six years old. The export of petroleum residue is now permitted, and the export tax on it is reduced from £2 to 600 lei (12s.) per 10 ton truck.

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Indian Affairs.

PROPAGANDA IN INDIA.

The announcement of the intentions of the Government of India in regard to agriculture has drawn attention to the great work that has already been done in that direction: and the comment has been freely made that the Government are not good advertisers, and have much to learn in the art of publicity. That they are aware of this necessity is proved by the fact that they maintain a Bureau of Public Information, one of whose main duties is propaganda: and several of the Provinces maintain similar organisations. In the wave of economy that followed the Inchcape Committee's appointment, some of the Provincial Bureaux came under the axe: and the Government of India Bureau only escaped a like fate because it was, at the time that the Committee made its inquiries, a temporary organisation, which the Committee were tacitly allowed to assume would shortly disappear in the ordinary course of things. Had it not been for this rather ingenious manœuvre, the Bureau could hardly have escaped the headsman; for practically no session of the Legislative Assembly passed without the tabling of at least one resolution for its abolition. It is true that, owing to skilful use of the form of log-rolling which obtains in Indian Legislatures, no such resolution was actually moved—when the time came, the mover was not in his place, or declined to move the resolution standing in his name. So the Bureau survived, and is now a well recognised and permanent organisation in the Government; besides being a very useful one. This is not to say that it might not well be much more so; but pro-Government propaganda is a matter of extraordinary difficulty in India: and the man who could combine the necessary proportions of the wisdom of the serpent and the harmlessness of the dove, in order to make it effective, would, if he could be found, be a treasure beyond price. To begin with, he has to be honest: not only because transparent honesty is an axiomatic attribute of the British Government in India, and of every individual among its officers, but also because there are dozens of lynx-eyed critics on the alert for the slightest deviation from the narrow path, always ready with awkward questions. Further, he has to be interesting—even arresting; and Indian and European ideas as to what is interesting are wide as the poles asunder. Lastly, if he can contrive to produce a strictly truthful statement in a form that strikes the imagination of an Indian audience, he has to be careful that that firm is one that induces them to believe what he wishes to convey—instead, as not infrequently happens, of the exact opposite. An example of the latter difficulty occurred during the War, when the rumour was started in India that the German Emperor had become a convert to Islam, and had arranged that his subjects should follow his example. The absurdity of the rumour was exposed in a trenchant article printed in the *Fauji Akhbar* (Military News), a newspaper produced in several vernaculars, under Government auspices, for the special behoof of the men of the Indian Army. Unfortunately, the article began by quoting the rumour, which it then proceeded to demolish. A British officer of a Mohammedan regiment, going his rounds one morning, became aware of an excited crowd of soldiers surrounding one who was reading aloud. He inquired the reason for the excitement, and was told that the German Emperor and his subjects had turned Mohammedans. "Nonsense," said the officer. "But it isn't nonsense—it says so in our own newspaper—our own *Fauji Akhbar*." The officer asked to see the paper: and as, by a fortunate accident, he was able to read Urdu fluently, he induced his audience to listen to the whole article. They then explained that they had not got so far as that—the orator had only read the first paragraph, which contained the exciting news: and, after they had assimilated that, neither he nor any of his audience wished to read or hear any more. It must be added that they seemed genuinely disappointed to learn that the paper had only presented them with such a spicy tit-bit of news in order to contradict it.

This, indeed, is one of the chief troubles with which the Government propagandist has to contend: not his to spring on the Indian public some scintillating piece of news—generally it is the other fellow who has done that, and he has to toil painfully in his wake trying to get people to listen to a contradiction—which, in fact, they do not in the least desire to hear. The purveyor of sober truth becomes a sort of spoil-sport: a role that is not only uninteresting but unpopular. For some curious reason, it is always most difficult to persuade the Indian "man in the street" to believe a thing that is true; but the most outrageous fairy tale is swallowed at once. Early in the War, a Delhi "rag," published at one pice (a farthing) a copy, came out with an exclusive piece of news that made it, for one day, enjoy the wildest popularity. Its total circulation was only about 300 copies; and, by the end of the day, two rupees eight annas (3s. 4d.) was on offer for a second-hand copy. It appeared that the King had risen early in the morning and, after the custom of Kings, had gone up to walk on the flat roof of Buckingham Palace to enjoy the cool air. A German aeroplane had swooped down on him, picked him up and carried him off to Berlin, where he was held to ransom for ten crores of rupees—seven million pounds. And, with his avidity in swallowing anything untrue, the Indian "man in the street" combines a disconcerting lack of perspective. He knew that there was a war on in Mesopotamia, and that the troops taking part in it embarked at Karachi. Ergo, the Germans were somewhere beyond—probably only just beyond—Karachi: the fall of a jerry-built house at that place was reported to have been due to a bomb dropped by a German aeroplane, and this explanation obtained wide belief. Also, the Censor—an important part of whose duty was to conceal facts whose publication would be likely to create alarm in the Indian mind—was caught tripping over the long-range bombardment of Paris. He had unthinkingly allowed the various reports of that bombardment to appear: until he received an official request from the Punjab Government to do so no more—since the inhabitants of Lahore were apprehensive that it might be their turn next. After all, Karachi is only 660 miles from Lahore, according to the map: according to a timorous townsman, doubtless much nearer: and, if the Germans were outside Karachi, what was to prevent them starting a long-range bombardment of Lahore from there?

Government propaganda in India generally takes the form of a *communiqué* or an inspired article. At the best of times, a Government *communiqué* is pretty dry reading: and, as often as not, it is merely a contradiction of some untrue report that has got a good start and that it is unlikely ever to be able to catch up. In the present temper of vernacular journalism, any Government *communiqué* has only to appear in order to achieve immediate rejection as not only untrue but dishonest. With one single exception, every form of official pronouncement is disregarded—and is therefore bad propaganda: the exception is a judicial finding; which, however unpalatable may be its contents, is, in 99 cases out of a hundred, accepted not only as conclusive, but as honest. The inspired article has to be very cleverly disguised to escape detection: anything openly pro-Government shares the fate of the *communiqué*. If the author signs his name, he is a hired hack of no standing: if he does not, he is a venomous creature who dares not face publicity. The only really effective form that the inspired article can take is one whose general tenour is apparently anti-Government, and yet contrives to slip in a little propaganda of the right kind—a small dose of useful powder concealed in plenty of jam. But this is a two-edged weapon, dangerous to its wielder, and one that requires a consummate master to use it with success. That it should be necessary to use it at all shows how hard is the path of the Government propagandist in India.

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CURRENT TOPICS.

Lord Birkenhead's Optimism.

Lord Birkenhead's speech at the Constitutional Club last Thursday was doubtless intended for a wider audience than that to which it was actually addressed. Indian newspapers are always eagerly on the look-out for pronouncements by the Secretary of State, if only that they may pull them to pieces. It was Homer's custom to allot a "constant epithet" to the chief characters in his drama, and the vernacular and Anglo-vernacular newspapers of India have lately taken to doing the same. Any pronouncement by a star of the first magnitude, like the Secretary of State or the Viceroy, is labelled as "insolent"; whereas, in the case of lesser lights, the epithet degrades into "impudent." Thus an important Anglo-vernacular newspaper recently complained that the Home Member of the Viceroy's Council "had the impudence to assure" the Assembly that the British Government would not yield to threats. It was only by implication that Lord Birkenhead has "had the insolence" to say the same thing—he said that he discerned signs that Indian politicians were beginning to realise the truth of it. It may be doubted whether they ever believed the contrary, except in theory: the most that they did believe was that, if they could have materialised a sufficiently daunting threat, they would have been able to compel attention; but they were perfectly well aware that this was beyond their power—they claimed to speak with the voice of India, but that was their limit: *vox et praeterea nihil.*

Lord Birkenhead also said that he discerned signs of a better and friendlier temper: presumably among the politicians, for the man in the field has never been unfriendly: and the brief period, during which the man in the street felt so, passed three or four years ago. There can be no doubt that this is so: the Nationalist politicians still live in their own queer country of make believe; but they have realised that the path, which they chose inside it, leads nowhere, and that it is necessary for them to select another—one leading on to a main road. That they are already advancing on such a path is proved by the odd lop-sided kind of co-operation that they are now giving—such as the acceptance by Pandit Moti Lal Nehru of a seat on the "Indian Sandhurst" Committee, and by him and Mr. Jinnah of the invitation to form part of that Committee's deputation to Europe and to indulge in a joy-ride at Government expense.

Lord Birkenhead's last piece of optimism was that he was "able to give a reassurance" on the matter of recruitment to the Indian Civil Service. For the first time for several years "the returns of English competitors, and of Indian competitors of the right class, had been well maintained: and, in his judgment, they were equal to the class of men recruited before 1914." It will be observed that his Lordship used the word "competitors"; but he did not say how many of the successful British candidates, who had included the Indian Civil Service among their choices, have actually declared for appointment to it. We have, seen the list of entries: what we should like to see now is the list of acceptances.

By Air to India.

It was recently stated at Simla, in the Council of State, that two proposals were in existence for the establishment of air communication between England and India. The first was for an airship, the second for an aeroplane, service from Egypt to India: Karachi being, in both cases, the Indian terminus. The Government of India had agreed to give the land required for the Karachi base, estimated to cost about 90,000 rupees, and also to give a grant in aid of four lakhs, for the airship service. As regards the aeroplane service, which it was intended should be weekly, the British Government had entered into an agreement with Imperial Airways, Limited, for the operation of the route.

It is now announced that the contract for the erection of an airship shed at Karachi, which will be one of the largest in the world, has actually been signed; though there has been, as yet, no announcement as to the period of this service, or how soon it may be expected to begin. As regards the aeroplane service, however, information is much more definite; the stages have been decided on, the route being from Cairo to Karachi via Damascus, Tadmor, Baghdad, Basra, and Bushire: a total flying distance of 2,500 miles.

In an interview given to the *Evening News*, the Air Minister said that he hoped to see the journey from London to India reduced to 100 hours. The British Empire had more to gain from long distance air communication than any other nation in the world: the longer the journey the greater the advantage of flying. But their motto must be Safety First. The whole future of flying depended on its appeal to the public, and this could only be successfully made by a combination of speed, regularity and, above all, safety.

The Indian Cotton Trade.

The *Financial News* of October 13 has an interesting article on the cotton trade in India. Before the War, India was far and away the largest of our overseas markets for cotton piece goods. She still remains so, but her net average annual importation, which, during the three years 1911-14, was 2819 million yards, has been reduced, during the period 1921-24, to 1,319 million yards—a decline of no less than 53 per cent. This, one of the most serious of the shrinkages in our overseas trade, was disguised to some extent by the rise in nominal money values, but the basic fact of real economic loss remained. The cause of it was the greatly increased cost of British cloth, due to the higher price of the raw material, of the processes of manufacture, and of transport. It was to be expected that, in the circumstances, the Indian mills would make up the difference. In fact, their average annual production has risen from 1,064 million yards during the three years 1911-14 to 1,719 million yards during the period 1921-24; but this still leaves a shrinkage of 845 million yards in the total Indian demand: about a quarter of which has been filled by an increase in hand loom production, which is now about 200 million yards greater than it was ten years ago. Apart from Mr. Gandhi's "Khaddar" campaign, the revival of the hand loom in India is due to the rise in the price of mill-made cloth, Indian as well as British, due, in both cases, to the same causes, though in varying degree.

When the Indian consumer finds the price of cloth rising beyond his means, he economises in quality—which is where Japan's opportunity has arisen—in quantity, or in both. His clothes having become more valuable, he takes more care of them, even though their inferior quality makes them less durable. It might, indeed, have been added that he even contrives to go without. Mr. Gandhi shocked a number of his followers by appearing in public clad only in a loin cloth; but, in so doing, he set a fashion that "the man in the mud hut" found it useful to follow: and who could point the finger of scorn at him, when he did so, if India's foremost saint had shown him the way? If the price of cloth can be materially reduced, no doubt the man in the mud hut will return to his previous style of clothing himself. Commentators say that the same result will be achieved if his net earnings can be increased: but this is open to doubt: it is not so much the relative as the absolute cost that frightens the Indian buyer. Our Bombay correspondent explained in his last week's letter, that the rise in the price of cloth was unavoidable, and not in any way the fault of the Indian manufacturer. Granted—but the fact remains that, unless a drastic reduction in price can be brought about, the demand of the man in the mud hut will remain as low as he can possibly contrive to make it.

INDIAN CONDIMENTS.
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CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, October 1.

The Pujahs.

During the past week the holiday spirit has prevailed throughout Calcutta and has been apparent in the political as well as in the mercantile life of the city. The *Bengalee* and *Forward* have suspended publication during the holidays, and even the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, which has "carried on," has had nothing political with which to regale its readers with the exception of a Mohammedan meeting which was called "to consider matters of interest to the community." The deliberations referred mainly to the New Market burial and, as it was stated that "It is useless to expect anything from the Swaraj Party now," it was considered necessary to call a conference of Moslem Members of the Legislative Council, Moslem Councillors, and other leaders to devise measures "to meet the present critical situation."

There have been communal disturbances at Aligarh, in which the police were forced to use firearms to disperse a mob of Mohammedans who interfered with a Hindu "Ramlila" procession. All the facts of the case have not been disclosed; but it would appear that, on the first signs of interference by the Mohammedans, the Hindus gave a good account of themselves. The aggrieved party have telegraphed to the Governor of the United Provinces demanding an inquiry by non-Moslems, and things are quieting down. Disturbances were feared at Allahabad and Lucknow, but the Ramlila procesions were cancelled, and nothing untoward is reported. The arrangements in Calcutta, in connection with the Durga Poojah processions, have come off without a hitch, and an atmosphere of perfect peace obtains. There has been a large influx of country visitors to the city for the festivities. These, it is presumed, are the down-trodden villagers who have received the compassion, but not the money, of the Swarajists. Their sole occupation is wandering round the various sights with their eyes and mouths wide open—all as happy as they can be!

The External Capital Committee.

The recommendations of the External Capital Committee have now been published and bear the stamp of clear-headed consideration. The exploitation of internal capital in India has been a problem long awaiting a solution, and the frank common sense of the suggestions made to this end is an achievement of which the Committee may well be proud. Although it is held that, from India's point of view, it is better that capital for the use of Government or for the development of Indian industries should be raised in the country itself, if money from internal sources is not forthcoming, the utilisation of foreign capital is looked upon as a valuable factor in the development of India's resources and as in no way objectionable. In order that facilities may be given for the investment of funds which are now unproductive so far as the country is concerned, the Committee suggest that further branches of the Imperial Bank should be opened; and, realising that it is imperative that progress should be along lines immune from losses, an extension of the Public Debt Office facilities to the more important Provincial towns is recommended. This would encourage dealings in Government securities and establish more money markets of the right type throughout the country. In regard to the imposing of restriction on external capital, the Committee have, for the purposes of consideration, divided this under three heads, which are briefly, (1) Investments in which the external investor is merely entitled to a stipulated rate of interest; (2) investments in which the external capitalist enters into competitive business on equal terms with Indian enterprise; and (3) investments in which the external capitalist acquires special privileges. Bevond stating that in Government and quasi-Government loans Indian capital should have the preference, the Committee do not consider that any controlling measure is necessary in the case of the first group, neither do they find that restrictions would be of any practical use in the case of external capital invested in textile mills, mercantile houses, and the like. It is considered that, in cases where an external capitalist secures either a bounty or a concession which would enable him to develop a wasting asset, such as a mining concession, Government may rightly impose restrictions: and it is suggested that in the former case, companies should be registered in India with rupee capital and a reasonable number of Indian directors, also that facilities should be given for the technical training of Indian apprentices. In the latter case, it is recommended that concessions should only be given when it appeared improbable that Indian capital would be forthcoming, and where the project appeared to be for the good of the country. It is interesting to note that Pandit M. M. Malaviya, who had a seat on the Committee, found it so difficult to find any points of agreement that he has drawn up a note of dissent which is almost half as long as the recommendations of the Committee. This is certainly one method of getting into the limelight; but beyond that it is difficult to see what good will materialise from the Pandit's zeal.

Markets.

On account of the Poojah holidays business has been restricted this week to the last three days. The jute market continues to have a very firm appearance, and a similar remark may be made with reference to gunnies, though at the outset business was restricted in each case by sellers holding out for higher rates; at the close prices advanced to a higher level, at which a considerable amount of business has been put through. The tea market has been steady at previous levels with a tendency towards higher prices for the better descriptions.

With the Stock Exchange closed, no transactions have taken place in the Share Market. Money remains quiet with little doing; exchange continues steady at last week's level.

PROGRESS OF THE MILL STRIKE.

(By Our Bombay Correspondent.)

Bombay, October 1.

The strike still continues without any change in the situation: the only trouble being caused by the insistence of the mill hands on their right to leave Bombay without paying for their railway tickets. This has led to the rushing of one station at midnight with a certain amount of breaking of heads: and probably on several other occasions the railway staff have had to submit more quietly to intimidation. The mill hands appear to have been told that, now that the railways are under State management, they are entitled to free carriage at any time of emergency.

Meanwhile, "Pro Bono Publico" and his friends are writing to the papers to blame the mill agents; who are, as a class, accused of practices which come very near the criminal line. It is in fact suggested that they habitually buy their coal and stores, and sell their cloth and yarn, at fictitious prices, to the disadvantage of their shareholders and to the benefit of their friends and relatives. This sort of charge loses all its point by its generalisation. There may be dishonest agents, but it is the business of the auditors and the shareholders to track them down individually: and it is not apparent that anonymous letters to the papers are going to do any good.

It is also pointed out that the mill industry has been finally and for ever ruined by Japanese competition and that there is no chance of any recovery. Bombay is not the only centre of industry that is apt to go to extremes of depression and elation: but it certainly does it thoroughly. Four years ago we were infomed, publicly and for all the world to hear, that the mill industry of Bombay was safe for ever. Some doubters admitted that, in times of acute depression, mills might conceivably have to reduce their dividends to 40 per cent: but that was considered a foolish and wrong attitude of pessimism: and to-day, while many of the mill shares still stand at a premium of 200 to 300 per cent., we are told that the position of the industry is hopeless.

The outlook is unpleasantly dark, but the prosperity of

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the world's great industries is measured in curves and not in a steady upward or downward gradient: and, whichever way the curve is tending, it is not advisable to assume that its direction will remain constant.

THE USE OF FIREARMS.

(By Our Simla Correspondent).

The session of the Legislative Assembly, which has just come to an end, however instructive it may have been from other points of view, was remarkable for only one debate upon a matter of military interest; when one of the members from Madras, the Province where only a few years ago martial law had to be declared in the Moplah country, introduced a motion for the consideration of his Bill for the regulation of the use of firearms in dispersing unlawful assemblies. During the past six years efforts have more than once been made to tie the hands of the magistrates, the police, and military officers who are called upon to nip in the bud any tendency to open disorder, or to deal with such disorder when it has actually begun: and this bill is the culminating point of these attempts. The mover of the bill impressed on his audience that he was a man of peace, and that all he wanted to do was to minimise the possibility of bloodshed resulting from the use of firearms against a mob. With this humanitarian attitude no one will quarrel, and indeed, several of the speakers who opposed the bill expressed their full sympathy with the motive underlying it, as stated by the mover. But the methods proposed by this man of peace, to attain his object, show a lamentable failure to realise the difficulties facing the officials responsible for law and order, when confronted with a situation in which they have to decide whether or not it is absolutely necessary to call upon the police or troops to open fire. There are three main points in the Bill which are particularly open to objection. First, it is prescribed in it that firearms are not to be used unless the assembly cannot otherwise be dispersed. It is easy to conjure up a picture of a small body of police trying with their staves to disperse an angry crowd; their futile efforts only serve to inflame its temper: the psychological moment for opening fire with any hope of effect is lost: and, when at last the first shot is fired, the mob, instead of being dispersed, is abie to overwhelm the police. Secondly, the person directing the fire has to warn the assembly by such means as are available that, unless it disperses, it will be fired upon. This proposal introduces a further element of delay and gives the crowd additional opportunity of growing in courage and violence before steps can be taken to check its activities. But most calamitous of all is a third clause which allows any person injured by firing, or the representative of any person killed, to bring a charge of grievous hurt or murder against the officer who gave the order to open fire. As the law stands at present, the sanction of Government is necessary before any officer who has ordered firearms to be used against a mob can be prosecuted: and it is laid down that any act of this nature, committed in good faith, does not constitute an offence. If the present bill were to become law, all the safeguards which an officer, who merely does his duty, possesses at present would be swept away: and he would be liable to be prosecuted in circumstances in which the whole burden would rest upon him of proving that the various steps laid down, as to trying to disperse the crowd by other means, and giving them adequate warning, had actually been taken before fire was opened. One speaker rightly describes the bill as based upon the principle of "Heads I win, tails you lose."

Cases of actual rioting in which it has been necessary for the police, and less frequently the military, to open fire, or of public excitement where the civil authorities have been forced to call for the presence of troops as a precaution, have been by no means infrequent in India of late years: and whereas, in European countries, the chances of a military officer being called upon to carry out that most hateful of all a soldier's duties, the rendering of aid to the civil power, are relatively small, in this country it is a duty which an officer may at any time be called upon to perform. At present, if on such occasions he orders fire to be opened, he bears a definite personal responsibility for doing so: and this in itself is a very effective safeguard against any possibility of overhasty or indiscriminate shooting. If, however, an officer knew, not only that his hands were tied by a series of unpractical rules to which he must conform, but also that, if he opens fire at all, he was almost certain to be prosecuted, his difficulties would be increased a thousandfold: and it is more than likely that many occasions would occur where, either through the necessity of carrying out the preliminary procedure or through over-caution due to fear of possible consequences, officers failed to prevent the spread of disorder which might have been checked by firm and timely action. The effect upon law and order of weakness upon such occasions is well known. Whether or not, in their hearts, the unpractical politicians in India who support bills of this nature accept this as a fact, they are not willing to acknowledge it in public. When serious rioting occurs, these same persons are the first to blame the authorities for not having taken proper precautions to prevent it; but they are perfectly ready to support any measure which will weaken the forces of law and order, merely because it is the Government which is responsible for them. This peculiar mentality, which disregards the practical side of every issue, finds expression in almost every debate in the Assembly; but its dangerous character is never more clearly shown than when it is applied to matters relating to the internal security of the country. Yet those "representatives of the people," who display it, are those who clamour most loudly for the grant of a further measure of self-government: and who are loudest in their indignation when they are told that they are not yet ready to receive it.

THE INDIAN MAIL.

Mr. Gandhi's Abdication.

The mail brings a detailed report of the discussions in the meeting of the All-India Congress Committee at Patna: which resulted, as already reported by cable, in Mr. Gandhi's surrender of the Congress to the Swarajists and the reversal of his previous decision in favour of a "spinning franchise" as the basis of Congress elections. On the first point, the resolution laid down that the Congress should "take up and carry on all such political work as may be necessary in the interests of the country, in accordance with the programme and policy of the Swaraj Party"—the last eleven words being added at the instance of Mr. Gandhi himself—and should, for this purpose, employ the whole of the machinery and funds of the Congress, except such funds as were already allocated to the All-India and Provincial "Khaddar" (home-spun cloth) Boards: these funds being handed over to a new body, the All-India Spinners' Association, which was to be an integral part of the Congress organisation, though with certain independent powers of its own. As regards the latter point, it was stated that only 9,197 persons had found themselves able to qualify for the spinning franchise, by the production of 2,000 yards of yarn of their own spinning: and it was decided that the franchise should, in future, be alternative: either the annual payment of four annas, or the annual production of 2,000 yards of home-spun yarn. Those who elected for the latter should send their yarn to the All-India Spinners' Association and should receive a certificate, from that body, that by doing so they had qualified for the franchise. The Congress Committee reserved the right to check the accounts, stock and vouchers of the Association, and to cancel any certificates that appeared to them, as a result of such inspection, to have been improperly granted. The only provision on which Mr. Gandhi was able to insist, for the furtherance of his "khaddar" campaign, was that no one should be allowed to vote or to take any part in any meeting connected with the Congress who does not wear hand-spun and hand-woven khadder at political and Congress functions or while engaged in Congress business.

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An amendment demanding that all Congress members must wear khaddar on all occasions was passed, but was afterwards rescinded on an appeal from Mr. Gandhi, who said that such a rule would "clip the wings of the Swarajists," who had done all that could be expected of them by agreeing to wear khaddar on all ceremonial occasions.

Mr. Gandhi's dominance of the Congress has thus definitely passed into the hands of the Swaraj Party: and the tattered remnants of his khaddar campaign must pass into limbo in the immediate future. Mr. Gandhi's personality still remains an asset of great value: and it seems impossible to doubt that his rather pathetic submission to the Swarajist revolt against his domination is due to his reluctance to retire from the stage. A few years ago, he led the Congress and all its members as unquestioned Dictator: now the Swaraj Party not only lead the Congress, but drag Mr. Gandhi at their chariot wheels as the central figure in their triumph.

The "Indian Sandhurst" Committee.

The Committee presided over by Sir Andrew Skeen has now concluded its preliminary sittings, and is proceeding to take evidence in public. The presence on the Committee of the leaders of the Swarajist and Independent parties in the Legislative Assembly, and the fact that all its personnel, except the President and one member, is Indian, have not saved it from the usual attacks directed by the extremist Press at all Committees appointed by Government: except that, in this case, as it would be impolitic to attack the members, obloquy is being directed at the witnesses. They are represented to have been "tutored" by the "Die-hards of the General Staff" to give evidence in support of what is declared to be a conspiracy against the creation of an Indian Sandhurst, engineered by the military authorities.

The composition is announced of the deputation which is to visit military training institutions in England, and perhaps in other countries as well, for the assistance of the Committee is reaching its final conclusions. Five prominent Indians have been selected for this attractive joy-ride—doubtless to the deep disappointment of the rest. Pandit Motilal Nehru, the Swarajist leader: Mr. Jinnah, the Independent leader: Mr. Sethna, a Bombay member of the Council of State: Sir Abdul Qaiyum, a nominated member of the Assembly, representing the Frontier Province: and Major Zorawar Singh, representing the Indian Native States: will form the deputation. Of the representatives of British India, two will therefore be Hindus and two Mohammedans; though, as Mr. Jinnah hails from Bombay, and Pandit Motilal Nehru from the United Provinces, the Punjab—as distinct from the Frontier Province—and Madras are left out in the cold, while Bombay seems over-represented. The racial and provincial composition of the deputation is, however, not a matter of so much importance as its political composition: and it is certainly a great feather in the cap of the Government that it should have persuaded two such redoubtable critics of its military policy as Pandit Motilal and Mr. Jinnah to go and see things for themselves. In the Reforms debate in the Assembly, Mr. Jinnah denied that, if properly handled, the young intelligentsia of India would be backward in offering themselves for commissions: he himself, he declared, could provide ten thousand. He will now have an opportunity of deciding on the exact form of institution that will be needed to meet the demand, and the methods by which suitable candidates will be attracted to it: and his conclusions should be of outstanding interest.

The Dispersing of Mobs.

The letter from our Simla correspondent on the Bill, which, after being passed by the Legislative Assembly, was rejected by the Council of State, for the regulation of the use of firearms in dispersing unlawful assemblies, confines itself to comments on the provisions of the Bill and its effects if it had become law. As a matter of fact, it would have been easy to quote examples of actual happenings of a sort that would certainly recur in such circumstances: for instance, the tragedy of Chauri Chaura, a small town in the United Provinces; where, in February 1922, the officer in charge of the police post attempted to argue with a large and excited mob bent upon mischief. The answer of the mob was to attack the police post, whose defenders then, too late, opened fire in self-defence; the result being that they were overwhelmed, twenty-one of them being killed and their bodies—some possibly still alive—thrown into the burning police post, which the mob had set fire to after their successful attack. A memorial to these policemen who had died at their post was afterwards erected, and was opened by the Governor of the United Provinces: who, at the opening ceremony, spoke of the evil passions that, in India, so often animated a mob, and of "the terrifying glimpse of the fires beneath" that had been afforded at Chauri Chaura. This particular instance of mob violence was directed against the authorities responsible for the preservation of law and order, and was one of the manifestations that accompanied Mr. Gandhi's campaign of "non-violent" non-co-operation; but the usual form taken by mob violence in India is a religious one, when the excitement of communal feeling leads Hindus and Mohammedans to try to break each other's heads. If the police succeed in preventing them from doing so, both sides combine to decry their unnecessary interference: if they do not succeed, both sides complain of their failure to uphold law and order. There is, however, one point in the Bill that should receive careful attention: and that is the giving of warning before fire is opened. This is, in fact, invariably done; but in a manner that is not, and in the nature of things cannot be, effective. More than in most countries, a concomitant of all forms of emotion in India is noise—every member of the crowd is shouting at the top of his voice, and verbal warnings, if they reach the ears of any of its members at all, can only reach the front ranks at most: who, even if they should desire to profit by the warning, are probably prevented from doing so by the pressure of the ranks behind, none of whom is aware that a warning has been given. One has often thought that, if a bugler were enlisted as a member of every police post, this difficulty might be overcome—a short sharp call on the bugle, such as "The Halt," would carry much farther than the most stentorian voice: and its shrill and arresting message would be calculated to bring about the moment of hesitation that causes mob courage to evaporate.

The High Indian Official.

At a dinner in Simla in honour of Sir B. N. Sarma, the retiring member of the Viceroy's Council, the Governor of the Punjab (Sir Malcolm Hailey) made some very apposite remarks about the position of those Indian gentlemen who have consented to accept high office under the Government of India. When such an individual is an official, said Sir Malcolm, he is always declared, by his less fortunate Indian brethren, to be a reactionary who is out of sympathy with the public; when he becomes a non-official he is able to exchange his constructive activities for criticism, and then becomes one who has a true insight into the public mind and is instinct with true ideals as to the future of India. It is only recently that a high Indian official who signed the majority report of the Indian Reforms Committee explained, after his retirement from office, that he did so because his official position obliged him to take that course; had it not been for this, he would have signed the Minority Report—so that speakers in the Reforms debate in the Assembly were able to declare that the Minority Report ought really to have been that of the majority, and vice versa. The speaker did not, it is true, make any direct reference to this particular change in "the angle of vision"; but he did say that, as an official, the guest of the evening had to pronounce a definite opinion on even the most difficult question; while, as a non-official, he would always be able to evade that, and take refuge in a refusal to declare his own opinion by an emphatic announcement that Government must be wrong. As Jack Bunsby used to say, "The bearings of this remark lies in the application of it": and it must certainly have created considerable amusement in the minds of all Sir Malcolm Hailey's audience, with possibly one exception. Difficulty in pro-

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nouncing a definite opinion is by no means confined to Indians—some of the highest of the European hierarchy in India are noticeably afflicted with it; but, if one were asked to particularise the one outstanding point in which the average Indian official falls short of his average British colleague, one would certainly select the point in question.

INDIAN EXCHANGE.

London, October 19.

With holidays in India fairly general throughout the week, the movements in Rupee Exchange have been unimportant. Telegraphic Transfers in Bombay and Calcutta are unchanged at 1s. 6 5-32d., with very little doing at a shade higher, although it is reported that Government have purchased at 1s. 6 3-16d. to the extent of £300,000 to £400,000.

Forward rates in India have been remarkably quiet, with good buyers for delivery December and January at anything over 1s. 6 3-16d.; but we understand that Banks have been disinclined to meet merchants' requirements in this direction.

It is reported that a fair amount of business has been done in India for so far forward as May next year at 1s. 6⅛d., but operations were confined to inter-bank, and the rate has now disappeared.

In this market the week has been singularly quiet. At times a seller has appeared at 1s. 6 3-16d. for T.T. and has had no difficulty in finding buyers. There is a fair inquiry at this rate, which banks have been disinclined to meet except at 1-64th higher, and this only to a limited extent. So far as forward business in the London market is concerned, we hear of no fixtures, except for trifling amounts.

The Government of India have announced that their purchases of sterling for the half-year ended September 30 for remittances to the Secretary of State for India here amount to £20,549,000. The last return issued by the Imperial Bank of India indicates that there have been heavier withdrawals of money for trade purposes, which showed that the trade demand had gone up 280 lakhs of rupees.

Markets on Monday are unchanged. London is quiet, but a firmer feeling is apparent in India. Banks have sold in Calcutta at 1s. 6 3-16d. for cash, but not sufficient to satisfy their requirements. They had consequently to go to Government, who are reported to have bought £500,000 further at the rate.

In our last report we indicated that it was unlikely that any wheat would be available for export from the Punjab, and we learn in shipping circles here that several shipments have already been arranged for export to India. It is highly probable that more will follow.

INDIAN COMMERCIAL NOTES.

The statistics of India's balance of trade during August were as follows, in lakhs of rupees:—

Imports of merchandise on private account	18,80
Exports and re-exports of merchandise on private account	29,24
Net imports of gold on private account ...	2,73
Net imports of silver on private account	67
Net imports of currency notes on private account...	2
Visible balance of trade in merchandise and treasure on private account ...	7,13
Net balance on transfer of funds between India and the India Office	5,29

The chief interest in these figures lies in any indications they give of progress made in India's return towards normal trade conditions. To take first the imports of merchandise. These have remained steady during the past few months at an average of Rs. 1,800 to Rs. 1,900 lakhs. Exchange has risen slightly since January from 1s. 6d. to nearly 1s. 6¼d., and the wholesale prices of manufactured goods have, in general, declined rather than advanced. This applies particularly to cotton piece-goods, which form India's staple import. On the whole, therefore, if rupee values of India's monthly imports are more or less stationary, it shows that the volume of purchases must have increased slightly in view of the fall in the world's prices and the rise of the rupee.

It is on the export side that we see traces of a return to more normal conditions. The value of India's exports was increasingly heavy during the three months, January, February and March 1925, reaching a record of over 46 crores in March. The pace could not be maintained, however, and exports have gradually fallen month by month to 28 crores in July and 29 in August. Part of the decline is due to reduced exports of wheat, of which local stocks in India are short and, therefore, prices are high. Exports of raw cotton fell off from 16¾ crores in March to less than 5½ crores in August. Exports of oil-seeds have fallen from 4¼ crores in March to 1½ crores in August. It must at once be admitted that much of this reduction in India's exports is seasonal, due to the normal falling off of her export business during the rainy months, June to September. Future developments depend largely on the monsoon now closing, which has, fortunately, given better results than were at one time anticipated.

One of the clearest indication of the return of India's trade to normal is in her imports of the precious metals, and particularly of gold. Her purchases of gold in March, 1925, stood at the record value of close on 15 crores of rupees. From that high level imports fell suddenly in April to 1⅓ crores and have since fluctuated between 2½ and 3½ crores monthly. The figure for August is 2¾ crores of rupees.

Finally, account must be taken of remittances from India to the India Office. The level of these remittances was low during the early months of 1925, but increased to 10 crores of rupees in June. The figure for August is just over 5¼ crores. If we add this amount to the imports of merchandise, bullion and notes, we get a total of 27½ crores of rupees, representing the debit side of India's trade balance for the month; and a sum not very far short of 29¼ crores, representing the value of her exports and re-exports and constituting the credit side of the same account.

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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

170, *Strand, London, W.C.2,*
Tuesday Morning,

Locarno and After.

Among the many factors which have had a hampering effect on trade development the uncertainty with regard to the position on the Continent has been one of the most far-reaching. Indeed, it is not going too far to say that without a settlement of the European problem any great expansion of trade was out of the question. As a result of the Pact of Locarno it would seem that we are within measurable distance of the disappearance of this handicap to reconstruction. If one writes thus guardedly, it is with the memory of the long series of conferences since 1918, which were to have achieved so much but which, if they did not leave things as they were rather enhanced the difficulties of the position than otherwise. This time, however, the grounds for optimism seem well-founded, and it certainly appears that the work of Mr. Chamberlain and his colleagues only requires the ratification of the respective Parliaments concerned, for Europe to be in a position to move forward rapidly on the way that leads to something approaching pre-War conditions.

The Outlook.

Given that Locarno does in fact mean a final European settlement, it will naturally be asked what will be asked what will be the concrete results from our point of view. Briefly it may be anticipated that the flow of international trade will be stimulated, and that before long we shall find much larger outlets in Europe for our manufactures. The situation that has existed up to the present time has forced France and other countries into unnecessary expenditure, and henceforward an improved Budgetary position may be looked for with a consequent effect on the exchanges, and as these improve so the outlook of this country will grow brighter. It is to be expected also that in the immediate future there will be a move to undertake vast programmes of works development which have been held in suspense owing to the doubt as to what was going to happen. In this direction British enterprise should find great scope both in obtaining contracts to carry out works and in the supply of the materials required. Finally, a pacified Europe will need extensive loans for reconstruction purposes. Great Britain has already done much to assist in this direction, but one foresees much larger demands on her resources, and if the conditions permit of such assistance after the needs of the Empire have been fully met, it is to be hoped that the authorities will lend encouragement to the floating of foreign loans here, for no course could be conceived that would have directly and indirectly a better effect on the economic situation here.

Foreign Contracts.

The scope for British enterprise in regard to foreign contracts can be realised from the further extracts that we give from the report of Mr. R. F. H. Duke on Greece this week dealing with contracts in Greece. There the tendency has been for British enterprise to come more and more to the fore, and if British groups have failed to secure some most important contracts for works of development they have been successful in competing for others, and it is evident that there is no reason why this country should not fully hold its own in this field of commercial activity. Only at the end of last week the news came that the convention between the Greek Government and the Power and Traction Finance Company, Ltd., for electric lighting and traction, had been definitely signed. I gave some details recently of this contract, which is quite one of the most important developments as far as Great Britain is concerned in the Near East since the Armistice. Success in this instance should act as a spur to British firms to try and obtain other important contracts that are available in the Near East.

The Coming Fair.

Judging by present indications next year's British Industries Fair should be quite the most successful of the long series. For various reasons conditions have never yet been really favourable for the Fair. Now the outlook is more auspicious than it has been at any time since 1918. As I have pointed out above, a really pacified Europe means a great increase in the volume of trade, and once the wheels of commerce are really revolving again in Europe the repercussion will be felt throughout the world. That means increased buying to meet the requirements abroad, and one looks therefore for a much greater number of foreign buyers from the Continent and in all probability from the Near East, where for some time the signs have pointed to reviving trade, and where Locarno will make an enormous difference, and it will be surprising in the circumstances if a record business is not done at the Fair. That British firms are realising the possibilities of the position is clear from the demand for space at the Fair. So far over 100,000 square feet of space has been applied for, and requests for space are being received continually. The only thing that can destroy the fair promise of 1926 for Great Britain is labour trouble here, and that, one can only hope, we shall be permitted to escape.

The Cotton Position.

The cotton position at the moment is very interesting. Crop reports from America and Egypt point to a greatly increased yield; indeed in the case of America it looks as if a record crop will be forthcoming. The indications are therefore that supplies of cotton will be quite sufficient next year, which is eminently satisfactory in view of the prospects of reviving trade. The price of American cotton has reflected the position, while that of Sakellaridis has also declined, but relatively only slightly, and as will be seen from the report that we give in another column, the difference between American and Sakellaridis is quite abnormal, and is indeed double what it should be. With

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a good Egyptian crop the tendency must be for the difference to decrease, but rumours have been prevalent that the Egyptian Government may support the market should there be a marked fall. It is difficult to see how such a step could be justified, for ultimately the commodity must find its own level, and anything likely to check demand and thus to hamper the trade revival is greatly to be deprecated.

Rubber Again.

That it is much easier to destroy confidence in rubber than to restore it is evident from what has happened in the rubber market during the past week. While it is now clear that there is no likelihood of any modification of the restriction scheme rubber remains depressed; indeed, it could scarcely be more so if it were certain that an extra 10 per cent. was to be released on November 1. The fall has been mainly this time in shares. The commodity indeed rapidly recovered at one period, but at the time of writing has fallen away again. The share market, however, has been consistent in its depression, and prices make a very different showing to what they did a brief ten days ago. And yet the position is unchanged, and if the shares really justified the prices at which they stood before the fall—and my opinion is that in many cases they were then undervalued—it is certain that they still do to-day. But then the rubber market is traditionally only consistent in its inconsistency. I imagine that nothing much will happen now until November 1, and then if there is no change there will be an upward move to a level somewhat in advance of that hitherto reached, and then profit taking indulged in on some pretext or other will send the shares down again for another brief period. It will be interesting to see how this forecast coincides with what happens. Certain it is that in view of the huge dividends that will be declared next year the shares will not long remain at their present level.

Commentator.

SUDAN CONTRACT.

Sir W. G. Armstrong Whitworth and Co., Ltd., have received an order from the Crown Agents for the Colonies for a 140 h.p. Vertical Francis Water Turbine coupled to a 120 K.V.A. Generator. This small hydro-electric set will be installed at the Sennar Dam and the power will be used for lighting and pumping.

VICKERS BOILER COMPANY.

The Vickers Spearing Boiler Company, of which Vickers Ltd., are the sole proprietors, will in future be known as the Vickers Boiler Company, Ltd. The management of the company will be as follows:—Mr. Douglas Vickers, chairman (chairman of Vickers Ltd.), Sir Vincent Caillard, D.L., director (director of Vickers Ltd.), Commander C. W. Craven, R.N., director (director of Vickers, Ltd.), Mr. W. F. Sadler and Mr. J. Kerr Bock, joint managing directors, Mr. G. T. Williamson, general manager, Mr. Harold B. Clark, secretary. The address of the new company will be the same as before:—20, Kingsway, London, W.C.2.

John Allen and Sons (Oxford), Ltd., have received an order for 100 scarifiers for attaching to rollers to be supplied by Marshall, Sons, and Co., Gainsborough, to the Greek Government.

The directors of Lloyds Bank announce that Sir George Lloyd has resigned his seat on the board on leaving England to take up his appointment as High Commissioner for Egypt. They also announce that Mr. Cyril E. Lloyd, M.P., of Church House, Broome, Stourbridge, has been elected to a seat on the board. Mr. Lloyd is a director of the Great Western Railway and other companies.

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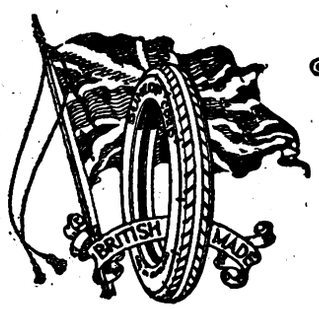

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NEAR EAST MARKETS

SPECIAL MARKET REPORTS.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Ottoman Bank:—

Teheran, September 19.—The situation in the bazaars is unchanged. The provisioning of the town is giving rise to some anxiety. There is not an actual shortage of bread at present, but the stocks of wheat held by the Government (in Teheran) are running very low. Fresh stocks are expected shortly, and the authorities are taking energetic measures. Private stores of wheat are being sealed by the officials of the alimentation service.

Basrah, September 19.—Prices of dates still rule high, Hellawis being quoted at Rs. 540-560 with Sayers at Rs. 220. Packers who had been holding off the previous week in the hope of better prices were obliged to come into the market again, and packing which had been quiet became active. An advance in prices on the London market is reported, and was welcomed by packers. It had the effect of hardening prices locally. Two more sailings for the United States are reported this week, which will bring the estimated total export to date to 15-20,000 tons.

SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, in their report for the week ending October 10, state:—

Sultanas.—The arrivals since the opening of the season are estimated at 14,850 tons, and the sales to date are put at 13,450 tons. Closing prices, Smyrna: per cwt. c.i.f. London-Liverpool: Type 12, 59s.; type 13, 61s.; type 14, 64s.; type 15, 67s.; type 16, 70s.; type 17, 74s.

The market closed with a firm undertone but with no material change in prices from the preceding week's level. Notwithstanding the limited demand weakness is not apparent owing to limited supplies.

Figs.—The arrivals since the opening of the season are estimated at 142,676 bags and sales to date are put at 131,344 bags.

The market closed very strong. Demand continues in excess of supplies. All grades have further advanced during the week on favourable advices re the Corson and Sinaia shipments. The tendency is for still higher prices.

THE GROUND NUT OR MONKEY-NUT.

There are comparatively few people who realise the world-wide importance of the humble ground-nut, or "monkey-nut," as it is commonly called. It is cultivated in almost all the warmer countries of the world, especially India, China, West Africa and the United States, and apart from the huge quantities that are consumed in these countries, no less than 800,000 tons are exported to Europe alone. The nuts are largely eaten either in the raw state or roasted, but by far the greater quantity are used as a source of oil. For a great many years Marseilles has been the chief centre in Europe for the production of ground-nut oil, but considerable quantities are now prepared in Great Britain, where the industry was started during the War. Ground-nut oil is used for a variety of purposes. It is largely employed as a salad oil in place of olive oil, and in the manufacture of margarine and other edible fats. It also finds use as an illuminant and lubricant, whilst the lower qualities are employed for soap-making. The cake left after the oil has been expressed from the nuts forms a valuable feeding-stuff for cattle and other farm animals.

The current issue of the quarterly "Bulletin of the Imperial Institute" (John Murray, price 3s. 6d.) contains a detailed article on the cultivation and utilisation of the ground-nut. It gives particulars of value to the producer regarding methods of growing the plant, and harvesting and marketing the crop, as well as information on the preparation and uses of the oil. An interesting account is given of the position of ground-nut cultivation within the British Empire. This shows that in addition to India, the Gambia and Nigeria, where the crop is already largely grown for export, many other parts of the Empire are suitable for its production on a large scale. The present contributions from the latter, however, are relatively small, although Tanganyika, the Sudan, and Kenya show a steady increase in exports in recent years.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at August 31, 1925, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes. Banking Department.—Liabilities.—Share capital (300,000 fully paid shares of £10 each), £E2,925,000; Reserve fund: statutory reserve, £E1,462,500; special reserve, £E901,875; current, deposit and other accounts, £E14,014,142; Egyptian Government, £E19,954,966; Sudan Government, £E234,639; Mixed Tribunals, £E1,588,147; bankers' accounts, £E380,222; cheques and bills payable, £E439,173; sundry other accounts, £E802,856; £E42,703,520. Assets.—Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government, £E27,346,962; sundry securities, £E317,548; advances on merchandise, £E576,936; advances on securities, £E2,732,995; advances otherwise secured, £E449,012; sundry other advances, £E1,441,684; bills of exchange, £E1,629,739; local bills discounted, £E416,981; buildings and furniture, £E231,634; money at call and at short notice, £E789,750; bankers' accounts, £E4,574,456; sundry other accounts, £E217,398. Cash: Notes, £E1,404,956; gold, £E40,319; silver, nickel, etc., £E533,150—£E1,978,425—£E42,703,520. Issue Department.—Notes issued, £E29,600,000—£E29,600,000. Gold, £E3,339,576; *British Treasury Bills, £11,460,424—£E14,800,000. Securities: Egyptian Government securities and securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government, £E420,105; British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds, £E14,379,895—£E14,800,000—£E29,600,000.

* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See *Journal Officiel* of October 30, 1916.)

EGYPTIAN CONSOLIDATED LANDS.

The report to June 30, 1925, states that during the year approximately 160 feddans of the Kom-el-Akhdar Estate reverted to the company by voluntary retrocession and foreclosure. Sales totalling 111 feddans of land realised an average net price of £E39.973 per feddan, leaving 1,582 feddans unsold at June 30 last. Of this area about 720 feddans were under cultivation. Deir Ams property, having an area of approximately 116½ feddans, reverted to the company, and 29½ feddans were sold subsequently at £E53.657 (net) per feddan. Sales of plots on Rodah Island estate have continued at improving prices, and 28,679 square metres were sold for £E39,725, at an average price of approximately £E1.385 per square metre. The area of building land unsold at June 30, 1925, was 72,758 square metres, exclusive of roads. Further expenditure has been incurred in the development of the estate, including the erection of six shops. Principal sum due to Mortgage Co. of Egypt, Ltd., and secured by mortgage on properties, has been reduced by £E40,927, to £E25,000.

TEA COMPANIES.

Parambe Rubber and Tea.—Interim dividend of 10 per cent., less tax, on account of 1925, payable October 30 to holders registered October 16.

Hunasgeria Tea.—Interim dividend on ordinary and preference of 7½ per cent., less income-tax, payable November 11.

The Lindoola Tea Company has declared an interim dividend of 10 per cent., less tax at 4s. 1½d., payable forthwith.

The Vellikellie Tea Company of Ceylon has declared an interim dividend of 10 per cent. (less tax at 4s. 1½d.), payable forthwith.

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Shipping Intelligence.

GREECE'S MERCANTILE MARINE.

At the end of 1923 the Greek mercantile marine consisted (says Mr. R. F. H. Duke in his report on Greece) of:—432 steamships of a tonnage of 762,358, 1,060 sailing vessels of a tonnage of 122,354; total tonnage, 884,712. In 1924 the fleet increased to: 437 steamships of a tonnage of 828,634, 1,018 sailing vessels of a tonnage of 113,707; total tonnage, 942,341. This figure is not far short of the pre-War total of just over a million tons. The value of the fleet is about four million pounds sterling, of which some two millions are mortgaged to foreign mortgagees: 43 per cent. of the vessels, however, are over ten years old and 38 per cent. are over twenty years old, very few new ships have been acquired in recent years, and insurance is accordingly costly. Many of the vessels have been premanently idle during the last year, largely owing to the general surplus of tonnage throughout the world.

The entries of shipping into the port of Piræus during the last three years have been as follows:—

	Steamships.			1924. Excluding coasting trade.
	1922.	1923.	1924.	
Greek	4,419	4,862	5,487	417
Italian	482	459	505	347
British	450	444	492	370
French	123	105	90	78
German	61	94	231	98
Dutch	55	64	95	77
Roumanian	26	58	67	66
Total	5,789	6,277	7,142	1,511
Sailing ships	5,792	6,907	7,751	—

The remarkable increase in German entries will be noted, particularly during the past year. The total net tonnage of British steamships entering Piræus during the last three years was 1922, 137,873 tons; 1923, 686,362 tons; 1924, 1,078,782 tons.

From the point of view of fast passenger and goods traffic to Piræus, an interesting development during the year 1924 was the introduction of a weekly express service direct direct from Trieste to Piræus in three days, which will be reduced to two days as soon as the Corinth Canal is open to large vessels. The Lloyd-Triestino steamers serving this line reach Constantinople in 24 hours after leaving Athens.

Constant complaints have been received during the past two years of congestion both in the harbour itself and in the quays and warehouses of Piræus. There have been frequent cases of delay and damage to vessels owing to careless and overcrowded berthing and the unnecessary occupation of the harbour by idle ships. The shortage of warehouses and cranes has involved the necessity of leaving goods in lighters for long periods with resultant loss. It is hoped, however, that with the completion of the new harbour works, many of these complaints will disappear.

Some idea of the relative importance of the various ports in Greece for (a) import and (b) export purposes may be gained from the following comparison:—

Imports (in millions of drachmæ).

	1923.	1924. (first 9 months).
Piræus	3,233 ...	2,795
Salonika	1,215 ...	1,072
Patras	421 ...	358
Volo	251 ...	319
Corfu	104 ...	84

Exports (in millions of drachmæ.)

	1923.	1924. (first 9 months).
Kavalla (tobacco)	552 ...	484
Patras (currants)	516 ...	328
Salonika (tobacco and general)	275 ...	201
Volo (tobacco, olives and fruit	178 ...	164
Calamata (currants, fruit, olives) ...	151 ...	69
Piræus (general)	150 ...	144
Candia (raisins, etc.)	98 ...	77

The works on the improvement and enlargement of Piræus Harbour have been proceeding actively during the past year, and the Government have taken steps, the result of which will, it is hoped, soon become apparent, to relieve the congestion of berths and warehouses in the port, of which numerous complaints have been made by British and other shipping companies and commercial organisations. Harbour works are shortly to be undertaken at Salonika and Volo, Samos (Vathy) and Andros.

DISTRESS SIGNALS IN TURKISH WATERS.

The Chamber of Shipping has been informed by the Board of Trade that H.M. Ambassador at Constantinople has reported that the Turkish Ministry of Marine has now informed the Straits Commission that they have given instructions to the Ok-meidan wireless station near Constantinople to receive distress signals from merchant ships. The call-sign of the Ok-meidan station is T.D.S.

The Straits Commission have also been informed that the wireless telegraphy station at Beddul Bahr is also available for the reception of such signals. Its call-sign is T.A.Q.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Castalia for Bombay (Liverpool, October 24). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mahratta for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 31).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Oxfordshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, November 4).

British India Line.—S.s. Margha for Bombay and Karachi (London, October 23); s.s. Dumana for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 24).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Cypria for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, November 14).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Exeter for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 5).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, November 6). (The last steamer of the season for Sulina, Galatz, and Braila); m.v. Sycamore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, November 21).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Ranpura for Bombay (London, October 30); s.s. Nore for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 31).

Prince Line.—S.s. Egyptian Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, and Beyrout (London, October 23).

M. Pashitch, the Yugoslav Prime Minister, who has been absent from office for some time owing to illness, returned to Belgrade on October 14.

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*CASTALIA, Oct. 27.
*OLYMPIA, Nov. 13.
*SCINDIA, Nov. 27.
*MASSILIA, Dec. 11.
*ELYSIA, Dec 29.
*CIRCASSIA, Jany. 12, 1926.
*CASTALIA, Feb. 2.
*OLYMPIA, Feb. 19.
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Motors and Motoring.

By G. B. B.

Sir William Letts, at the banquet on the eve of the opening of the Motor Show, struck an optimistic note which, in the opinion of the trade generally, was justified. He protested against the practice of some sections of the daily Press, in continually stating that this country was losing both its home and its export trade, considered that the reason these statements were made was to "ginger up" the Government, and pointed out that the mere statement that we could not compete overseas with foreign manufacturers was in itself sufficient to destroy a good deal of the confidence which previously existed.

There was a very large volume of business done at the Show; of that there is no question. But there was not the amount that many newspapers stated, and a great disservice has actually been done to trade by irresponsible statements as to booking up the entire outputs of this, that, and the other firm. The effect is that prospective buyers, in a large number of instances, have been led to believe that there is no chance of buying a British car, and so have turned their attention to trans-Atlantic and Continental products. I have no hesitation in saying that there will be no difficulty in buying a British 1925-6 car of any make, whether for home or overseas service. In fact, it wil be easier to buy a high grade British light car at a cheap rate than to buy a similar powered American car of equal quality.

The Light Car.

Some time ago I expressed, emphatically, the opinion that Great Britain was about to lead the world in the design and manufacture of light cars, and to-day no reasonably minded person can deny that my opinion was well founded. There is no American car on the market to-day that is is any way superior to a similar powered British car. This is true of engine power and finish, of road-worthiness, of design, and of price, and even in regard to mass production work. It is a great pity so much has been said regarding one or two foreign makes, as the continued use of the name alone has been a magnificent advertisement, an advertisement which in itself has helped enormously in the sale of the cars. There need be no hesitation on the part of overseas buyers as to where they should place their orders. There is no need to utter flamboyant remarks about British light cars; the sales, the cheapness of running, the freedom from necessity for repairs, the low maintenance costs, and the sterling performances of the British products speak for themselves.

The Little Austin.

I have tried out the Austin "seven" on a number of occasions, over all kinds of rough roads and under all weather conditions, and have nothing but praise for that excellent little car. I have spoken to hundreds, literally, of Austin users, and have not found one who has been anything but completely satisfied with the sweetness of running, the ability to hang on to a steep gradient, the remarkable turn of speed, and the low running cost. Indian buyers will find this car not only a cheap, but a thoroughly good little vehicle, and for their benefit I would mention that although the engine is but of seven nominal horse-power, the car is as fast as any car of twice its power on the road and is more easily driven and managed. It has a four-speed gear box with an easily operated central gear change, and has steel wheels, each of which is fitted with a brake. The rear springs are exceptionally long, and as they are fitted with shock absorbers, the car is most comfortable to ride in even on the roughest road, and the comparative absence of vibration ensures a long life to the bodywork. The seating accommodation is ample, and the front seats are adjustable. The body, which is handsomely upholstered, has four doors, which greatly adds to the comfort and convenience of the passengers, and there is a rear screen and complete all-weather protection for all occupants. As regards the engineering details, I may say that I have had some experience in such matters and can honestly say that the Austin engine, transmission, and other details are made with scrupulous care. There is pump cooling, pump lubrication, grease gun chassis lubrication, ample valve openings, substantial valve seatings, and a host of other requirements and other minutiæ which together make the little British Austin "seven" one of the finest light cars obtainable.

The A.C.

The A.C. car is another British proposition which has "made good." I saw, at the Show, some splendidly finished examples of 12 and 16 h.p. cars, the one having a four-cylindered and the other a six-cylindered engine. There is no need here to go closely into details of the finish; after all, one can have practically any kind of body fitted on a chassis that one desires. But the A.C. chassis and engine is the thing that has made the name of this car; these, and the great attention to detail which the makers pay to every part. The patent steering gear is exceptionally smooth and easily operated; the gear change is simple and easily managed; the engine has a wonderful acceleration, a fact which accounts for the car holding so many dozens—I had almost said hundreds—of records, and the chain-driven overhead camshaft is perfectly silent. Five main engine bearings, forced lubrication, centrifugal cooling, automatic carburetter, magneto ignition, large plate clutch, detachable wheels with one spare wheel, Dunlop types, and a three-speed gear integral with the back axle are all features of this particular British car. There is, in my opinion, no American car of the same horse power that possesses anything like the good points that are to be found in the "A.C."

Morris Cars.

I have been asked to mention, on the authority of Mr. W. R. Morris, managing director of Morris Motors, Ltd., makers of the "Morris-Oxford" and "Morris-Cowley" cars, that authorised Morris dealers, at home and overseas, had up to October 7 definitely contracted with the firm to take 70,000 cars during the 1925-6 season. When I say that an exceptionally large proportion of these orders is for abroad, one realises that the overseas buyer is at last beginning to recognise the superiority of the British light car.

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DURBAN—Andrew Weir & Co
EAST LONDON—Messrs. Dunn & Co.
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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

MANCHESTER COTTON MARKET.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Ottoman Bank for the week ended October 17, states:—

American raw cotton has fluctuated somewhat during the past week but a fall on one day has generally been followed by a rise on the next, so that, on balance, the lower price level reached last week has been fully maintained. Egyptian cotton has, however, continued to depreciate in value. This lower range of prices has probably been responsible for an increase which has manifested itself in the inquiry for all classes of goods. Whilst much of this inquiry must obviously have been made with a view to keeping in touch with the market some of it has been inspired by definite desires to purchase, and the result has been a fair increase in the turnover.

Yarn.—The position in this section seems to be gradually improving, and in certain counts surplus stocks have been taken off the market. Lower prices seem to be attracting an increased volume of business. Negotiations remain difficult but the outlook is more encouraging. In Egyptian spinnings the wide fluctuations which have taken place in the raw material have been a disturbing factor. Shipments of yarn in September amounted to 13,923,400 lbs. as compared with 15,037,900 lbs. in August and 11,316,200 lbs. in September last year.

Cloth.—A welcome improvement in business for India has shown itself, and in many classes of goods quite a good turnover has been attained. As stocks in that country are believed to be low and this is the buying season, further developments are awaited. There is nothing fresh to report with regard to China, but South America appears to have improved on recent weeks. Other outlets show little animation.

Shipments of cloth in September amounted to 359,810,400 square yards as compared with 344,277,300 square yards in August and 359,871,300 square yards in September of last year. The returns bear out the reports of the very large business done for Germany recently.

Raw cotton.—Reports from the United States during the past week have not been favourable, heavy rains having done a certain amount of damage. The movement of the crop continues on a very large scale for the time of the year and the taking of spinners all over the world seem to be much larger than the average of recent years. Rumours of Government intervention in Egypt with a view to supporting prices are numerous. Even at the lower rates now ruling spinners show no special eagerness to purchase this class of cotton. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows: — American Middling 11.54d., Egyptian Fully Good Fair 27.00d.

THE EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended October 8, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has been active but prices have receded somewhat; the net changes on the week are the following: Sakellaridis 1.58 dollars down for November, 1.50 dollars down for January, 1.48 dollars down for March; Ashmouni 1.25 dollars down for October, 1.32 dollars down for December, 1.40 dollars down for February. Although commercial houses have taken more interest in the market than during recent weeks, nevertheless the greater part of the activity displayed must be attributed to speculative dealings.

Nothing official has been published regarding Government intervention; as a matter of fact, from the little which has transpired it does not look as if this intervention is imminent. The grower, in view of the success of the crop, is not losing money in selling at present prices: on the other hand, the Government cannot be very optimistic of purchases in view of the fact that this year's Sakel production will be larger than that of last year whilst reports received from all the consuming countries point to a much reduced consumption during the coming season, the principal reason for this reduction being the abandonment of the use of Sakel by many spinners owing to its high price and to the fact that considerable success has attended the substitution of much cheaper outside growths. Ashmounis have been somewhat dull, due to the weakness of New York and to the weight of the heavy daily arrivals; these heavy arrivals have not found a ready sale and holders have been selling December contracts against same. Our opinion is that the Sakel market may become heavier as the season advances and the weight of arrivals is more felt; we also look for a narrowing of the difference between Sakel and Ashmouni. With regard to Ashmouni, we maintain our opinion that it will, in all probability, for some time yet continue to follow New York fluctuations. The week's receipts amount to 356,660 crs. against 111,042 crs.; the stock stands at 1,141,951 crs.

Spot: Minet-el-Bassal has been fairly active this week and sales amount to about 24,000 B/s of which we estimate 9,600 B/s Sakel, 11,200 B/s Uppers, 2,400 B/s Zagora, 700 B/s Pilion and 100 B/s White. The crop movement is free and arrivals considerable and Sakel premiums for the better grades have given away still further under the weight of offerings. There has been sufficient offtake to keep Upper Egypt premiums steady and holders are not so ready to meet the market as are those of the Lower Egyptian growths.

Sakellarides: A fair business has been done mainly in the better qualities. There has been some inquiry for the lower medium qualities but they are not yet offering on the market. Spot differences are appreciably easier for Fully Good Fair and Good and unchanged for Fully Good and the grades below Fully Good Fair. High premiums have been paid for extra class cotton.

Ashmouni and Zagora continue in fairly good demand for all grades from Good Fair upwards, the lower qualities not having been in much favour. Spot differences are steady and unchanged from last week.

Pilion: has been in fair request for the good grades. With the exception of Fully Good which maintains its parity, spot differences have eased somewhat.

Brown: is neglected and no business has been reported.

White: A small business has been done in good grades. Spot differences has again eased considerably.

Crop 1925: Climatic conditions have been favourable to the opening of the bolls still green, which will favourably affect the yield per feddan for Sakellarides. The report published by the Alexandria General Produce Association, which we give below, more or less confirms, with one exception, our own opinion on the present state of the crop. The one exception is the yield per feddan for Sakellarides: our opinion is that it will be slightly inferior whilst the Association looks for results about equal to that of last year. On present indications and on an acreage under cotton for the whole of Egypt of just under 2,000,000 feddans our preliminary estimate of the crop is about 7¾ million kantars of which Sakel about 3,500,000 kantars, Uppers and Zagora 3,600,000 kantars and other varieties 650,000 kantars.

The report of the Alexandria General Produce Association states:—

Lower Egypt.—The temperature during September, with the exception of a few days, was on the whole, favourable to the cotton plants. Pinkworm and bollworm have caused fresh damage which appears, however, to be less than that of the preceding years. The few mists reported have not had any bad effect on the crop. Picking has become general, 7 to 15 days late according to the

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district. The first picking of Sakellarides gives, practically, the same results as last year according to the district; as regard Zagora and Pilion varieties, the results are decidedly superior. Prospects for the second picking are good; the final result is, naturally, subject to the temperature during October. The ginning yield is superior to that obtained last year.

Upper Egypt and Fayoum.—Pink worm and bollworm have caused fresh damage of small importance. In several districts the picking has been delayed by the lack of labour. Results obtained from the first picking are satisfactory. The second picking will not be of much importance, but on the whole the crop of Upper Egypt will be about 20 per cent. more than that of last year.

The report of the Ministry of Agriculture for September reads:—Weather was favourable during the first half of the month, later it was as good as, if not better, than can be expected at this period of the season. The attack of the boll-worms (Gelechia Gossypiella and Earias Insulana) is general but less than last year. Boll-rot and cotton seed bug, reported from many provinces, did not cause appreciable damage. The ripening of the crop has proceeded satisfactorily in all parts of Egypt. Although picking is reported as being a few days later than last year it is nevertheless quite early, as last year was an exceptionally early crop. The first picking is general in Lower Egypt, picking is practically completed in basin lands. In many districts of Upper Egypt and some of Lower Egypt there has been much difficulty in getting sufficient pickers to pick the cotton in good time. The general quality of the cotton is reported as being distinctly superior to that of 1924.

WINTER SPORTS.

Each year the number of people who leave this country at Christmas time for winter sports abroad increases, and we are reminded that this period is again approaching by a little booklet issued by Dean and Dawson, Ltd., the passenger agents, announcing the facilities which they are placing in operation in connexion with winter sports for the coming season. The booklet gives details of arrangements for visiting the winter sports centres in Switzerland, France, Italy, Austria, and Norway, and briefly describes the facilities that these centres offer the tourist and the attractions that they hold out. To read it is to be tempted to take advantage of one of the trips to Grindelwald or one of the many other winter sports resorts of which details are given.

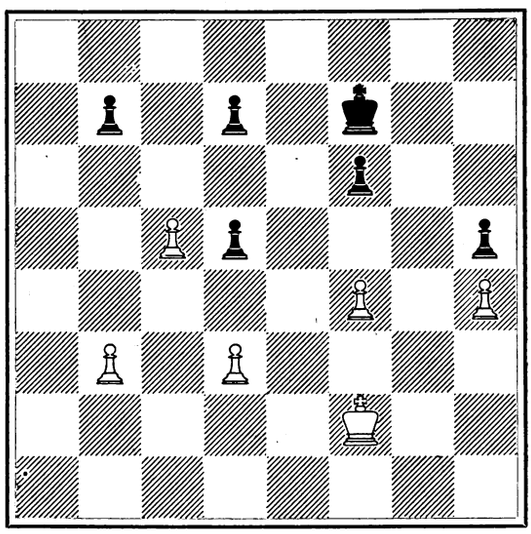
The directors of the Burmah Oil Company have declared an interim dividend at the rate of 12½ per cent. (2s. 6d. per share), less tax, payable November 11, to ordinary shareholders registered at October 15. Tax will be deducted at 2s. 5d. in the £, being British tax, less relief in respect of Dominion tax.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £ ...	97½	97½
Athens	Drachmæ to £ ..	25 22½	366
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	272—274
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.32
Berne	Francs to £.....	25.22½	25.12
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 3/16—18 7/32
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	106 30
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	1,020
Budapest	Kronen to £	24 02	345-347,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 3/16 - 18 7/32
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	855—870
New York	Dollars to £	4 86 2-3	4.84 1/16—4.84⅛
Paris	Francs to £.....	25.22½	109.65
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	163⅜
Rome	Lire to £	25 22½	121¼
Sofia.....	Leva to £	25.22½	660 - 675
Teheran	Krans to £	50	42.60
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	34.36
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	29

CHESS.

By "CARO-KANN."



White to play.—What result?

Solution to Problem No. 17:—1, K—Q4 (K—B3 and P—Q4 are dealt with below), K—Q3; 2, P—B3, P—Kt4; 3, PxP (if K—K3, PxP (ch); 4, KxP, P—Kt4 (ch); 5, K—K3 (if KxP, K—K4 and wins), K—K4; 6, P—Q4 (ch), K—B4; 7, K—K2, K—B5; 8, K—B2, P—K4; 9, PxP, KxP; 10, K—K3, P—Q5 (ch); 11, K—Q3, K—B5 and wins), P—K4 (ch); 4, K—K3, P—Kt3; 5, P—Q4, (if P—B4, K—K3; 6, PxP, KxP and wins), K—K3; 6, PxP, KxP; 7, P—B4 (ch), K—K3; 8, K—Q4, K—Q3; 9, K—K3, K—K3; 10, K—Q4, K—Q3 and draws. If White tries to win by 11, P—B5 he loses. Play would continue 11, ... PxP; 12, P—Kt6, K—K3; 13, P—Kt7, K—B2; 14, P—Kt8 (= Q (ch)), KxQ; 15, KxP, K—Kt2 and wins. If White plays 1, K—B3 then 1, ... K—Q3; 2, K—Kt4, P—K4; 3, PxP, KxP and Black would win. If instead of playing 3, PxP, P—B5 were played then 3, ... P—K5; 4, PxP, 5, PxP, KxP; 6, P—B3 (ch), K—K6 and wins. Finally, 1, P—Q4, K—Q3; 2, K—B3, K—K2; 3, K—Kt4, K—B3; 4, P—B3, K—K2 and draws.

OVERSEAS AGENTS FOR THE SALE OF "THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA."

EGYPT.
Alexandria: M. Nacamulli and Co., 12, Rue Sesostris.
Cairo: M. Avatis, 1, Faggala.
Express Book and Stationery Store, P.O. Box 1113.
Port Said: English Agency, P.O. Box 240.

SUDAN.
Khartoum: Victoria Book and Stationery Store, P.O. Box 51

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem: B. Y. and W. A. Said, 23-24, Jaffa Road.

SYRIA.
Beyrout: Sarrafian Bros.

IRAQ.
Baghdad: Government Bookshop, Serai.
Basrah: Utam Jashan and Co., Bridge Street, Ashar.

INDIA.
Calcutta: A. N. Wheeler and Co., 117-119 Park Street.
Bombay: A. N. Wheeler and Co., Hornby Road.
Karachi: Standard Bookstall, Elphinstone Street, Karachi.

BULGARIA.
Sofia: Librairie Francaise et Etrangere, 4a, Bvd. Tsa Ostvoboditel.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia: George and Sons, P.O. Box 6.

GREECE.
Athens: Th. Vafiadis, 24, Rue du Stade.
Eleftheroudakis and Barth, Place de la Constitution.

ROUMANIA.
Bucharest: Librairie Universala, 37, Calea Victoriei.

TURKEY.
Constantinople: H. D. Marianopoulos, Librairie Mondaine, 280, Grande Rue de Pera.

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British Consular Reports

VI.—GREECE.

(*Concluded.*)

Public Works.*

The numerous public works schemes which were contemplated in 1921 and 1922 and referred to in the last report on Greece, did not make much progress in 1923. The proposal of the American group for irrigation drainage, hydraulic power and railway development did not reach a concrete stage. The Piræus harbour works, which had been promised to a British firm, were suddenly put up to international tender, and the contract awarded to a French group in spite of the protests of His Majesty's Governments. Tenders were invited for the exploitation of the Vladovo Falls on the river Vodo for the supply of electric power to Salonika, but the scheme did not come to fruition. The question of the Athens-Piræus water-supply was settled in principle, it being decided, out of the numerous projects which had been discussed during the past forty years, to create a barrage near Marathon and bring the water by pipes to Athens.

The project for the reclamation of the Vardar Valley again came into public view and British firms were invited in September to submit plans for this work during the early part of 1925. It is hoped that an Anglo-American group will be successful. The irrigation of the Struma Valley is also under consideration. Proposals were also put forward for the improvement of the harbours at Salonika, Kavalla, and Volo. In the case of the former, the Greek Government offered the contract to British firms in compensation for the loss of the Piræus Harbour contract which had previously been promised to British enterprise. It was subsequently discovered that all the rights over the development of Salonika harbour belonged to a French firm under a long outstanding concession originally granted by the Turks. A British firm who had offered to undertake this contract, then appealed for the ratification on the original terms of their contract for the drainage of Salonika which had been signed with the Municipality under Government approval in 1921, but had since been submitted to certain modifications which the firm had not seen their way to accept. Official representations were made to the Greek Government but without effect, and eventually the British firm agreed to withdraw their claim on payment of compensation.

In July, proposals were submitted by a British group for the re-organisation of the electric light and power system of Athens and Piræus, including the extension of the Athens-Kephissia and Athens-Piræus railways, and of the Athens and Piræus tramway systems. This scheme, which involves an outlay of some three million pounds and a complicated re-arrangement of the various Greek, Belgian, and French interests concerned in the existing systems, should not only be extremely beneficial to the metropolis, but, if the British firm are successful in carrying it through, should add very largely to British industrial prestige in Greece and bring considerable employment to the engineering and electrical industries in Great Britain.

A number of British building firms have shown an interest in building projects in Greece, which included the construction on a wholesale scale of cheap houses for refugees, the building of villages and settlements for co-operative societies, and general schemes of high-class building of Government offices, hotels, etc., in Athens and elsewhere. As regards the first, the International Commission for the Establishment of Refugees have preferred German and Austrian firms, who have quoted extremely low prices for the wooden framework of houses which are to be completed by refugee labour. While this policy may seem to be one of false economy, the limited funds at the disposal of the Commission, as well as the urgency of getting the refugees under some form of shelter, however temporary, must be taken into consideration. At any rate, it is obviously a waste of time for British builders to compete in this sphere, although some disappointment has naturally been felt that a proportion of the funds subscribed by British investors in the Refugee Loan has not come back to British labour.

Other building schemes are more attractive: there is a great demand in Athens and the big towns for more and better houses, hotel and office accommodation, as well as for new Government offices, prisons, and the like. Salonika is in process of being entirely rebuilt. Rents everywhere are extremely high and land is increasing in value, and the investment of capital by British contractors in work of this kind can hardly fail to be profitable, provided their money is well secured and they remain on their guard against a possible slump in land and building values, which is sure, sooner or later, to follow the present boom.

Progress in the improvement and extension of railways has been slow. A number of small orders have been given for locomotives and railway accessories, and bills have passed the Chamber for the reconstruction of numerous branch lines. A general reconstruction of the main lines is absolutely essential to the maintenance of proper transport facilities in Greece and the development of tourist and business traffic, and, as soon as financial conditions permit, opportunities are sure to occur for the participation of British firms in important railway contracts. They will, however, probably have to meet keen competition from central European firms, who have the advantage of rail transport direct to the Greek delivery centre.

* This report covers the period down to the early part of this year. Since then there have been a number of developments, notably the award, already referred to in these columns, of the contract for an electrical scheme for Athens and district, to a British firm.

IMPORTS & EXPORTS

The financing of the world's commerce has become one of the most intricate of machines ever constructed, and under the banker's hands lie all the cogs and controls necessary for its efficient running. It is of the utmost importance that the merchant should clearly understand the working of its mechanism in order that he may make the fullest use of the bank's facilities, not only for his personal benefit, but also for the increased commercial prosperity of the country. To assist its customers, the Westminster Bank has now prepared a booklet explaining the many ways in which the commercial man may use the bank for the furtherance of his business, and how he should proceed so as to take the utmost advantage of interest, rebate, discount, rates of exchange, etc., and combine with progress and enterprise the necessary security and caution.

Copies will be issued on application to the Secretary, Head Office, Westminster Bank Limited

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The construction of the new port at Candia, begun by a British firm in 1922, is making good progress. The breakwater already extends for a distance of 140 metres from the old Venetian castle, and it is hoped that by the end of 1925 a sufficient length will be completed to afford shelter to vessels loading or discharging. The completion of this harbour should inaugurate a new era of progress in Crete; in addition to affording better shipping facilities for Cretan exports, it will increase the number of tourists who visit the island for the sake of the antiquities of Cnossos and Phaestis.

The installation of a Marconi radio-station at Koukounara, near Canea, has been completed and the station has been working since September, 1924. The tender for the electrical distribution and the construction of tramways at Canea has been constantly postponed, and no decision has yet been taken. No progress has been made with the harbour works.

With the increase of heavy motor traffic, the necessity of developing the roads of Greece has lately been more generally recognised. A number of main roads in Athens were relaid and asphalted, during 1923 and 1924, including the important main road from Athens to Piræus, which had been out of commission for several years. This is now nearing completion and will be of great benefit to the clearance of traffic from the port to the capital. Most of the work on the Athens roads has been done by local contractors operating with imported materials and machinery, but there is a good opening for British enterprise in this direction, especially if measures are taken, as must shortly be done, to develop the main provincial roads, now in an appalling state of disrepair.

In this connection it may not be out of place to recommend British firms to co-operate with merchants or capitalists of high standing in Greece. The complications of contract work, especially with the Greek Government, are such that without the assistance and advice of experienced Greek collaborators foreign firms can hardly expect either to carry through negotiations or carry out contracts with success. It should be noticed that under the auspices of the National Bank a syndicate of Greek banks has recently been formed to co-operate in the financing and management of public works contracts. By this means a guarantee of continuity and smooth administration, the absence of which in negotiations with constantly changing and unstable governments has caused so many difficulties in the past, is now secured.

Naval and Military Contracts.

Towards the end of 1923 the Greek Minister of Marine notified British and French firms of an extensive programme of naval construction. Owing, however, to the stringent conditions regarding the use of external credit laid down in connection with the Bank of England against the Refugee Loan, the Greek Government had to content themselves with carrying out such urgent repairs and purchases as could be met out of the 1924-25 budget, and were forced to abandon, at any rate for the moment, their very ambitious programme. Under these restricted conditions, British firms were able to secure orders for repairing and fitting new boilers to four destroyers, for 50 torpedoes, for anti-aircraft guns and ammunition, torpedo tubes, fire-control apparatus and mines, and the refitting of the "Chios" as a repair ship, amounting in all to some £680,000, payments being made in cash concurrently with the advance of the work.

Large contracts for field guns for the Greek Army were placed at the end of 1923, and it became known that further orders for heavy guns and for the supply of a large number of new rifles was contemplated. It was also proposed, in view of the difficult credit situation, to make these purchases out of annual budgets, though it is difficult to see how the Greek Government contemplated that they would stand the strain. Offers of second-hand rifles of various types were received from British and other firms. It was also proposed that a British firm should construct and operate a factory in Greece for the manufacture of the rifles to Greek specification, which was a special form of Mannlicher-Schonauer. Towards the end of 1924, various British firms were invited by the Greek Government to submit tenders for the supply of 50,000 to 100,000 rifles of this type, and negotiations are still in progress. The proposal to manufacture rifles in Greece has not been finally dismissed from consideration, a Greek group having purchased certain plant for this purpose, but they are unlikely to become effective for some time owing to the unfamiliarity of this type of work to Greek labour and the high cost of importing the raw materials from abroad.

A British company were successful in 1924 in obtaining a contract from the Greek Government to re-instal and operate the naval aircraft factories at Phaleron, and to construct there aeroplanes and parts for the Greek naval and military forces.

The recommendation by a special British naval mission of a new programme of naval construction and repair has been expected to result in increased orders for British firms. Though conceived on the most economical basis, however, it involves a total expenditure during the next few years of some 4 to 6 million pounds, a sum which is beyond the capacities of the Greek financial resources unless either substantial credit can be obtained abroad or such sums inscribed in the budgets for annual cash payments as will seriously augment their already growing deficits. Both solutions contravene the undertakings given by the Greek Government in connection with the Refugee Loan issued in December, 1924-25; and it is accordingly likely that this restricted programme will have to be further cut down.

It will be seen from the foregoing that British firms have shown a greater interest than was the case during the previous few years in Government contracts, both of a military and civil nature, and in public enterprises generally in Greece. The peaceful administration of the Government, comparative stability of the exchange, and the confidence expressed in Greek financial elasticity by the final issue of the Refugee Loan, have given encouragement to British manufacturrs who had for some time looked askance, as a result of their unfortunate experiences with Greek Government contracts, at enterprises of this nature. Conditions have also been made more attractive by some relaxation of the rigorous taxation measures introduced by the revolutionary Government in 1922-23, and the facilities in respect of exemption from import duties and taxation offered by the Greek Government to prospective concessionaires.

There is no doubt that the Greek Government are most anxious to develop the country, and that many schemes of a productive nature can be undertaken with profit. At the same time the keen rivalry of our foreign competitors can only be met by the offer of exceptionally favourable facilities, willingness to take a certain amount of speculative risk, and a readiness to accept small profits in order to obtain a footing in Greece.

His Majesty's Representative at Sofia reports that the quarantine measures imposed in ships arriving at Bulgarian ports from Constantinople have been withdrawn.

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Paid up Capital - - £1,000,000
Reserve Fund - - £360,000

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Paid-up Capital - - - - £600,000
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‡MORVADA	8,193	Oct. 31	Nov. 7	Madras and Calcutta
MALDA	8,965	Nov. 14	Nov. 21	Madras and Calcutta
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City of Calcutta	7,679	Oct. 31	Bombay & Karachi
‡City of Exeter	9,447	Nov. 6	Colombo, Madras and Calcutta
‡Trafford Hall	5,321	Nov. 14	Bombay & Karachi
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A Weekly Review of the Politics and Commerce of the Balkan Peninsula, Turkey, Egypt, and the Sudan, Syria. Palestine, Arabia, Iraq, Persia and India.

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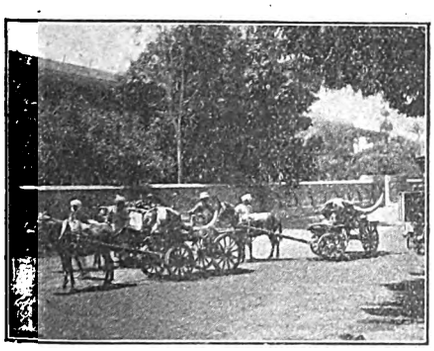

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THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

No. 755.—VOL. XXVIII. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1925.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	Page
NOTES OF THE WEEK	515
SPECIAL LETTERS—	
Egypt	488
LEADING ARTICLE—	
A Frontier Incident	517
PERSONAL AND GENERAL	519
THE WEEK AT HOME	520
BOOK REVIEWS	521
INDIAN AFFAIRS—	
The Nationalist Coalition	523
Current Topics	523
Special Letters: Calcutta	525
Simla	526
The Indian Mail	527
Indian Exchange	528
YUGOSLAV SUPPLEMENT—	
Medicinal Plants	531
Yugoslav Customs Revenue	532
Crop Reports	535
Yugoslav Exports	535
COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
Notes and News	529
Near East Markets	530
The Grain Trade of the Persian Gulf	536
Shipping Intelligence	538
Motors & Motoring. By G. B. B.	539
Engineering Topics	541
Chess	543

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

The Corfu Curse.

The Balkans have made a poor response to Europe's Locarno spirit. An exchange of shots between two sentries on the Greco-Bulgarian frontier, which resulted in the death of the Greek soldier, has led the country, whose Foreign Minister recently proposed an Arbitration Pact for the Balkan Peninsula, to invade a neighbouring State without warning and without a thought for arbitration, as stipulated by the Covenant of the League of Nations. It is the Corfu curse reacting on its original victim, and it remains to be seen whether the Greek Government will be able to make out a better case for its action than Italy did for hers. When Corfu was shelled and occupied by an Italian squadron, the sympathy of the whole world went out to Greece; she must, therefore, not be surprised to-day, if that sympathy is again extended to the weaker country. It is not a question of where the original mistake lies. When a Greek soldier is shot by a Bulgarian, the first and obvious inference is that Bulgaria is at fault for her national's act, and it is up to her to clear herself or to take the consequences. With the invasion of Bulgaria, defendant and plaintiff change places. Europe is as anxious to exorcise the Corfu spirit as much as ever it was to put an end to Prussianism, and for that reason it cannot condone an exhibition of that spirit even when one of her favourites indulges in it. Greece as a whole, we are confident, is not behind this Corfu action, and will see in it an excess of militarism in Greek politics. If "Corfuism" is to be recognised as a permanent factor in European affairs, a Greek rifle need only go off by mistake on another sector of Greece's northern frontier to justify a Yugoslav occupation of Salonika.

The League of Nations Acts.

With exemplary promptitude the Council of the League of Nations has responded to the Bulgarian appeal against the Greek invasion, and a meeting was held in Paris on Monday, October 26. Greece and Bulgaria were invited to attend, and were called upon in the meantime to suspend hostilities. When the Council had considered the statements made by both parties it came to the conclusion that it was not satisfied that the request made to Greece and Bulgaria to cease hostilities and withdraw their troops behind their respective frontiers had been carried out. In these circumstances the Council requested both Governments to inform it within twenty-four hours that unconditional orders had been issued to their troops to retire within their frontiers, and within sixty hours (i.e., by to-day) that the troops had actually been withdrawn as required. The Governments of France, Great Britain and Italy were requested to send officers within reach to report to the Council as soon as its request had been fulfilled. This resolution is certainly an improvement on the Council's action in the Corfu case, when it shirked all responsibility and left the matter to the Council of Ambassadors. As it is clear that the Greeks alone are across the frontier, the decision of the Council amounts to a demand addressed to the Greek Government to recall its troops before the Council begins to consider the rights and wrongs of the incident. The statements of the two parties, as was to be expected, were entirely contradictory, and in these circumstances the presence of *The Times'* Correspondent on the Bulgarian front may be of some advantage to the Council in arriving at its verdict. From the fact that Greek artillery was firing during Sunday night, it has to be inferred that the Greek commanders ignored any instructions that may have reached them from Athens.

The Greek Invasion.

At the moment of writing the Greek advance is stated to have been stopped, with the occupation of Petritch, an important frontier station ten miles within Bulgarian territory, and of a line extending some twenty miles east and west of it. Spasmodic shelling, however, of other points beyond Petritch is reported by the Sofia Correspondent of *The Times*, who is with the Bulgarian forces falling back before the Greeks. According to a telegram

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from Athens the invasion of Bulgaria was undertaken with a view to turning a position held by Bulgarians on Greek territory in the vicinity of Demirhissar. This "position" is now stated in Athens to have been "from five to fifty yards wide." The Bulgarian protest to the League of Nations states that orders were given to the Bulgarian frontier posts not to oppose the invasion by force, and apart from the Bulgarians said to have been near Demirhissar, the Greek *communiqué* makes no mention of any opposition encountered by the advancing Greek troops over their twenty-mile front. In spite of this fact Petritch, an open town, has been shelled by Greek artillery and Greek aeroplanes are said to have dropped bombs on a bridge.

The Balkan Bogey.

In judging Greece's conduct in the frontier incident, the determing factor in all such matters must not be overlooked. The Bulgarian bogey is still a thing to conjure with in the Balkan Peninsula, and not a single State can bring itself to regard Bulgaria as to all intents and purposes, when compared with her neighbours, a defenceless country. Consequently a report to the effect that Bulgarians are attacking Greek frontier posts is sufficient to cause intense excitement in Athens, where, with a military element predominating in the Cabinet, the first consideration will be the necessary military measures, as though war had actually broken out. It appears to be necessary to travel a long way from the Balkans to see Bulgaria as she in fact is, and to appreciate the folly of imagining that a country in her position, and possessing the military instinct shared by all the Balkan peoples, would in present circumstances seek a quarrel with one of her neighbours, much less indulge in an unprovoked attack. It is because this side of the question is so obvious in Western Europe, that the action of the Greek Government in ordering an immediate invasion of Bulgarian territory on a war footing as a result of a petty frontier episode is regarded as so inexplicable. Greece, having appealed to the League of Nations over the Corfu affair, might be expected to be more familiar than any other member of the League with Article 12 of the Covenant, by which she bound herself to submit any dispute likely to lead to a rupture to arbitration or to inquiry by the Council. Yet neither the Covenant nor the state of the drachma appears to have prompted the non-military section of the Government to warn its colleagues of the danger of spoiling a good case by mistaken action.

Politics in Greece.

Apart from the Macedonian complications the situation in Greece would show considerable improvement at the present time. The date of the elections has been fixed for March 7, and, although this is more than four months ahead, the objections raised by the Opposition to the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly without any reference to the date of the general election have been met. The Government has also shown strength in dealing with General Plastiras, who came to Athens, it is alleged, with the intention or in the hope of organising a movement in the Army against the Government. On his arrival in the capital he went into hiding and succeeded in eluding the authorities for a fortnight. He was, however, eventually run to earth, placed on board a destroyer, which at once sailed for Brindisi, and is now an exile. A more important development for Greece is the inclusion in the Pangalos Government of M. Kanakaris Roufos as Minister of Education. M. Roufos has always been a level-headed Royalist; he has suffered in his own person at the hands of his political opponents, but he is too loyal a son of Greece to allow personal feeling to tinge his policy for the promotion of his country's interests as a whole. His presence in the Cabinet should prove of advantage to Greece at this time, as his influence is not likely to be exercised in support of military adventures. It is rumoured that M. Rentis resigned his post of Foreign Minister because he found himself out of sympathy with the Government's action in Macedonia. The statement is vague, but it is to be hoped that it is not meant to imply that a more vigorous frontier policy was in contemplation before a Greek soldier was shot by a Bulgarian.

The Yugoslav Coalition.

In the letter from Yugoslavia that we published last week an interesting account was given of the attempts made in that country to exploit alleged differences between the two parties of the new Coalition Government. The ground has now been cut away from under the feet of the Opposition by an outspoken declaration on the part of M. Pashitch, who has hitherto maintained a baffling silence on the alliance concluded by his representatives with the Croat Peasant Party. Addressing his followers in the Radical Club last week, the Yugoslav Prime Minister put the seal on the Radical-Raditch coalition by effectually destroying the bridge which might have been regarded, from the attitude of the Opposition, as still keeping open for him communication with his former allies of the Democratic Party. He stated that, after having won over the Croat Peasant Party to the Serbian view of the Monarchy and the Vidovdan Constitution, he had tried to keep M. Pribitchevitch's Dissident Democrats in the Government; but, that, owing to the refusal of the Raditchists to work with them, he had had to choose between the two parties. He chose, therefore, a coalition with the Croats as offering a broader basis and one of greater importance for the country, and he had subsequently satisfied himself that any other course on his part would have been wrong. The session of the Skupshtina, which opened last week, thus begins under satisfactory auspices as far as the understanding between the two parties forming the Government is concerned, to the obvious advantage of the country.

The Syrian Rising.

Memories of the Iraq rising in 1920 will bespeak a large measure of sympathy for the French in their difficulties in Syria. Their first concern must be to restore peace and order, and until that has been done, their future policy has little chance of being considered. It should, however, be possible to let the Syrians know, if it is the case, that a more generous and effective measure of independence is in store for them, possibly on the lines of the new order in Iraq, as soon as normal conditions are re-established in the mandated territory. The extreme measure of exposing in a square in Damascus the dead bodies of insurgents—hardly worthy, it seemed at the time, of a mandatory Power—had an immediate and ugly sequel, when a revolt broke out in that city itself. Order was not restored until the southern quarter had been shelled by French artillery, and considerable damage, it is to be feared, will have been done to the historic city. Since then there has been an improvement in the general situation, and reports speak of an increasing number of surrenders. The system of inflicting fines immediately on the heels of the re-establishment of order in any town or village appears at first sight almost as unwise as the exposure of dead bodies. It suggests vindictiveness and a desire to impose penalties regardless of the circumstances of the rising in any given place. Such a policy, it would be thought, is calculated to prolong the insurrection rather than to assist the quelling of it.

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THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1925.

A FRONTIER INCIDENT.

The development of what ought to have been a relatively unimportant frontier incident into a matter of grave international concern is, it has to be regretfully admitted, possible only in the Balkans and Central America. As is invariably the case in these disputes, it is difficult, if not impossible, to arrive at the truth regarding the earliest stages in the conflict. All that is clear at the present moment is that a Bulgarian and a Greek sentry came within rifle shot of one another, and that the Greek was killed. The Greek versions have suffered from not having been more carefully "edited." The first announcement from Athens, which came through before any statement from Sofia, was to the effect that a Greek sentry had been killed in a general attack by Bulgarians on Greek outposts, and that a Greek captain, who advanced under a white flag to negotiate, was fired upon and killed. Now anyone familiar with frontier conditions and military usages was at once at a loss to understand how a Greek captain, probably the officer in command on the spot, came to advance in person with a white flag in order to parley with an invading force. Immediately afterwards came a Greek *communiqué* stating that it had been "established beyond doubt" that Bulgarian outposts opened fire without the slightest provocation against the Greek posts facing them, that the Bulgarians had premeditatedly concentrated disproportionate forces, and that they continued to fire after the Greeks had ceased fire, "killing the Greek captain in charge." This latter version clearly disposes of the alleged killing of the officer when advancing to parley with a white flag, and inferentially renders the whole of the first announcement suspect. Athens, no doubt, has done its best with a multiplicity of "jumpy" messages from the frontier, but beyond the reference to a general attack without provocation no attempt is made to carry the trouble back to the first beginnings. Now comes the Bulgarian version of a much more circumstantial nature. It states that in the afternoon of October 19, a Greek soldier crossed the frontier and fired on the Bulgarian sentry at the Demirkapu post; the sentry returned the fire and killed the Greek, who fell on Bulgarian territory. A Greek detachment thereupon advanced into Bulgarian territory to recover the body, and the Bulgarians opened fire upon them. From this point it is quite easy to accept the Greek evidence. Fighting became general in that particular section; the Bulgarians would have no difficulty in driving back the Greeks, and in doing so would inevitably cross the frontier. They would immediately be up against a superior force, which turned the tables on them and at once began an invasion of Bulgaria with proper military dispositions. In the mean time official communications were passing between Athens and Sofia, something like a "Corfu" demand was made by the Greek Government and the Greek troops were ordered to seize and hold Bulgarian territory until the demand should be satisfied.

One effect of Greece's action has in all probability been overlooked by the Greek Government. With the death of a Greek soldier, killed by a Bulgarian, whether on Bulgarian or Greek soil, it was a *prima facie* case against Bulgaria, who would have to clear herself of the charge of provocative action. As things now are, it is Greece who stands arraigned before the public opinion of Europe for a military invasion, in force with artillery, without a declaration of war. If by any chance it should be proved that the Greek soldier who was killed was the original aggressor, Greece may experience some difficulty in justifying her subsequent measures. From her own point of view it would have been so much more satisfactory to be able to produce an instance of unprovoked Bulgarian aggression and thereby to establish before the League of Nations the necessity—as she would have been able to put it—of still keeping a close watch on Bulgaria. What she has done, however, is to call attention to the powerlessness of Bulgaria, to the ease with which the weakest of her neighbours can march through the country virtually without encountering any real opposition, and to the hollowness of any protests from other Balkan States regarding "the Bulgarian danger." From a military point of view the Greek Government has provided an example of preparedness and staff efficiency; from the point of view of statesmanship it may find that it has failed conspicuously.

Judgment on the details of the incident, however, must be withheld until the Council of the League of Nations has disentangled the conflicting evidence. It will be strange indeed, if that body can show that the death of a single soldier was sufficient justification for all that has happened since. If the Council cannot show this, it follows that blame attaches to those on either side of the frontier who allowed a minor incident to develop to such tragic lengths. We are disinclined to accept either version of the first beginnings of the trouble, if only for the reason that it is difficult to understand how a Greek soldier —unless other incidents have preceded his action—can, singlehanded, advance into Bulgarian territory and court immediate death by opening fire, without rhyme or reason, on a Bulgarian post. If, however, he does, then provided that, as seems to have been the case, he was an indifferent marksman, it must always be better for Bulgarians, in their present circumstances to withold their own more accurate fire and to allow the aggressor, having exhausted his ammunition, to withdraw across the frontier. In this Belishitza incident it was foolish on the part of the Bulgarians to oppose by force the Greek attempt to recover the body of the soldier who had been killed, if that is what actually happened. The Bulgarian Government knows, or ought to know, that nothing is more to be avoided by Bulgaria to-day than the risk of friction with any of her neighbours, and very definite orders on this point ought to be given to all frontier posts. Even if the Council of the League of Nations finds in the main in favour of Bulgaria, it would be well if strong disciplinary measures were taken by the Sofia Government against those in authority along the frontier who were the means of exposing their country to inevitable reprisals. Whatever the Council's verdict on the score of responsibility may be, it is to be hoped that it will be able to establish that the incident was nothing more than a petty frontier affray that was allowed to develop into military operations. Thereby it will dispose of the various attempts made to exaggerate the importance of the incident by representing it as having nefarious designs behind it. On the one hand it has been alleged that the frontier conflict, following on the heels of the resignation of M. Rentis, who as Foreign Minister, was credited with a desire to improve Greco-Bulgarian relations, was part of a deep-laid scheme to embroil the two countries; in other quarters, the usual hint at Bolshevist intrigue is hazarded. Those acquainted with conditions in Macedonia will require to have very clear evidence of other forces at work before they abandon the simple explanation of frontier nerves and the absence of level-headed and experienced officers.

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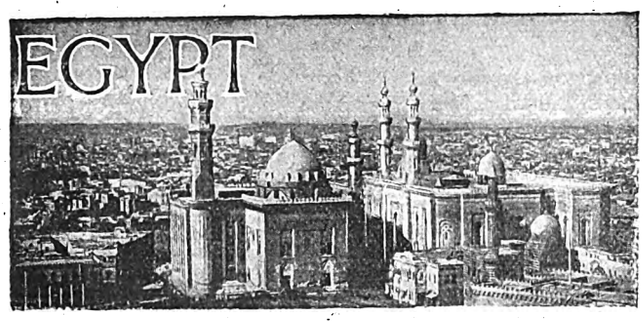
The Near and Middle East*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, October 17.

Government Officials as Political Agents.

The Opposition Press, by which I mean the non-Ittehadist Press, are making much political capital out of the report which the Controller General of the Ittehadist Party submitted to its President on the subject of increasing the assistance which the administrative machinery is giving in the furtherance of the interests of the Party. Obviously an "indiscretion" has been committed by someone in the inner circles of the Ittehadist Party, for the report was certainly never intended for publication.

But although it confirms the complaints reiterated for some time by the Opposition Press at the manner in which Ittehadist adherents are beaten up, the other parties have really no just ground for complaining at the Ittehadists' making use of the administrative machinery, since the latter are merely following the illustrious example set them in this respect by their various predecessors in office. Where the Opposition might arouse sympathy is in regard to the extent to which administrative pressure is being brought to bear, for if only half what one hears is true the situation in the provinces in this respect is even worse than under the Wafd régime.

Egypt and the Hejaz.

A very interesting report has been published this week by the Mission under the Grand Cadi, which King Fuad sent to the Hejaz for the purpose of effecting a settlement between Sultan Ibn Saoud and King Ali. The Mission confirms that several buildings regarded as sacred have been destroyed or damaged by the Wahhabis, that the population of the Hejaz, particularly that of Jeddah, has become much reduced in numbers and its condition very precarious, and Ibn Saoud, while abstaining from attacking Jeddah since he believes it will fall into his hands without a fight and he does not, moreover, want to harm the European residents, categorically refuses to withdraw from the Holy Cities so long as King Ali or any of his family remain in the Hejaz.

The report contains an interesting proposal said to have been made by Ibn Saoud that King Fuad should summon a Conference of delegates from the Moslem countries interested in the Hejaz which would arrange for the evacuation of that country by both Ibn Saoud and the Hashimite family and for the holding of a plebiscite among the Hejaz people for the election of a non-Hashimite guardian for the Holy Places who would administer them under the direction of what would be a League of Moslem Nations. This proposal has so far not aroused much comment in the local Press, but it is interesting to note that in certain Moslem circles it is regarded as a step in the propaganda in favour of King Fuad as Caliph.

The Fall in Cotton.

The fall in cotton prices has considerably perturbed the land-owning element, and pressure is being brought to bear on the Government to intervene on the local cotton market in manner similar to its actions in previous years. If this year the Government does intervene it will once again be because it has had to bow to political pressure, for in face of the present condition of the world's cotton supply no economic considerations whatever could possibly justify such intervention.

The Egyptian Tribute Loans.

The appeal from the decision of the Cairo Mixed Court of First Instance in the case brought against the Egyptian Government by Messrs. Rothschild on behalf of the Egyptian Tribute bondholders will come before the Alexandria Mixed Court of Appeal at the end of this month. It will be remembered that the Cairo Court, considering that the Egyptian Government had received consideration for its engagement to pay the annual Tribute service, decided the case in favour of the bondholders, and it is the Egyptian Government who have appealed against this decision. It has been stated in certain usually well-informed quarters that the Government lawyers intend as a last resort to argue that the decision to cease payment was an act of sovereignty which the Mixed Courts are not competent to deal with. This would appear to be an ill-considered line of defence, since it is calculated yet further to damage the moral position in the eyes of the world of the Egyptian Government, which still has a public debt of some eighty to ninety millions.

PICTURES OF THE EAST.

The exhibition of water-colours which Mr. R. H. Kitson is now holding at the Galleries of the Fine Art Society, Bond Street, W., is entitled: "India and Elsewhere," the "elsewhere" being for the most part North Africa and Italy. From the traveller's point of view there is considerable interest in this gay show; one is switched in an instant from typical scenes in Benares, Jodhpur, or Madura, to equally typical scenes in Luxor, Kairouan, or Meknes. Mr. Kitson's colours are lively yet not overdone, and his works in general wear a cultured aspect.

But from the artistic point of view, everything is not so satisfactory. An objective attitude towards things Indian and African has been indulged not, as one feels, because it is more correct, but because of the artist's inability to "get inside" the subjects of his drawing. Thus there is a certain monotony both in detail and in sum, which inhibits our realising, for instance, the heat of his sketch of Aden, the quiet of his Moroccan mosques, the silence of his deserted Jodhpur palace. It is as if he has but touched and represented the edge of things; but should not an artist be a seer as well as a spectator? To visit and to represent India and Africa is, however, what Mr. Kitson sets out to do, and it is impossible to deny him this success.

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY

October 29, 1925 (New Style).
October 16, 1925 (Old Style).
Rabia II, 11, 1344 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Sheshvan 11, 5686, of the Jewish Calendar.

Mr. Ronald Firbank has left Arcachon for Cairo.

Sir Oswald Bosanquet will leave for India in December, instead of this month.

Sir Archibald and Lady Weigall have returned to 41, Berkeley Square to-day from Petwood.

The Afghan Minister, who has recently been on the Continent, has returned to London.

Viscountess Inchcape is due to return to London to-morrow from Glenapp Castle, Ballantrae.

Lady Vaughan has left Marseilles for India to join Major-General Sir Louis Vaughan at Rawal Pindi.

Colonel Bertram Romilly sailed in the Narkunda last Friday for Egypt, to take up an appointment under the Egyptian Government.

The Prince of Wales received at St. James's Palace on October 23, Sir Hugh Clifford (Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Ceylon).

The Roumanian Minister will leave London for the United States on October 31 on an official mission. He will be accompanied by Mme. Titulesco.

M. Nicolas Mishu, Second Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, will leave London on December 1 for the Continent, on relinguishing his post at the Legation.

Colonel and Mrs. Selby Lowndes and Miss Greenlees have left Laggan House, Speyside, and have arrived at Whaddon Hall, Bucks, till the end of January, when they leave for Egypt.

Mr. M. Dizengoff, the first Mayor of the Jewish township of Tel-Aviv, Palestine, who is on a visit to London, called on the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House last Friday to offer a tribute of friendship.

Sir Richard and Lady Gull left London last Friday for Colombo. They sailed in the Narkunda, in which Sir Frederick and Lady Jackson were passengers to Port Said.

The Indian Empire Club will hold dances at the Hyde Park Hotel on November 7, and 21, and December 5 and 19, and a children's party, also at the Hyde Park Hotel, on December 30.

Mrs. P. A. F. Stephenson, whose paintings of Palestine were exhibited two years ago in London, is now showing, at the Alpine Gallery, Conduit Street, W., some fresh works which she did in the Holy Land this year.

General Sir Walter Congreve, V.C., and Lady Congreve left London last Saturday for Malta. They are sailing in the British India Company's motor-ship Dumana, in which the Hon. Mrs. McClintock is also a passenger.

Sesostris Sidarouss Bey, the Egyptian Chargé d'Affaires in London, left on Sunday for Paris, where he is representing the Egyptian Government at the Central Council of International Travel, which met on October 27, and the days following.

Field-Marshal Lord Allenby was given a civic welcome at Deal Town Hall on October 20, and was presented with an illuminated address by the Mayor and Corporation, to mark his new appointment as Captain of Deal Castle. He and Viscountess Allenby have taken up their residence at Deal Castle.

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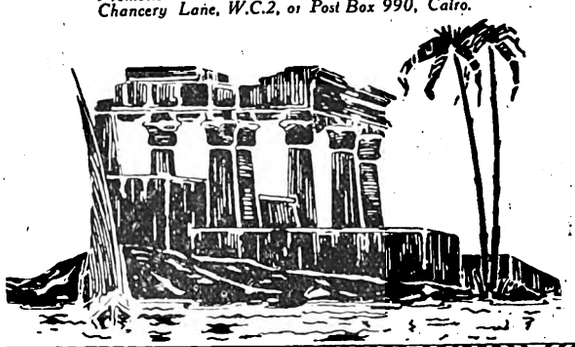

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Income-Tax.

The words of politicians again occupy a considerable space in the newspapers, and, it must be confessed, in the thoughts of normal citizens, but of the speeches delivered last week, none was read with greater attention than that of Mr. Churchill, at the Colchester Oyster Feast. Without doubt, the interpretation placed by most people upon the speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer is that next year we shall be re-burdened with that sixpence in the income-tax which this year we had been mercifully, but, as it may appear, prematurely, spared. Whereat there are much shaking of heads and gnashing of teeth.

The only hope of an averting of this evil seems to lie in the accomplishment of the Prime Minister's Economy Committee, but the difficulty in this matter comes from the fact that armaments, on which alone most observers see the possibility of a reduction in expenditure, are expressly excluded from the Committee. It is a curious and almost unique sense of humour that enables Mr. Winston Churchill, whose optimism in regard to general trade conditions is almost unbounded and is even dogmatically stated, to speak jestingly about the future of the income-tax: for it is the last thing in which the Englishman will see any fun.

The Party-System.

Of less immediate, but possibly of more lasting, importance, with the Rectorial Address on the Party-System by Viscount Cecil of Chelwood last week to Aberdeen University. As is well known, Lord Cecil has a much more independent mind than most politicians, and it might have been thought that he, who is alive to most modern movements, would have something profound to say in exposing the abuses and in explaining the uses of the British party-system. And yet it is difficult to recognise, at any rate from the newspaper reports of his speech, that he is aware of the deep contempt in which the party-system is now held by many thinking men. It is, in fact, precisely because of the contempt in which the party-system and parliamentarism generally have fallen that students have turned with unusual eagerness to the anti-partliamentary endeavours that have since the War been made in Russia and in Italy —students, that is, to whom the excesses of Sovietism and of Fascism imply condemnation but not utter condemnation.

However, Viscount Cecil did express, with admirable clearness, the menace to the future of popular government which was inherent in the modern habit of the Member of Parliament of voting, not always in accordance with his private conviction, but always in accordance with the dictates of the party. (Incidentally, he seems to have made no reference to the suppliers of the party funds—those men who are now commonly assumed to be the "dictators" of the Party.) To this objection he replied, in characteristic English fashion, that a certain self-abnegation and practice of compromise are necessary to secure stability in Government. And then he came to the core of his speech: how much freedom could be conceded to the supporters of a Government without seriously impairing its efficiency?

Partial answer was made in a plea for the restoration of reality in parliamentary debates. Viscount Cecil obviously does not like the way in which, through the dictates of the party in unessential matters, the whole authority of Parliament is being undermined. "In a few years' time," he said—and his words are worth remembering not only by members of his own party, but by all—"independence in Opposition may be as difficult as it is now for a Ministerialist. I wish I could think that the change will make for a better and more public-spirited House of Commons. I am afraid the opposite result is far more probable."

It is to be remembered that the ills and the dangers of parliamentary rottenness and corruption of which Viscount Cecil spoke are mostly the product of this century. Before the War they were to be seen, for example, in the Marconi affair (in the making public of which Viscount Cecil played no mean part); and since the War, though corruption may have decreased, it is impossible to say that public confidence in the honour of our statesmen and politicians has been complete. And, as the Rector said, "without that confidence Parliamentary government cannot be carried on. Nay, the party-system itself must become rotten and decayed."

Liberal Hopes.

I was talking the other day to a lifelong and informed Liberal about the impossibility of ever really healing the Asquith-Lloyd George breach. He agreed, as I, who knew him immensely to admire Lord Oxford, was certain he would. But, he added to my surprise, "the only thing for Liberals to do now is to get behind Lloyd George and shove as hard as they can. Asquith doesn't count; the Radical Group doesn't count; L. G. is the only one who cuts any ice."

That I give for what it is worth: it certainly is not my view. There is, however, unquestionably a revival of hopes in Liberal quarters, hopes inspired not only by the return to form of Lord Oxford and of Mr. Lloyd George, but by a belief in a general return by the country to a broad kind of liberalism—not a definite political Liberalism, but a wider feeling that stands in a centre position midway, say, between the anti-Communism of the less constructive Tories and the Socialism of the more thorough-going Labours.

In London it is true that, compared with the Liberals, the Tories are tranquillity itself. The London Liberal Candidates' Association is holding lectures this winter to explain the Liberal point of view, whereas the Tories here appear to rely almost wholly on their not too reliable newspapers. If one's political beliefs were merely a matter of political intelligence——!

According to Lord Oxford, who a few days ago reviewed the whole political situation, the Liberal Party is in a good way. On foreign matters he did, it is true, shower praise upon the present Government—Mr. Austen Chamberlain is in disfavour in extremely few quarters at the moment—but on home affairs he had little of encouragement to say to the other two Parties. Of the Labour Party he significantly said that Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's formal excommunication of the Communists from the Labour Party was by no means the end of the matter, and, turning to the Conservative Party, he amused his hearers by referring to its relations with Communism as "pathological." Nor did this Party's relations with the Political Levy and Protection afford any encouraging thought for its future. And in a finely-worded peroration he confessed himself in regard to England generally, an incorrigible (not, as Mr. Churchill, a rollicking) optimist.

The trouble is, however, that Lord Oxford is not the Liberal Party . . . .

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Prayer-Book Revision.

The Bishops were in session last week for the purpose of considering the revision of the Prayer-Book, but on the only day upon which their deliberations were open to the public it could be seen at once that a long time must elapse before anything can be done. And, in fact, it is desirable that it should be so; for very large doctrinal issues are involved. The importance of the subject can be gauged from the fact that the Archbishop of Canterbury had received over 800 memorials on the subject, most of which have been assumed to favour the keeping of the Prayer-Book inviolate.

The truth of it now is that the ordinary member of the Church, looking upwards for authority, cannot find it. The Bishops are sadly at variance, and the difficulty of their ever arriving at a unanimous decision is reflected in the compromise, made last week, by which parish committees are given the option of making use of the new provisions. It is largely this lack of authority which is making an increasing number of Anglicans turn for authority to a wider Catholicism than they can find in the National Church. Such hunters for truth are dissatisfied, and turn bewilderedly to diocesan eccentricities and individual extravangances or indulgences, and, indeed, the absence of order and of constitutional government in the Church is patent even to the outside observer.

What is perhaps insufficiently realised is that the Bishops in their present resolutions are, as the Bishop of Winchester said, legislating for posterity. It is not merely to get the present generation out of the perilous pass into which it has fallen, but to guide aright the Churchmen of the next century. When, therefore, one considers the historical nature of the present affair, it is easier to see how largely it revolves around the question of another historical affair—the Reformation. Anglo-Catholics, who were stated in the *Outlook* last week to be "by far the strongest body in the Church, both in numbers and in energy," look for the most part unkindly on the Reformation, whereas other Churchmen regard it almost as their bed-rock foundation. Each year, each month even, brings nearer to a fight the respective holders of these two views.

ALTER EGO.

THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT.

We regret that, acting on the advice of his medical advisors, the Duke of Connaught, who left last Monday for the South of France, will not be able to be present at the formal opening, next January, of the Makwar Dam. It is hoped that his place will be taken by the Duke of York.

THE CENTRAL ASIAN SOCIETY.

Under the auspices of the Central Asian Society, Lt.-Colonel W. G. Grey will lecture on November 12, on "Recent Persian History"; and on November 26, Captain F. Kingdon Ward will speak on "Through the Gorge of the Tsang-Po." Both these lectures, which are to be illustrated with lantern slides, will be given at the Royal United Services Institution, and will begin at 5 p.m.

THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

Under the auspices of the Royal Asiatic Society, Mr. C. Skrine will, on November 10, at 4.30 p.m., read a paper on "Folklore and Poetry at Kashgar." The lecture, which will be illustrated with lantern slides, will be given at 74, Grosvenor Street.

THE PERSIA SOCIETY.

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BOOK REVIEWS.

ARABIA UNDER AMERICAN EYES.

"THE ARAB AT HOME." By Paul W. Harrison. Illustrated. (London: Hutchinson, 15s. net).

The fact that the author of this book, Dr. Harrison, was for fourteen years the medical missionary representative in Arabia of the Trinity Reformed Church of Plainfield, N.J., may or may not induce one at once to read his description of the peoples for whom missionary work in Arabia is being done, but any possible hesitation will, fortunately, be dispelled immediately when it is seen that the dedication of the book is to "Abdul Aziz bin Saoud, Abdullah bin Selouee, and Abdur Rahman bin Sualim, *three of my best friends.*" For it is impossible that any writer who can boast of the friendship of the ruler of Nejd, of the Governor of Katif, and of the Governor of Hasa, does not know what he is talking about, and has not something of value to communicate to a world all too ignorant of the first home of one of the world's greatest religions.

We would not imply that Dr. Harrison has written a great book: he has not. His extraordinarly interesting volume is really neither one thing nor the other; it is neither a book of travel, nor of pure description, nor of religious or political or social survey. It is a jumbled, rambling, at times repetitive work, with little common thread but that of patent love of his task: it is at once elementary and unique. But we would also say, and more gladly, that it is in effect an indispensable work to the student of Arabian affairs, an extremely useful work to the general student of Islam, and of very certain interest to the ordinary intelligent reader. Quite surely it merits a large sale among discerning readers in the West.

Dr. Harrison's most informing chapters concern the eastern side of the Arabian Peninsula, which he knows better than most Europeans can know it. From Basrah to Oman, in fact, he has enjoyed, and benefited from, experiences that can have fallen to the lot of few white men. He has, moreover, penetrated into Mesopotamia, and, more valuably, into the Wahhabi State of Central Arabia. Upon such journeyings he has built up his very considerable knowledge of "the Arab at Home."

In part he succumbs to the temptation of regaling, for the instruction of the American reader, some ordinary stories of the prowess and amazing ways of the Arab, but he generally falls into describing his actual experiences. First, he pictures the Bedouin of the desert, for whom he has a most laudable admiration. Yet he does not fail in being judicial. After explaining the magnificent hospitality of the Bedouin, he points out that the natural beauties of the desert make no appeal to the Bedouin. The beauty of their life springs from the absolute equality that reigns among them—and elsewhere he remarks justly that of all rulers in the world a tribal sheikh is, for all his absolute powers, probably the most responsive to the popular will. This—his writing upon the Bedouin Arab—is really the core of his book, so that one may quote his estimate of the lineal descendants of those who flung wide the line of conquering Islam:—

> If the Bedouin were a symbol-loving Oriental, he would worship the desert. Being rather a practical and materialistic Semitic, he worships the God of the desert. Mohammedanism is little more than the Bedouin mind projected into the realm of religion. The Arab faces God as he faces the desert.

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From which it will be seen how widely accepted among Western observers of Islam are Servier's notions of its essence.

The oasis community, which is naturally the centre of desert life, is then described. Naturally here the raising of dates and alfalfa is the main concern, but Dr. Harrison has written very interestingly upon the weavers, the tailors, the coppersmiths, and so on, of the oasis towns. And the respective advantages of desert and of oasis life are admirably summed up. The chapter upon the pearl divers of the East coast is, again, fascinatingly made, full of out-of-the-way knowledge, and written with no avoidance of unpleasant fact. It is gratifying to note that the author can say of these unfortunate divers that they "have much for which to thank Great Britain, although they do not realize it, much less appreciate it." Even more informative than this, however, is the chapter upon "The Mountain District of Oman." Most of the Omanese are date producers settled in the irrigated valleys and the land between the mountains and the sea, and their prosperity when all commerce depended upon Arab sailing vessels must have been great indeed—which fact is sufficiently illustrated by the history of Muscat. That prosperity appears to have left its mark in the easy-going nature of the people of Oman, for, as the author humorously remarks:—"There is more obesity in Oman than in all the rest of the peninsula put together." The place has certain interesting peculiarities. For instance, the women here have mosques of their own to worship in, and many of them can read. Altogether, there appears to Dr. Harrison to be more hope for future progress in Oman than anywhere else in Arabia.

In dealing with places like Mesopotamia and those parts, e.g., the Hejaz, of Arabia which he has not visited, Dr. Harrison lets slip certain generalisations which will not be universally accepted. One wonders, for example, whether he forgot the neighbourhood of Medina when saying that Shiah ideas have never penetrated deeply into inland Arabia, and on what grounds he states that all the British officers in Iraq are Tories, and that in Iraq the British ruler is loved by the rich and disliked by the poor. For the most part, however, he is obviously fair to the British experiment in Iraq, and pays a splendid testimony to the work of the British in the Middle East. And there is certainly no need to quarrel, even if one does not wholly agree, with his explanation of what the Turk might have done for Mesopotamia and of what he may yet do if the alien system that at present dominates Mesopotamia does, as the author suggests, in time fall away.

It is when writing upon "The Arab Sheikh" that Dr. Harrison explains the character of his three dedicatees. One likes his keen admiration for men whose fanaticism against his own religion must at least be as strong as fanaticism can be. Of Ibn Saoud he says:—"A man who can unite the warring tribes of Arabia as they have hardly been united since the days of Mohammed himself, and who can administer his country so well that property has trebled in value, is a real leader. He is more than that. He is one of the world's born kings." Of Ibn Sualim, Governor of Katif, he relates that when he returned to Riyadh after an absence of several years, he begged Ibn Saoud to let him stay there. "He actually broke down and wept in his ruler's presence as he thought of leaving again his much-loved city and open desert that is part of every inland Arab's life. But when his chief told him that there was no one else to send, he returned without a murmur." And another lieutenant whose loyalty to the great Wahhabi leader is amazing is the powerful Ibn Selouee, Governor of Hasa. This utterly pitiless and completely devoted man has an entire sway over Eastern Arabia, and "is the embodiment of an ideal Arab ruler devoted to the interests of his chief and to those of the community he rules."

We have indicated, in something of the disjointed and meandering fashion of the author of this book, some of the points to which he makes special reference. With his capital object, however—the exposition of the Arab Society for the benefit of Western Christianising opinion—we do not propose here to deal. It is a controversial subject. Inevitably there will be two opinions about the desirability of bringing the Arabs within the orbit of Christendom, and possibly more than two about the possibility of it. Dr. Harrison, indeed, although his faith is strong, appears to have his doubts. One of the passages which do much credit to his lucidity and to the breadth of his view is as follows:—

> If it is true that Mohammedanism is a mixture of a powerful religious system and a weak political system, we shall probably discover that the removal of its political elements by the suzerainty of alien Powers, far from being a hindrance, will eventually prove to be the painful amputation of a serious handicap and will greatly increase its potency as a religious system.

But, as is right, the author ends upon a note of Protestant optimism. He believes that by the force of Christian example in Arabia, a sufficient proportion of Arab society will be converted as to provide for the whole Peninsula "a new ideal of personal and family and community life." And of his very American dream, we would without comment record it:—"Arabia will take her place in the great brotherhood of nations, one of the most richly endowed of them all." To those who would cynically rub their eyes at this we would say: "Go read the book, and after that, if you will, disagree. At any rate, you will be a much wiser man."

INDIA IN STORY.

"SCENES AND CHARACTERS FROM INDIAN HISTORY." By C. H. Payne. (Oxford University Press. 6s. net.)

In this pleasant, and pleasantly cheap, little book, Mr. Payne gives us a selection of sketches of India made by a variety of writers, ranging from Plutarch to Tavernier, with enough notes to enable modern readers to understand the text. The ground covered by the book is thus extensive, and it is characteristic of the conditions of Indian historical study that all the authors are foreigners. To read the experiences of Alexander the Great, we must turn to the Greeks; for Harsha of Kanauj, we depend on a Chinese pilgrim; for Vijayanagar, the last of the great Hindu empires, we are given the artless narrative of a Persian ambassador. Portuguese writers tell us of Calicut; Babur describes one of his own military operations; while Du Jarrie and Tavernier are the sources for Mogul affairs, along with Firishta, the one writer who might possibly be classed as an Indian, though he was born on the shores of the Caspian. Finally, an Englishman describes a visit to Sivaji, and describes it very badly indeed. The weakest point of the book is the tendency to rely on translations of translations. The Chinese narrative comes through French, and that of Babur through Persian, a process which involves misspelling the hero's name as Babar, while Du Jarrie's French is based on missionary reports, most of which are extant, in Latin, Italian, or Portuguese. Translation is in any case a difficult art, and re-translation has pitfalls of its own, so that we think it would have been fairer to readers to go direct to the originals, particularly in the case of the missionaries, whose first-hand descriptions, naive as they often are, have a much finer flavour than Du Jarrie's compilation. As regards the general effect of the book, we should say that, taken by itself, it presents a picture of India so partial as to be misleading. It shows us, indeed, the India of tradition, the captains and the kings and the saints: we hope Mr. Payne will see his way to give us a companion volume showing how Indians in the mass lived and suffered through the centuries, and that in doing so he will make use of the Dutch narratives which the present selection ignores.

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Indian Affairs.

THE NATIONALIST COALITION.

About three weeks ago, cabled news from India said that the agreement between the Swaraj and Independent Parties in the Legislative Assembly, to resign their seats *en bloc* and to seek re-election, as a protest against the rejection, by the Council of State, of their joint amendment to the Government resolution on the Reforms, bade fair to become an accomplished fact. In accordance with a rather irritating practice that is not uncommon, the fact that this agreement had broken down, does not seem to have been thought worth cabling; but newspapers to hand by this mail show that this is what has happened. More than a mere failure to reach agreement, in fact: for the breakdown of the agreement has led to spirited recriminations between the leaders of the two parties.

Mr. Jinnah, the Independent leader, is credited with having persuaded Pandit Motilal Nehru, the leader of the Swarajists, to father the Nationalist amendment, though this, in fact, advocated the programme of the Independents rather than that of the Swarajists: indeed, in the course of his speech when moving it, the Pandit said that, had the amendment been drawn so as to express the Swarajist view alone, it would have been different. Mr. Jinnah, having got the Swarajists to accept, and to assist him to pass, his own amendment, proposed to the Swarajists that they should demand the dissolution of the Assembly, or, as an alternative, offer the wholesale resignation of the members of both parties, as a means of showing that "the country" approved of their programme and disapproved of the action of the Council of State in rejecting it. The Independents, whose influence with the electors had been, and remained, a personal one, felt sure of re-election; but the rank and file of the Swarajists, whose influence was, in most cases, not personal, but merely consisted in the fact that they stood as candidates accepted, or rather nominated, by the Swaraj Party, began, after the first flush of enthusiasm had passed, to feel doubtful of their prospects at the polls. Thus, as the Simla correspondent of the Calcutta *Statesman* phrases it, seeing that their attempted heroism had already been aired and discussed in the Press, they needs must find a way out of their difficulty, and that without loss of prestige. Accordingly Pandit Motilal Nehru has stepped into the breach with two explanations, either of which the public is at liberty to accept. The first is, that he agreed to follow Mr. Jinnah if the latter could assure him that all the Independent members were unanimous in consenting to resign: and that Mr. Jinnah had been unable to give him such an assurance. The second is that, having thought the matter over, he had decided against immediate resignation: preferring "to give the Viceroy and the Secretary of State two or three months' law, lest blame should rest on the members of the Legislative Assembly on the ground that they did not give the authorities time enough to mend." The Swarajist Press appears to have ignored the second explanation and to have concentrated on the first: asserting that the Independent leader made the proposal and, when it was accepted, then backed out. The Independents, including Mr. Jinnah himself, declare that it is the Swarajists who, after accepting the proposal, have fallen victims to an attack of cold feet and have refused to fulfil their promise of support. The *Bombay Chronicle* attacks the Independents on the ground on which they feel themselves most secure, and warns them of wrath to come: "if they follow their old policy of middle-bargains and expediency, they will have as little chance of soaring up at the next General Election as a crippled sparrow in a sand-storm": a threat at which they are not in the least dismayed.

The dispute is only another example of the difficulty experienced by the Nationalist combine—a difficulty common to all coalitions—of avoiding differences when the dust of action clears away sufficiently to allow for sober reflection. Differences may be patched up over and over again, but their fundamental existence remains: and the ill-assorted union of Swarajists and Independents, which has lately suffered two such severe blows as the capture of the Congress by the former, to the virtual extinction of the latter, and the present interchange of rather acrimonious recriminations between the two leaders, is unlikely to persist for long. If it were not so, the outlook would be a good deal darker than it is; for, so long as the union exists, the Government of India is faced by a solid opposition able to defeat it at will, and determined to use its power on every occasion of importance. It is true that the Government pursues the even tenour of its way, apparently quite unconcerned at its constant defeats in the Assembly and at the prospect of the ultimate stale-mate which must result from their continuance; but this detached attitude, which is ascribed, by the Indian Press, to the bureaucracy's supercilious readiness to "flout the demands of the country," is probably really due to the realisation that the Nationalist coalition is already showing evident signs of impending disruption, the final occurrence of which cannot be much longer delayed. The next general election is only a year off; and, when it comes, there is good ground for thinking that a number of the undistinguished Swarajist members of the Assembly, whose sole claim on the continued suffrages of the electors will be the prestige of the Swaraj Party, may find themselves doing the "crippled sparrow in a sand-storm" act, rather than the Independents. The Swaraj Party's lavish promises at the last election remain unfulfilled: and its prestige is likely to prove a broken reed to candidates who have nothing else on which to lean. It may well be that the rupture in the coalition will occur before then; but, if not, it seems pretty certain that it will take place, and irremediably, at the next general election.

CURRENT TOPICS.

Civil Service Examinations.

The "list of acceptances" which, in last week's issue, we expressed a desire to see, reached us too late for inclusion in that number. It makes encouraging reading. In the original announcement by the Civil Services Commissioners, it was stated that the number of candidates who offered themselves for the I.C.S. alone was 64, 47 of whom were Indians: and that 55 others (Europeans) had included the I.C.S. among their choices, as alternative to the Home or Colonial Service, or both. There was also at least one—there may have been more—who entered for the I.C.S. as well as the Consular Service: for one such name appeared in the list of the first 20 who passed for the I.C.S. Thus, according to that announcement, at least 73 European candidates offered themselves for the I.C.S., 17 of whom gave it as their sole choice. Some wizard seems to have taken three (or more) rabbits out of one hat and put two into the other; for the present announcement is that the total European entry was 70, of whom 19 entered for the I.C.S. alone.

However this may be, the increase in European candidates is not less striking than that in European recruitment. The statement shows that, during the years 1921-24, the average number of Europeans who included the I.C.S. among their choices was 21, and the average number appointed was five. The numbers this year are 70 (or more) and 21, respectively. The statement also speaks of candidates who selected "the Home Service or an Eastern Cadetship as the second or third strings to the bow"; but here it is, perhaps, not on such firm ground. Under the old dispensation, candidates were invited to specify their choices in order of preference: and, in those days, among the hundreds of candidates who sat for the Civil Service Examination, the great majority used to write down I.H.C.—Indian, Home, Colonial. Later, the sequence became H.I C.: and, still later, H.C.I.: until, of late years, it threatened to become exclusively H.C. One may hope that, in years to come, it will revert to I.H.C.; but there will be a long way to go before India becomes the "first string." This is to be seen from a comparison of the final list with the original list of the first twenty

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successful candidates. Of the twelve Europeans who figured in the latter, eight had also passed for the Home or Colonial Service—or both; and, of these eight names, only two remain in the final list. Of those who had alternative choices, therefore, three rejected the I.C.S. for one who selected it: so that one is justified in supposing that, though the threatened stage of H.C. has been saved, that now reached is only H.C.I.

But the detailed list of the schools and colleges at which the successful European candidates were educated certainly justifies the statement, made in the present announcement, that the large increase in recruitment has been secured without any reduction of the high pre-War level of academic attainment. Of the 21 successful Europeans, eight were educated at well-known public schools; and the Universities from which they entered the Service were Oxford and Cambridge (eight each), Dublin (two), and one each from London, Aberdeen, and Birmingham.

Lord Reading at the United Service Club.

The United Service Club dinner to a retiring Viceroy is a well-established Simla function. It always used to be an entirely informal gathering, at which the guest of the evening was able to speak his mind among friends, with "no reporters present." The lengthy report of Lord Reading's reply to the toast of his health shows that this pleasant custom has, like many others, now passed: and that the occasion served for a Viceregal oration addressed to the world in general. The United Services, in the person of the military President of the Club, paid a public tribute to the Viceroy's work: and the Viceroy returned the compliment to their civil element. "And a right good Captain too." "You're very very good, and be it understood, I command a right good crew." Lord Reading's speech followed familiar lines. The wave of pessimism, which had led to the introduction of the proportionate pension scheme, had passed; untimely resignations had ceased, and recruitment was looking up: having definitely embarked on a policy of extensive Indianisation, the Government of India needed fewer Englishmen, but the need for quality was more insistent; and, if England could be got to understand the work that lies before Englishmen in India, her appeal would be as effective now as it had been in the past. In paying a tribute to the work of English members of the Indian Civil Service, Lord Reading made one point that has, perhaps, been insufficiently stressed before. He said that he was profundly impressed by their capacity to shoulder responsibility and to come to important decisions on their own initiative: so successfully was this done that it often passed unnoticed—not only was superior authority not invoked, but it often remained unaware of what had been done.

The President of the Club—described, in all the reports appearing in England, as Sir Edward Atkinson, though a man whose Christian name is Edwin is doubtless used to that—must, like Rawdon Crawley, and possibly for a similar reason, have been quite amazed at his own facility of composition: and his audience probably shared his amazement. The first time that General "At" was elected President of the Club, he fled away on tour rather than face the ordeal of a set speech at some similar function; but his audience must have been more than patient and no less than wakeful as they listened to the rounded periods in which he expressed the gratitude of "lesser folk" to the man whom he epigrammatically described as "our patient and wakeful Viceroy."

The New Congress President.

A cable from India announces that Mrs. Sarojini Naidu has been elected President of the next annual session of the Indian National Congress, which is to be held at Cawnpore during Christmas week. This is the second time, during the forty odd years of its existence, that the Congress has elected a woman as President—Mrs. Besant held the office in 1917. Mrs. Naidu is a poetess of some distinction, who has, for a long time past, been prominently identified with the extremer form of Indian politics. Her maiden name was Chattopadyaya—a modern "Nationalist" variant of the more familiar Chatterjee—and she is sister of a notorious Indian revolutionary who has lately been dividing his activities between Scandinavia, Russia, and Germany.

The latter—familiarly known as "Chatto"—was the chief rival of the even more notorious M. N. Roy, at the time that the Bolshevists started their Indian organisation. All the prominent Indian revolutionaries in Europe were summoned to Moscow, where an attempt was made to combine them into a united party—the "Communist Party of India"; which, though it would at first necessarily be "in partibus," would, it was hoped, eventually extend its activities to India itself. But the "prominent Indian revolutionaries," realising that there was money in the business and that the lion's share would fall to the man put in charge of it, were all ready to accept the role of leader, but not that of follower. Roy was finally elected, whereupon "Chatto" started a party of his own, the chief feature in which was an Indian Students' Bureau in Berlin, which—though not the names of its organisers—was extensively advertised in the Indian vernacular Press. It professed to be a sort of inquiry office for Indian students coming to Germany, where they could receive assistance in the matter of finding lodgings, obtaining entrance into German universities, and so on; but it also included—a feature not mentioned in the advertisements—a meeting-room in which lectures were delivered by prominent Indian revolutionaries in Germany. At the time that the first great depreciation of the mark took place, Chatto's Bureau backed its appeal for recruits by ingenious calculations showing that an Indian who arrived with a thousand rupees, could, by changing his capital into marks on his arrival, live comfortably during the years of his University training and, at their conclusion, by which time the mark would "inevitably" have regained parity, still have enough left to return to India at least a hundred times richer than he started. When the mark went to over eighteen billions, and packets of newspapers, posted in Germany, began to reach India franked by not one, but several, stamps overprinted "ten milliards of marks," this appeal was somewhat discounted: and the Bureau got into financial difficulties.

Mrs. Naidu is credited with disapproval of her brother's more extreme activities; but, among extremist politicians in India, she ranks with the most advanced. She is a particularly strenuous advocate of communal unity, of which cult she is herself a practical exponent, since the catholicity of her personal friendships embraces all creeds alike.

The Lawrence Statue.

A cable from Lahore reports the mutilation of the statue of Lord Lawrence—an unexpected recrudescence of an agitation that caused a momentary sensation a year or so ago. After the annexation of the Punjab in 1849, it was at first governed by a Board of Administration, which was abolished in 1853 by the appointment of a Chief Commissioner in the person of Sir John Lawrence who afterwards, in 1859, became its first Lieutenant Governor and finally, in 1864, Viceroy, being raised to the peerage after his return to England in 1869. After the annexation of the Punjab, Sir John Lawrence, in a public speech, asked his hearers whether they would prefer to be governed by the pen or the sword: and his statue, holding a pen in the right hand and a sword in the left, has that question inscribed on it. It is this fact that led to an excited agitation on the part of modern Punjab Nationalists, after the statue had stood for half a century without exciting unfavourable comment. They discovered that the inscription was insulting, and declared that their answer to the question contained in it was "Neither." The statue stood on municipal ground, and the Lahore Municipality demanded its removal; threatening, if this was not conceded, to arrange for its removal, or even demolition, by force. Volunteers were called for, to undertake this patriotic duty: and a certain number of men offered themselves for the purpose; but, as they were careful to advertise their intentions, nothing actually resulted beyond the placing of a police guard over the statue, that compelled the would-be wrecking gangs to confine their efforts to putting in an appearance, armed with hammers, and explaining what they would have done had it not been for the unsporting interference of the police. In these circumstances, the

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Municipality, in order to save their faces, announced that they had started negotiations with the Governor with a view to the statue being removed and set up again in the grounds of Government House; and they even succeeded in persuading a number of people in Lahore that this had actually been agreed to. However, a prompt contradiction from the Government exploded this tale: and the malcontents had to fall back on a renewal of their demonstrations against the statue, which gradually became less and less popular and finally faded away altogether.

An agitation of a somewhat similar nature took place, about the same time, in Calcutta: its object being the Black Hole memorial, erected by Lord Curzon during his Viceroyalty. Nationalist historians discovered that the Black Hole tragedy was a British invention: no such occurrence had ever happened at all—at the most, its only foundation in fact was the action of a patriotic Indian ruler, who had confined a few pestilent European interlopers in prison. In this case, the wreckers came singly: not, as they had done in Lahore, in gangs: the volunteer carrying a small hammer concealed in his clothes. He approached the memorial in the guise of an innocent sightseer: and, having got within range, produced his hammer and gave the memorial a tap—thereafter promptly surrendering to the police guard and being marched off, a happy martyr, to enjoy a few days' detention in jail.

INDIAN MUSLIMS AND THE HEDJAZ.

The Central Khilafat Committee held a conference at Patna on September 22, immediately after that of the All-India Congress Committee: some of whose members, including Mr. Gandhi himself, attended it. At this meeting Shaukat Ali made a determined attempt to regain his lost position: first, by an attack on the British Government: secondly, by attempting to prove the financial purity of the Committee in general, and of himself in particular, as a prelude to a further appeal for funds. On the former point, he said that "if they looked round they would see that, whether it was the Hedjaz or Mosul or Iraq or Persia, or whether it was India, there was but one Power which was, as it were squeezing the life-blood of them all and fattening herself on the skeletons of their people. The only way to deal with that Power, in order that the world might be free, was to make India free." He said that the Central Khilafat Committee had been able to collect from 75 to 80 lakhs of rupees from the Mohammedans of India, a large proportion of which was subscribed for dispatch to Angora: and all of the money so subscribed had been so dispatched, though he admitted that there had been delay in completing the transaction; but the temporary default had been due to another, while the final completion was due to his own persistence. The Working Committee of the Central Khilafat Committee had decided to send a delegation to the Hedjaz in order to confer with Sultan Ibn Saud with regard to the convocation of a Moslem World Conference: and he appealed for funds to enable them to fulfil this intention, since the Committee had no money left "for carrying on the great work it is doing in India and abroad, and particularly in the Hedjaz." All Khilafat organisations should immediately set about collecting a Khilafat Purse Fund, and should remit without fail, to the Central Khilafat Committee, the first instalment by October 13 at latest.

Immediately after the appearance in the Press of the report of this conference, a largely attended meeting of the Mohammedans of Bombay took place on September 24, at which the proceedings of the Conference were denounced as "the voice of a few interested propagandists of Ibn Saud and not the united voice of Muslim India": which, it was declared, could only be heard at the All-India Muslim Conference, whose meeting had been arranged for September 27 and 28, at Lucknow. This Conference was duly held, and passed a resolution declaring that "whereas even the short possession and control of the Holy Land by Ibn Saud had been the occasion of desecration and sacrilege, this Conference asserts, on behalf of the Indian Muslims, that Ibn Saud's authority over the Hedjaz can never be tolerated." It was also resolved to send a deputation to the Hedjaz, to be headed by a prominent Indian divine who had previously shown himself to be a partisan of King Hussain: and therefore presumably continues to support his son and successor, King Ali.

There are here the makings of a very pretty quarrel. The All-India Muslim League, once a powerful body, that suffered eclipse during the heyday of the Khilafat campaign, is now reasserting itself: and will certainly find no difficulty in fianancing its deputation to the Hedjaz, whither it will apparently go in the interests of King Ali —certainly to combat the pretensions of the Ibn Saud. The Central Khilafat Committee, through whose hands great sums of money have, according to Shaukat Ali's own admission, passed during the last few years, is driven to making an appeal to the Mohammedans of India to find the money for its deputation; which is confessedly intended to serve the interests of Ibn Saud.

It is most unlikely that any such appeal can succeed. Apart from the fact that Indian Muslim opinion appears —certainly to combat the pretensions of Ibn Saud. the reputation of the Central Khilafat Committee, as a manager of funds subscribed by the public, has been badly blown upon. Of the 75 or 80 lakhs of rupees, mentioned by Shaukat Ali as having passed through its hands, 57 lakhs were subscribed for the Angora Fund and the Smyrna refugee fund; besides a considerable sum for a fund for the presentatien of aeroplanes to Mustafa Kemal. Of the two former, about 38 lakhs were remitted, and then remittance ceased: it being finally admitted that the Secretary of the Committee (who had explained the cessation of remittances as being due to the difficulty of getting money to Angora) had invested the balance in his own business, and that the latter had failed. The amount so utilised was about twenty lakhs of rupees: sixteen of which were due to Angora, three to Smyrna, and the balance to the aeroplane fund. After prolonged wrangling, the Secretary made over property, consisting of some saw mills and a stock of iron and wood, the total value of which was declared to be about 15½ lakhs: and he was given an acquittance in full, the missing balance of the Smyrna and aeroplane funds being conveniently forgotten. It was proposed to sell the property; but, times being bad, the Central Khilafat Committee took over the sawmills as a going concern, to be administered to their own advantage, until business improved and they would be likely to fetch a better price. Their attempt at management, however, resulted in a heavy loss, averaging 4,000 rupees a month: and, when the Angora Government's Red Crescent Mission (the Mohammedan equivalent of the Christian Red Cross) came to India to collect subscriptions, the Central Khilafat Committee decided to hand over to them the whole of the late Secretary's surrendered assets, to do with as they would. This offer appears to have been accepted—doubtless because it was a choice between that or nothing: and the Committee claimed to have obtained a receipt in full, though the actual amount of cash—if, indeed, any—realised by the Mission has never been stated. Having thus, like Mr. Micawber when he handed his I.O.U. to Mr. Thomas Traddles, recovered their moral dignity and shown themselves able once more to walk erect before their fellow men, the Central Khilafat Committee turned their attention to the raising of more money: for its members, having lived in great comfort on their share of the sums subscribed for the general upkeep of the Committee—the difference between Shaukat Ali's 75 or 80 lakhs and the 57 or 58 lakhs specifically subscribed for Angora—for several years, thought it an unkind suggestion that they should rely on their own resources in future. But, to their pained surprise, Muslim India showed itself slow to subscribe again: and it does not seem probable that their present appeal will produce any better result.

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CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, October 8.

Lord Reading's Advice.

Although Lord Reading's term of office in India does not expire until April of next year, the first of the series of farewells took place yesterday with a dinner in his honour at the Hotel Cecil, Simla. In proposing the health of the Viceroy, Sir Mohammed Shafi reviewed the work of the past four and a half years, eulogistically referring to the wise legislation which has piloted India through many difficult channels. Dealing lastly with the present political situation, the speaker said that, in his considered opinion, the present was the psychological moment for His Majesty's Government to make a generous gesture which, while satisfying India's legitimate aspirations, would, he was convinced, strengthen the political connexion between India and England to the benefit of both; he prayed that such a gesture might be forthcoming ere the expiry of the present Viceroyalty. In his reply, Lord Reading spoke in the frank, human manner which is characteristic of him. He acknowledged the encomiums of Sir Mohammed Shafi and said that, lest he should be tempted to take these too literally he would devote the following week to reading the comments of the Extremist Press. His remarks on the present political situation were full of significance. The generous gesture, he pointed out, had already been made by Lord Birkenhead: and he wondered that the political sagacity of India had not rushed to grasp this offer. England was awaiting evidence of sincere co-operation and goodwill from India, and she would be "no niggardly bargainer" when this was forthcoming. By co-operation he did not mean the relinquishing of India's plea for more rapid advance. He admitted that the political atmosphere was more serene at the moment than it had been before during his term of office, but there still remained room for improvement: the Swarajist transformation was proceeding only gradually, and too slowly. The speech has given Indian political leaders the advice which is the key to the situation, and the note of warning which it strikes is worthy of their careful attention. India must realise that, if her national hopes are to be fulfilled, her progress must be constitutional, a term which apparently conveys to the leaders of extremist opinion the idea of passing irresponsible resolutions by overwhelming majorities, and other political jobbery of this kind. It must be obvious to all, despite the recent unanimity of the Legislative Assembly regarding the Muddiman Report, that India is not yet prepared for self-government. One of the first principles of statesmanship is a realisation of a nation's strength, of the compelling power which can be exercised if negotiations fail—a point which Pandit Motilal Nehru overlooked in his recent bluster in the Assembly. No one was frightened, but it was a demonstration that a "change of heart" is a vital necessity.

A New Leader?

The session of the Indian National Congress will take place in Cawnpore during December, and the Reception Committee have already elected Mrs. Sarojini Naidu as its President. The choice of a lady to guide the deliberations of the Indian Congress would have been surprising even in more normal times, but it is more so with India's political future in its present state of transition. The career of Mrs. Naidu is one of exceptional interest. She is on the shady side of forty, comes of an old Brahmin family of Eastern Bengal, and is the daughter of the late Dr. Aughore Nath Chatterjee, one of the first Indian D.Sc.'s to graduate from Edinburgh University. Dr. Chatterjee has spent most of his life in the service of the Nizam of Hyderabad, where he has held high posts in the Educational Service of that State. Mrs. Naidu is a brilliant scholar, who, after passing the Matriculation examination in India at the age of twelve, went to England and the Continent for the completion of her education. At the age of sixteen, against the wishes of her family, she married a non-Brahmin, Dr. Naidu, now Surgeon-General of Hyderabad State. Not long after her marriage, Mrs. Naidu went to England again, and gained considerable attention by the publication of her first volume of poems. Some sixteen years ago, during the floods in Hyderabad, she assisted in relief work, and her services were recognised by the Indian Government in the presentation of the Kaiser-i-Hind gold medal, and also by the Nizam. Her first appearance in politics was made in 1916 when, at the Lucknow Congress, she made a strong appeal for the revision of the Arms Act, claiming this as a reward for India's services in the War. Having been in close touch with Mohammedans practically all her life, she next set herself out to bring about Hindu-Moslem unity, and the existence of the first Pact owes much to her personality and sympathy. Following her success in this direction, she joined the Home Rule League and carried out a tour of Northern India, protesting against the internment of Mrs. Besant. In later years her sympathies have gradually gone over to the extremist side, and she took a leading part in the *Satyagraha* and Non-Co-operation movements under the leadership of Mr. Gandhi. In 1923 she toured South Africa in an attempt to effect a compromise in regard to the Asiatic Repatriation Bill. She was well received throughout the Union, but the campaign was unproductive. In accepting the Presidency of the Congress, Mrs. Naidu practically becomes the leader of the Swaraj Party. Her task is no sinecure; Mr. Gandhi failed to maintain his hold when in the same position, but it is possible that the charming personality and bewitching oratory of Mrs. Naidu will tell with Indian politicians more strongly than did the appeals of the *Mahatma*. She will have the opportunity of exercising her uniting influence between the Hindus and Mohammedans, and will have to face an equally difficult proposition in gaining the Congress objective of bringing under one head the various political creeds of India. The experiment of a lady President will be watched with much interest; saintliness has failed; sacrifice made an impression which did not last: and the *intelligentsia* now resort to a trial of woman's wit to assist them over the rough patch.

Markets.

In spite of a further curtailment of business owing to holidays, the jute market has continued its upward tendency of the previous week to such an extent that record prices were eventually reached, and there is every indication of even higher rates in the near future. At the close buyers were less inclined to transact at the increasing prices, but sellers were firm in their demands. Gunnies have shown a steady advance, primarily due to heavy shipment and to the extraordinary strength of the jute market. Mills have met the demand fairly freely but show reserve at the close.

The tea market has been slightly quieter here this week, the sales not being up to the standard, either in price or quality, of those held at the end of last month. With the exception of the best, almost all descriptions have sold at lower rates, and this seems to be in conformity with the London market which, however, finally provided a better appearance. With the anticipated reduction in surplus stocks of about ten millions maunds, which is nearly one half the total surplus, the position of the market generally may be looked upon as favourable. Piece goods continue to attract little attention, though a few orders are reported for the forward position.

The Calcutta Stock Exchange does not re-open until the 12th instant.

The money market opened steady after the holidays, but the forward market has been quieter since, owing to the lowering of the Bank of England rate to four per cent. There is a fair demand for short loans at from two to three per cent. Exchange remains very steady.

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THE "INDIAN SANDHURST" COMMITTEE'S QUESTIONNAIRE.

(By Our Simla Correspondent).

Simla, October 7.

For the purpose of obtaining the opinions of qualified persons of all classes of society on the problems which confront them, the Indian Sandhurst Committee have recently issued a long and comprehensive questionnaire, to which they invite replies from public bodies and private gentlemen. In it the fact, that the comparatively few candidates, who at present offer themselves at each entrance examination for Sandhurst held in India, are mostly of poor quality, is accepted from the start: and the questionnaire concerns itself mainly with the various causes which may possibly underlie this state of affairs and the means by which they can be remedied.

The suggested causes relate, inter alia, to the lack of publicity, the inadequate rates of pay, the dislike of parents for a system which necessitates their sending their sons to England for training, the high cost of that training, and its uselessness to a boy who, having failed to obtain a commission, is forced to choose another career. But anyone who reads between the lines will certainly be led to the conclusion, that the point to which the Committee attach the highest importance is connected with the earlier education of would-be candidates for the army. Thus we find one question as to whether there are any defects, inherent in the system of education in India, which contribute to the present unsatisfactory state of affairs: and another regarding the possibility of finding a substantial number of boys in India, within the prescribed age limits, who could pass an examination of the standard of the entrance examination set in England for candidates for Sandhurst, and who would, at the same time, possess the other qualities necessary for an army officer, such as good physique, independence of character and capacity for leadership. At present the standard of the Indian examination is probably somewhat lower than that of the English, and the upper age limit is higher by a year in India than in England. No one in India can possibly desire this difference to continue, but, up to date, these concessions have failed to produce an adequate supply of boys capable of passing the Sandhurst examination.

There is a general consensus of opinion that the education, obtainable in the ordinary Indian schools to-day, is directed solely towards cramming for particular examinations, and does not encourage boys to learn intelligently with a view to applying their knowledge to practical uses. Moreover, education in India starts, as a rule, at a higher age than in other countries: and, as a result, the standard of the examinations which an Indian boy can pass at the age of nineteen is equivalent only to that which an average English boy would reach two years earlier. Thus, for example, the questionnaire lays it down that "the standard of the entrance examination for Sandhurst (set in England) is approximately the standard of the school leaving examination in England, which is considered by educational authorities as being slightly lower than the Pass B.A. of an Indian University."

But these are not the only serious defects of the Indian educational system. Just as the Indian boy is rarely taught to use his mind intelligently, so also he receives, as a rule, little encouragement to develop his body; while the training of his character is almost wholly neglected. The residential system, which plays such an important part in English public school training, is much too rarely adopted in this country: and where it exists, it is not developed to any great extent as a definite help in the formation of a boy's character. The public school system has, it is true, been adopted to some extent in the case of the Chiefs' Colleges; but, even there, its full advantages are, for a variety of almost insurmountable reasons, unattainable. In such circumstances, it is certainly difficult to expect that many Indian boys, possessing all the attributes of mind, body, and character which are held to be necessary in army officers, can be drawn from the normal educational institutions of India. This fact was realised by the military authorities after only a few years' experience of the qualities of the average Indian candidate who presented himself for the Sandhurst examination: and, to meet this difficulty, there was founded in 1923 the Prince of Wales' Royal Indian Military College at Dehra Dun, the primary object of which is to secure boys at about the age of twelve and to train them up specially for the Sandhurst test. Here it has been possible to introduce the nearest approach to the English public school system which has ever been seen in India: and the results, too, to judge by the lists of successful candidates at the last few examinations, have entirely justified it. If the questionnaire is any guide, the Committee have fully realised this fact, and have even been led to consider the possibility of the extension of this system, by the starting of this form of education at an even earlier age; for, among their final questions, they ask whether it would be advisable to found still further institutions on the lines of the existing Dehra Dun College in other parts of India, or, as an alternative, to create a number of preparatory schools in different parts of the country which would give boys an early education on suitable lines to fit them to enter the Central College at Dehra Dun.

The crux of the matter is, of course, that these Indian lads, when they get their commissions, will have to compete, for some years to come at any rate, on equal terms with British boys who have been trained and disciplined at preparatory and public schools: and the more nearly their early education can be made to approximate to that of their British comrades, the easier it will be for them to do so. By this it is not to be understood that it is essential to anglicise them in any special degree; but that they should be given the advantage of an education as nearly as possible equivalent to that of the English public schools, which, as a means of forming character and developing the power of leadership, are acknowledged to be without a rival.

THE INDIAN MAIL.

The Mosul Dispute.

It was only to be expected that Indian extremist newspapers would accept, as conclusive evidence that Great Britain is in the wrong over the Mosul dispute, the finding, by the League of Nations Boundary Commission, that Mosul belongs historically to Turkey. But it is surprising to find responsible Anglo-Indian journals apparently taking the same view. The *Statesman*, for instance, in an article that speaks of "continuous wrangling" between "the high-pitched voices of Mr. Amery and Rushdi Bey," says that the Commission's report declared that "while Mosul belonged to Turkey by right, as a matter of expediency it should be mandated to Britain upon condition that we bound ourselvs to hold it and Iraq for a further period of 25 years": and adds that the only justification that could be offered for the acceptance of an extension of the mandate "is that we are bound by treaty to protect the Arab kingdom from the Turk. But Mosul is not part of the Arab kingdom."

One does not look for political or historical sense from ill-informed Indian vernacular or Anglo-vernacular newspapers: and one is resigned to their insistence that Great Britain's desire for the incorporation of Mosul in Iraq is solely due to the belief that oil is to be found there—a prospective asset of which they are prepared to rob the rightful owner in order to serve their own passion for "exploitation." But one does expect, from the sober English journalist, comprehension of the meaning of the Commission's finding. At Lausanne, Turkey formally relinquished her claim to a large amount of territory in favour of the various "succession" States to whom it had been decided to hand it; but the Mosul question was left to be decided later, by direct agreement or, if that should prove impossible, by a reference to the League of Nations. The Mosul Vilayet admittedly formed part of the pre-War Turkish Empire—a fact that no one has ever disputed: and, until it was formally ceded to another, it therefore remained a part of Turkey. This is all that the Commission's finding stated—that, until Turkey formally divested herself of the sovereignty of Mosul, it must

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historically be treated as still part of her dominions. If Turkey had not formally ceded her former Mesopotamian Provinces, south of the Vilayet of Mosul, to the "succession State" of Iraq, the whole of the territory of Iraq would be in the same position, and would still remain historically part of Turkey. What has now to be decided is merely where the new boundary is to be drawn: whether south or north of the Mosul Vilayet, or somewhere in between.

The "Indian Sandhurst" Committee.

In the last issue of The Near East and India it was stated that the personnel of the "Indian Sandhurst" Committee had saved it from the attacks of the extremist Press, ordinarily directed against any Committee appointed by Government. The present mail brings a reasoned and, on the whole, temperate statement of the extremist view of the Committee's value, in the shape of an article in the *Bombay Chronicle*, one of the most influential—and, it may be added, usually one of the most intemperate—of the Anglo-vernacular journals of India.

The writer of the article, though he is unable to refrain from the usual digs at British "disinteredness," does put forward an argument that is worthy of attention, as an intelligible—however "extreme"—statement of the ideas of advanced Indian politicians regarding the military future of India. The theme of the article is, that the Committee is to be welcomed, not because it will result in any substantial benefits, but because it will direct increased public attention on the vital and pressing problems of Indian defence. "The issue is nothing else than that of Indian self-defence, without which freedom can neither be attained nor, once attained, be retained." But the most important point of the problem of Indian defence is not dealt with by the Committee: one that "cannot be solved until a genuine and substantial beginning is made towards the creation, by definitely marked and rapid stages, of a truly national army, independent, self-contained, and entirely controlled by India." India is told that she cannot expect to govern herself until she is able to defend herself: and "it is quite in accordance with England's disinterested mission of training Indians in the art of governing themselves, that they have not been permitted to learn to defend themselves." A real beginning must be made in releasing the Indian Army from the control of the War Office, by the abandonment of the Army Amalgamation Scheme of 1859: under which "disinterested and beautiful scheme England is able to raise a reserve of many thousand soldiers for her own Army, equipped, trained, and fed at India's expense." The Army for which India pays is not an Indian Army, but an Imperial Army, maintained and used for serving Imperial interests.

It is certainly something gained that a newspaper of the very extreme views of the *Bombay Chronicle* should be brought to admit that civil self-government in India must follow, and not precede, a demonstration of her ability to defend herself: and it is interesting to note that the paper's ideas, as to how India should set about attaining this ability, point to the introduction of something analogous to the Company's Army, maintained before the assumption of government by the Crown. That Army, of course, included not only British officers (and non-commissioned officers) of Indian regiments, but British battalions as well: and, though the *Bombay Chronicle's* remarks may be read to mean, not a self-governing India as a Dominion of the British Empire, but a separate independent nation owning no one's sovereignty but her own, it is not necessary to read this meaning into them. Even the most extreme of Indian politicians will always privately, and not infrequently publicly, admit that, for a long time to come, British assistance will be needed by India: even more on the military than on the civil side of the Government. If the increased public attention, which the *Bombay Chronicle* expects the Committee's report to focus on the problem of Indian defence, includes evidence of an increased desire, on the part of young Indians of the right class and of the right stamp, to offer themselves for commissions in the Indian Army, all sections of opinion in India, including the most extreme, will have cause to bless its labours.

INDIAN EXCHANGE.

London, October 26.

Last week we reported a firmer feeling in Exchange in Calcutta, where business has shown more animation. The T.T. rate has been steady at 1s. 6 5-32d. to 1s. 6 3-16d., with the higher rate offering fairly freely for cash during the week. Banks, however, were not able apparently to fill their selling orders and had to have recourse to Government, whose purchases cannot be less than £500,000 T.T. at 1s. 6 3-16d. Withdrawals from the Imperial Bank for trade purposes have again been heavy according to their last weekly statement.

Those Jute mills which purchased their supplies early in the season have good reason to congratulate themselves. The phenomenal rise within the past fortnight which has carried the price to well over £60 per ton, has possibly caught some operators short, but it may be taken as a clear indication that there is not sufficient jute in sight to meet trade requirements.

Three months' credits in Calcutta have been called 1s. 6 7-16d. for early delivery, although some gilt edged paper has been done at 1s. 6 13-32d. This rate has been more easily obtainable in Bombay, where market conditions are quieter and money is in less demand. Forward rates in both markets are quoted for T.T. 1s. 6 3-16d. November-February, 1s. 6 5-32d. March, 1s. 6⅛d. April 1s. 6 3-32d. May-September: with buyers for any position at 1-32d. higher.

We hear good accounts of the quality and quantity of the cotton crop, but it is rather early yet to speak with any certainty. Local prices will, however, show a falling off compared with previous years, influenced by the large American crop which is now said to be close upon 15 million bales.

The Rupee market in London has been quiet, with good buyers for near delivery at 1s. 6 3-16d. T.T., and few sellers under 1s. 6 7-32d. Several cargoes of wheat have reached India from Australia, and we hear that others have been contracted for.

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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

170, *Strand, London, W.C.2,*
Tuesday Morning,

The Trade Position.

There is no gainsaying the fact that for some time now signs have not been wanting that the trade position as a whole is on the up grade. Between the present stage and the prosperity which will enable the absorption of the unemployed there may be, it is true, a long road to travel (though personally I doubt it, for it is much more probable that in a little time something approaching a real trade revival will come upon us like a flash), but at any rate we have the practical certainty now that we have left the worst of the depression behind us. There are still some who say the position is worse, but it is the whole of trade that we have to look at, and not the position of a few industries which are affected to an exceptional degree by the prevailing conditions. The rapidity of the trade revival can only be affected by adverse political developments, but while the sky is far from clear at the moment, it would be absurd to make too much of the various crises abroad which have come into being in the last few days.

An Improving Outlook.

Of the signs of improving trade nothing could be more significant than the contracts that British firms are now beginning to obtain from abroad and particularly from the Near East. Apart from these contracts there are orders in view for work within the Empire which will help to make the iron and steel trade more active than it has been for a long time. For one thing there is the plant and machinery that will be required for the Great Indian Peninsula Railway electrification scheme which is to cost £5,000,000. Then there is the extensive work in connection with the great development scheme in East Africa, and there are other projects on the tapis, so that it is not surprising that iron and steel shares, after their great depression, should be showing signs of improvement. The outlook for Lancashire, too, is distinctly on the up grade. Cheap cotton is essential if the demand for cotton goods is to expand, and it is now practically certain that cotton is going to be much cheaper during the next year. The American crop, which is still unfortunately the keynote to the position, promises this time to be of record dimensions; it is now estimated at between fifteen and sixteen million bales, and as other crops are also extremely good, it follows that the supply of cotton will be ample for all probable requirements. It is again stated, I see, that the Egyptian Government proposes to intervene to support the price of Egyptian cotton. I can only repeat that in the circumstances any such move would be most unwise, for the commodity must be allowed to find its level, and the price of Egyptian is still far too high.

Greek Finances.

A lengthy exposition of the Greek financial situation by M. Diomedes, Governor of the National Bank of Greece, made in reply to criticisms directed against the recent financial policy of the country, contains certain points that call for comment. He points out that the increase in the note circulation since 1923 is principally due to the issue of banknotes fully covered by foreign exchange of equal value. As regards the charge of inflation, he cites the statement of the British representative on the International Financial Commission that while the pre-War note circulation varied between 42 and 48 gold drachmæ per head, to-day it is only 39 gold drachmæ per head. This argument is naturally open to the criticism that the continuance of the issue of paper money must so depreciate the value of the drachma that the equivalent value in gold drachmæ must fall instead of rising, but on the actual figures at present it cannot be said to apply. At December 31, 1923, the note circulation amounted to 4,681,000,000 drs. paper for an estimated population of 5,500,000, or 851 paper drachmæ per head, while at September 10, 1925, the note circulation was 5,383,000,000 drs., which, if the population is 7,000,000, would mean 769 drs. per head. As regards the charge that the cover against the additional circulation is not real because of the £4,146,747 held against it £1,625,000 is derived from the money raised from the Refugee Loan, M. Diomedes points out that in accordance with the agreement of March 6, 1925, made with the Refugee Settlement Commission the sterling balance of the Loan was deposited with the National Bank, and out of this balance such a sum as in the opinion of the Commission would be spent in Greece in drachmæ was placed at the disposal of the bank, which was entitled to issue notes against it. Finally, M. Diomedes expresses the view that the cause of the decline of the value of the Greek currency is in a great measure due to payments for imports.

Soviet Coal Competition.

I referred recently to the strenuous efforts that the Bolsheviks have been making to obtain a solid footing in the Near Eastern markets with their surplus coal, which they have been selling it appears at ridiculously low rates in order to deprive Great Britain of its outlets in those regions for this product. It now appears that the Soviet authorities are so satisfied with the preliminary efforts of their campaign that they are concentrating their energies on increasing the production of the Donetz coalfields, and it is reported that the September output was a record for the year, while the export figures for that month amounted to over a million tons. If, however, they are able for a time to continue underselling this country with coal, it is extremely improbable that they will succeed in obtaining an extensive outlet for their produce, because quality is also a thing that counts particularly where fuel is concerned, and their customers will find in the long run that the best economy is to stick to British coal. But for the threatened coal trouble here it is doubtful if the Bolsheviks would have found much of an opportunity in the Near East, and it is to be hoped that their commercial activities will be thoroughly appreciated by British labour for whom the Soviet authorities profess such sympathy. But, of course, the whole thing is only part of the anti-capitalist campaign that the Bolsheviks are endeavouring to pursue throughout the world. And coal is not the only commodity that they are offering at uneconomic prices.

COMMENTATOR.

BANK OF ROUMANIA LIMITED
(FOUNDED 1866).

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A general Banking business with Roumania is conducted and correspondence from those having interests in that country is invited.

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Near East Markets.

THE ROUMANIAN HARVEST.

The Statistical Bureau of the Ministry of Agriculture in Roumania publishes a report to the effect that the weather for the autumn sowings was remarkably good throughout Roumania. Less satisfactory than the weather conditions is the situation in regard to agricultural labour. Labourers in most districts are exceptionally dear, while the scarcity of animals presents another difficulty. The harvest results for the five main cereals are as follows:—

Wheat, 3,333,887 hectares under cultivation produced 2,894,688 tons for an average of 8.7 quintals per hectare. There are 270,481 hectares under rye, and the harvest amounted to 213,336 tons, or 7.9 quintals per hectare. Barley acounted for 1,704,061 hectares, with a harvest of 1,068,041 tons, or 6.2 quintals per hectare. Under oats 1,148,847 hectares produced 786,681 tons, or 6.6 quintals per hectare. The area under maize was 3,930,780 hectares with a production of 4,456,953 tons, i.e., 11.3 quintals per hectare.

The sugar harvest is estimated at 14,000 wagons of 10 tons each, as compared with 9,500 wagons in the previous year. An available export of from 3,000 to 4,000 wagons is anticipated, as compared with the surplus of 1,000 wagons in 1924.

IVORY IN GOOD DEMAND.

Messrs. Hale and Son's report on the quarterly ivory sales which were held on October 20 and 21, states that they comprised 48½ tons, viz., 14¾ tons Zanzibar, Bombay, Mozambique, East African, and Siam, 2¾ tons Abyssinian, 9¼ tons Egyptian (Alexandrian description), 20 tons West Coast and Central African, and 1¾ tons land carriage. Of the above quantities 3¼ tons consisted of lots previously offered or indirect import, viz., 1 ton East Indian and Abyssinian, ½ tons West Coast African, and 1¾ tons land carriage.

The following was the assortment of the East Indian description: 10¼ tons soft tusks, ¾ ton hard and Siam, 1 ton billiard ball pieces, ½ ton bagatelle pieces, ½ ton cut points for balls and cut points off large tusks, ¼ ton under-size and defective points, etc., ½ ton billiard ball and bagatelle scrivelloes, ¼ ton scrivelloes and few cores, and ¾ ton cut hollows. During the progress of the sales 2¼ tons were bought in, viz., ¼ ton East Indian, ½ ton Egyptian, ¼ ton Abyssinian, and 1¼ tons West Coast African.

There was the usual attendance of buyers and a good demand throughout. The quantity catalogued was rather more than at the previous auctions, owing to Congo description being in larger supply. The Continent, America, and the Home trade competed and nearly all the ivory offered was disposed of. Prices were generally well maintained. Hard tusks in some instances were higher, Soft were a little irregular but were generally steady, although the extreme prices of last sales were not reached.

Abyssinian.—Soft large and medium tusks steady. Ball scrivelloes unchanged. Scrivelloes and bangle tusks brought previous rates.

Egyptian.—Alexandrian description. Soft, steady. Hard, firm to rather higher. Ball scrivelloes unchanged. Soft scrivelloes steady. Hard rather lower.

Sir George Lloyd, the new British High Commissioner, arrived at Port Said in the Morea on October 20, and was met by Mohamed Bey Rifaat, the Governor, representatives of the Residency, Teal Bey, the Police Commandant, the British Consul and the Diplomatic Corps. He was received informally at the Navy House, where the Royal Irish Fusiliers mounted a Guard of Honour. He travelled to Cairo by special train. Sir George had an audience of King Fuad at Alexandria last Saturday.

GREEK TOBACCO PRODUCTION.

Tobacco is grown in Greece in Thessaly, in central Greece, in the islands of Samos and Mitylene, in the Peloponnese, and in particular in Macedonia, where the finest tobacco is produced. The crop in 1923 was particularly plentiful, amounting to about 60,000 tons, of which 26,000 tons were produced in Macedonia and Thrace. In 1924 this region accounted for 17,000 tons out of a total of about 43,000 tons. The diminution in the production of Macedonian tobacco (says Mr. R. F. H. Duke in his report on Greece) was due to the dryness of the season which, however, considerably enhanced the quality and consequently the value of the crop. Agrinion and Peloponnese tobacco, the production of which was greatly developed during the War, when Turkish and Bulgarian leaf were not available for export, amounts to about 11,500 tons, of which the German and Dutch markets are the chief consumers. Thessaly, in 1924, produced about 10,000 tons and fresh areas are still being brought under cultivation, while large new depots for manipulation have been erected at Volo, Trikkala and Carditsa.

In Macedonia the Turkish planters have been replaced to advantage by refugee settlers; so that, whereas in 1923 233,000 stremma were planted, in 1924, after the Turks had left the country, 9,000 more stremma were brought into cultivation, making a total of 242,999 stremma.

The tobacco industry of Macedonia and Thrace has for a long time been in the hands of Greeks working for their own account or for the account of foreign companies, but the export trade is largely confined to American companies representing various manufacturers in the United States. The value of the tobacco exported in 1923 from Macedonia amounted to some Drs. 3 milliards.

The aromatic and choice quality tobaccos, representing a third of the total tobacco production of Macedonia and Thrace were, up to the Great War, bought at good prices by American and European manufacturers. But since the War, owing to the general economic collapse in Europe, and especially in Germany and Austria, good quality tobacco has been bought by American firms alone, to whom are now exported 5 to 6 million okes a year. In consequence of this falling off of the European market and the great increase in the production of choice tobacco, the Macedonian and Thracian industry might have had to face a very grave crisis had it not been, it is said, for the wide extension since the War of the habit of tobacco smoking among women. The best of the inferior qualities of tobacco are bought by the Swedish and Italian State Monopolies, whilst the cheapest qualities of all are exported to Germany, Austria, and Poland. Insignificant quantities are shipped to Great Britain, Switzerland, and Belgium.

Apart from the high cost of manipulation of Macedonian tobacco, there is another contributory cause of the crisis through which the export trade is now passing, namely, the excessive taxes imposed on tobacco in Greece as compared with other Balkan countries. In 1922 taxes were levied on Macedonian tobacco up to 65 per cent. of its value. These taxes have since been considerably reduced, but even to-day the State tax, together with communal and municipal taxes, port dues, etc., amount to 23 per cent. of the value of the tobacco, not including the export duty.

NEW COMPANY.

The Vaghamon (Travancore) Tea Company has been registered as a public company with a capital of £100,000, in £1 shares. The first directors are:—T. McMorran, Frithwood House, Northwood, Middlesex, merchant; W. A. Duncan, 53, Cadogan Square, W., merchant; J. R. H. Dinekley, C.B.E., Hidden Cottage, Hungerford, Bucks (director of Travancore Tea Estates Company). Walter Duncan and Co. are the first managing agents. Registered office, 149, Leadenhall Street, E.C.

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The Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes

AREA

96,133 sq. miles

POPULATION

(1921)

12,020,000

IMPORTS, 1924

Dinars

8,221,743,552

EXPORTS, 1924

Dinars

9,538,774,432

Rate of Exchange £1 = 270 dinars approx.

Monthly Supplement of "The Near East" : No. 9.

MEDICINAL PLANTS.

Yugoslavia, a land of wide plains and dense forests, possesses, besides other natural riches, an abundance and variety of medicinal plants. Slovenia and Bosnia, with their Alpine flora, Dalmatia and South Serbia with southern Mediterranean vegetation and finally Voivodina with a Continental flora produce a considerable variety of such plants, and make the country worthy of the interest of those occupied in the exploitation of this important branch of economic life. Unfortunately, although trade in medicinal plants shows better results each year, the organisation of the industry and the rational collection of the plants are, so to speak, in their infancy. The drying methods employed for the plants are also quite primitive. Nevertheless the interest displayed in the Yugoslav industry and trade in medicinal plants both by individuals and societies gives hopes of their proper economic exploitation in the near future. As a proof of this we may mention that just recently at the September Congress at Belgrade of the Economic Chambers and Organisations of the S. H. S. Kingdom a resolution was passed which will certainly not remain without practical effect. It demanded that for the study of medicinal plants a special committee comprising official and unofficial members should be set up by the Ministry of Trade and Industry; that freights on the railways for such plants should be lowered; that the forest tax paid for the collection of plants should be abolished, and in general, that their cultivation should be encouraged by all possible means.

Before passing to a detailed statement of the position of the industry in the various provinces, we give the figures of the export of medicinal plants for the last few few years. Special mention must be made of fleabane, because of the exceptionally large quantities and the special use made of it.

According to the official statistics of foreign trade, the following amounts of medicinal plants, excluding fleabane, were exported:

	Quantity	Value in dinars
1923 ...	2 019.007 kgs. ...	15 639.722
1924 ...	1,866.280 kgs. ...	16 994.434

The larger part of these exports goes to Italy 9.9 million dinars in 1923 and 15.7 million in 1924), the U.S.A. (two million), Austria, Switzerland and France.

Fleabane was exported as follows:—

	Quantity	Value in dinars
1923 ...	504.040 kgs. ...	18 267.038
1924 ...	545.982 kgs. ...	29,933 207

The greatest part of this product also went to Italy, 16.7 million dinars in 1923 and 27.9 million in 1924). The figures of export for the current year are not yet available.

Although medicinal plants are both abundant and general throughout Yugoslavia, they are not gathered everywhere, In Serbia, for instance, practically no plants are gathered for industrial purposes, whereas in Bosnia, Herzegovina, Dalmatia, Montenegro, Slovenia, Croatia and Voivodina the industry is more or less organised.

The main plants collected (there are many which are not used at all) are:—henbane *(Hyoscianus niger)*, gentian (*gentiana lutea*), elecampane (*Inula Helenium*), lime flowers, *Cortex frangulae*, laurel (*laurus nobilis*), rosemary (*rosmarinus officinalis*), camomile (*matricaria chamomilla*), wormwood (*artemisia absinthium*), mallow (*althea officinalis*), myrtle (*myotis communis*), juniper (*juniper communis*), ergot (*secale cornulum*), Hellebore (*veratrum album*), sage (*salvia officinalis*), Mountain Tobacco (*arnica montana*).

The industry as a whole is best organised in Dalmatia and Bosnia. Dalmatia deals mostly with four kinds of plants:—fleabane, rosemary, sage and laurel. The annual production of fleabane in Dalmatia amounts on the average to 125-150 trucks of dried flowers. The centres of industry are Shibenik, Split (Spalato) and Dubrovnik (Ragusa). About one-third of the crop goes to five home mills, and the rest to Trieste, whence it is exported to England, America, Germany, and elsewhere. Fleabane, as is well known, is used for the destruction of domestic insects and plant pests. As the Dalmatian variety is particularly efficacious for this purpose, its price has risen considerably, so that it now fetches on the Trieste market 12,500-15,000 dinars per 100 kgs., a quantity representing about the yield of one acre.

The second plant in importance is rosemary. Of 150 truckloads of dried leaves, about 15-20 are exported, the rest being manufactured into oil of rosemary in Yugoslavia. Three co-operative societies have been formed in Dalmatia for the preparation of this oil. These produce about 10-12,000 kgs. of oil, while Dalmatia as a whole does not produce more than 20,000 kgs. About the same quantity of sage, which is exported mostly to America, England and Germany, is produced. In addition there is an export of about 40 trucks of laurel leaves and berries, which are also used for the preparation of etheric oil.

Bosnia produces mostly henbane and gentian, 150 trucks in all, about 200 trucks of elecampane, and 20 of lime flowers. Besides these there are 20 other kinds of roots and leaves which might prove of economic use.

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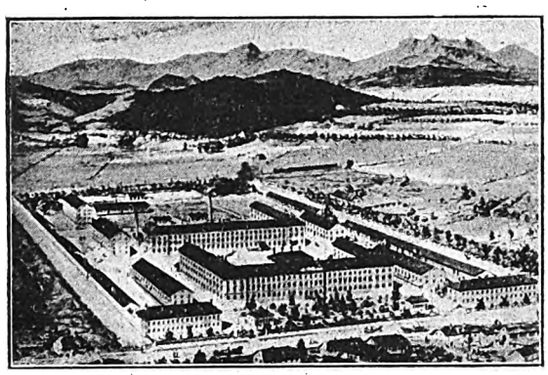
State Monopoly Administration of the Kingdom of Serbs Croats & Slovenes



State Tobacco Factory in Liubliana.

Tobacco Culture

The 1924 harvest will yield about 27.000.000 kgs. of leaf. Of this amount about 10.000.000 kgs. will be set aside for export. The tobacco is from Serbia, Macedonia, Herzegovina and Voivodina.

Fermentation and preparation of the crop will be completed in October, when negotiations for sale will begin.

All information can be obtained from:—

The State Monopoly Administration, — BELGRADE —

The other provinces are of less importance, but only from the point of view of collection, not in respect of quality. The Montenegrin fleabane is considered the best variety. In Croatia, the plants most collected are mallow, henbane, gentian and laurel. In Slovenia there are numbers of varieties of arnica, while the juniper exported is chiefly from Voivodina, which also produces the best camomile in Yugoslavia. Serbia grows the poppy and produces opium; other plants of excellent quality are grown, but are not collected for industrial purposes.

From this short survey it is evident that in its medicinal plants, Yugoslavia possesses a source of considerable wealth, which is at present allowed to lie dormant. The main drawbacks are lack of organisation, and absence of capital. Concentration on a sound financial basis must take the place of primitive organisation, if the industry is to command the best markets and avoid dependence as hitherto on middlemen. The cultivation of medicinal plants could provide a good source of gain to the poorer classes. Fortunately this aspect of the question has been realised, and work has seriously begun in a practical and organised manner. But the problem of capital still remains a grave difficulty.

M. PILJA.

YUGOSLAV CUSTOMS REVENUE.

I.—Movement of Foreign Trade and Customs Receipts.

Yugoslavia's Customs receipts reflect very considerably her Customs policy and fluctuations in foreign trade. During the Great War many provinces, and Serbia in particular, which was almost devastated by the enemy, were exhausted of goods and food, and in the two years which followed the cessation of hostilities, Yugoslavia was obliged to encourage imports and impede exports. In proportion to the progress of reconstruction and the improvement of the means of communication, exports have increased. The harvests of 1921 and 1922 were poor, so that it was only in 1923 that the country at last succeeded in attaining an active trade balance, which such an exceptionally favoured agricultural country ought naturally to have. In 1925 Yugoslavia's foreign trade entered upon its normal course of development, and an autonomous commercial and Customs policy was abandoned for commercial treaties with other countries.

The following tables show the development of foreign trade:—

Paper Dinars.

Year	Imports	Exports.
1919	2.982.067.276	686.815.049
1920	3,465,819.272	1,320,606,055
1921	4.122.097.642	2,460.737.652
1922	6,441,876.189	3,691.166.163
1923	8.309.635.472	8,048,843.930
1924	8,221,743.552	9,538,774.482
1925 (first half)	4.602,941.563	4,506,486.074

Gold Dinars.

Year	Imports.	Exports.
1919	712.263.038	164,052 078
1920	746.943.808	284,613,373
1921	538,132.851	321,246.112
1922	452,373.945	259,211.106
1923	495,446.286	477,959.893
1924	578,588.568	671.271.951
1925 (first half)	388,559.154	379,699.815

The amounts in paper dinars have been converted into gold values at the mean rate of Belgrade-Geneva-Zürich cheques at the Belgrade and Zagreb Bourses. Customs receipts in the same years were as follows:—

Paper Dinars.

Year	Imports.	Exports.	Total
1919	68,698.820	20,885.373	89,594.193
1920	160,081.203	165,439.131	325,520.334
1921	427,050.496	172,315,932	599,366.429
1922	760,453.907	123,542.314	883.996.221
1923	1,079,051.416	353,075.266	1,432.126.682
1924	1,153,714.295	217,599.881	1.371.314.176
1925 (first half)	676,183.845	111,598.879	787,782.724

Gold Dinars.

Year	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
1919	16.435.124	4 996.500	21,432,624
1920	34 500.259	35.654.985	70.155.244
1921	55 750 717	22 495.552	78.246 269
1922	53,402.062	8,675.724	62,078.386
1923	64.076.687	20 966.464	85.043.151
1924	81,190.307	15.313.148	96,503.455
1925 (first half)	57,013 814	9,409 686	66 423.500

Customs receipts under the régime established by the new Tariff Law and the conclusion of new commercial treaties should show a considerable increase, as the duties as a whole are raised.

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II.—Revenue of the Customs Administration.

In Serbia before the War all Customs dues had to be paid in gold or silver together with an agio. Since their institution after the War, however, export duties were fixed in paper dinars, because, as a result of the devaluation of the dinar, silver dinars no longer circulated. Later on, however, it was decided that State and monopoly duties should be both estimated and paid in silver. In the new law which came into operation on June 30, 1925, export duties were fixed in gold. This will give the Customs receipts henceforward a stable and permanent value.

The following table shows the Customs revenues from the various classes of goods and the money in which they are payable, and actually paid.

REVENUES.	A. Estimates. From Imports. dinars	From Exports dinars
1. Regular		
a. Chief revenues		
1. Customs duties: Gold:	112,905 150	—
Paper:	677.717	215,527.320
2. Luxury Duty, in gold	12,854.251	—
b. Other Duties.		
1. Storage, in Gold:	1 719.131	—
2. Carriage, in Gold:	1,077.428	100 796
3. Stamping and Sealing, Gold:	95.424	19.110
Paper:	—	485
4. Statistics Duty: Gold:	455 026	99.105
Paper:	—	2.738
Total: Gold:	129,106.410	219 011
Paper:	677.717	215,530.543
II. Extraordinary	Dinars.	
1. Fines: Paper	3,598.692	
2. Sale of Goods: Paper:	723.981	
3. Under earlier control regulations: Paper	1,058 951	
4. Agio: Paper	1,020 398.871	
Total—Paper	1,025,780.495	
Altogether, in gold	129,325 421	
in paper	1,241,988.755	

B. Actually Paid in.

Total Customs Receipts ... 1,371 314.176 paper dinars.

During 1924 all Customs receipts were paid in paper dinars, and nothing in gold, as was the case in former years also. This is explained by the fact that the agio fixed by the Customs was considerably lower than the actual agio at the Bourse.

Besides the Customs receipt shown above, the Customs service also charged certain duties to the accounts of other authorities, viz., State toll on goods paying the same in the country (Indirect Taxation Management Account), monopoly duties on the import of monopolised articles (Autonomous Monopoly Control Account), and certain other less important charges. The receipts from these other accounts in 1924 amounted to 301,965,081 paper dinars, which, added to the total of the other Customs receipts, gives a total Customs revenue of 1,673,279,257 paper dinars. The Customs service also enforces certain other municipal duties: the paving tax on the carrying in and out of goods, the weighing tax, and municipal tolls wherever such exist. These brought in during 1924 15,190,050 dinars.

The new Customs tariff law has made some changes in the kinds of Customs receipts, the luxury tax being abolished and the carriage and statistics taxes being changed into an administrative tax, 25 per cent. of the receipts from the last-named being allotted to the Customs officials.

III.—Revenue of Customs Stations.

Statistics have not yet been published showing the amounts and kinds of good passing the different Customs stations. An idea, however, of the activities of these various stations can be formed from the following table showing the receipts of the Stations in 1924 (including revenues from the accounts of other authorities):—

	From Imports. Dinars	Per cent.	From Exports. Dinars	Per cent.	Total Dinars	Per cent.
Belgrade ...	331 780 690	22.9	9,042.124	4 0	340 822.814	20.4
Zagreb ...	315.095 101	22.0	10 231.009	4.5	325,326.110	19.4
Ljubljana ...	131.026.385	9.0	4,679 709	2.1	136 706.094	8.1
Subotica ...	55 046.523	4.0	42 497.534	19.0	97 544 057	5.8
Maribor ...	70,431.890	5.0	18,796.506	8.4	89,228 396	5.3
Novi Sad ...	76,632.839	5 3	6,741 781	3 0	83,374 620	5.0
Skoplje ...	68,963.951	4 8	2,073.202	0.9	71,037.153	4.3
Split	49,837.726	3.4	968.681	0 4	50 806.407	3.0
Sarajevo ...	50 080.500	3.5	175.888	0.5	50,256.388	3.0
Dubrovnik ...	28 880 949	2.0	1,050.211	0.1	29 931.160	1.8
Osek	27,954.550	2 0	1,838.992	0.8	29 793,542	1 8
Rakek	1 270 598	0 1	26,492.677	11.9	27 763 275	1.7
Metkovic ..	25 586.914	1.1	124 437	0 0	25,711.351	1 5
Sombor ...	8 330.354	0.6	16,197.996	7 3	24 528.350	1.5
Susak	20 484.288	1.4	3 629 518	2.0	24,113.806	1.4
Djevdjelija ...	4 860.577	0.4	17,156 793	7.7	22,017 370	1.3
Bitolj	15 345.349	1.0	3,076.091	1.4	18,421 440	1.1
Velika Kikinda	17,367 010	1.1	578 508	0.3	17 945.518	1.1
Velika Beckerek	10,016.029	0.7	7,076.091	3 2	17 092.132	1.0
Celje	15,199.546	1.0	1,238.036	0.6	16,437 582	1.0
Zemun	16.149.176	1.1	146 693	0.0	16 295.869	1.0
Jasenica ...	5,773 327	0.4	10.421.783	4.7	16,195.110	0.9
Koprivnica ...	8.105 715	0.6	7,255 855	3.3	15,361.570	0.9
Slavonski Brod	14,096.904	1.0	908 816	0.4	15,005.720	0.9
Cakovac ...	8,304 541	0.6	4,236.189	1.5	12,540 730	0 8
Sisak	9,940.008	0.7	2,068.842	0.9	12,008.850	0.7
Vinkovci ...	7.812.849	0.5	1,507.794	0.7	9 320 643	0.6
Sibenik ...	8,873.435	0 6	356 548	0.2	9,229.983	0.6
All others ...	46 902 366	3.2	22,560.855	10.1	69,463 221	4.1
Total	1,450,150.090	100%	223,129.171	100%	1,673,279.261	100%

This table shows that most of the foreign commerce of Yugoslavia passes through the stations of the north and north-west frontiers, as a result largely of the fact that Yugoslavia does not possess adequate connections with her Adriatic coast, and that the question of her Customs zone at Salonika is not yet satisfactorily settled. J. P.

CROP REPORT: SEPTEMBER 1-15.

General Conditions.

General conditions through the Kingdom, not reckoning winter and spring field crops which have been harvested, threshed, and prepared in all parts of the Kingdom, were considered almost very good in the first half of September. In the Valjevo and Vranje districts the condition was *excellent*. *From very good to excellent* in Travnik and Bihatch districts. *Very good*, Srem, Podunavlje, Porrinje, Morava, Timok, and Nish. *From good to very good* in Liubliana, Maribor, Osek, Belgrade, Posharevats, Kossovo, Skoplje, Bitolj, Krushevatz, Zeta, Tuzla, Serayevo districts and costal Krajina. *Good* in Zagreb, Shumadija, Batchka, Bregalnitza, Rashka, Uzhitze, Split, Dubrovnik, Mostar, and Vrbas.

Atmospheric Changes.—In the first half of September the weather was very changeable. In the northern parts there were frequent cold autumnal rains which unfavour-

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Capital Paid up - £14,372,956 | Deposits, &c. - - £338,371,355

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ably affected the ripening of grapes and maize. In the Maribor district the first snow fell in the mountains. In the south there was drought, quite keen in parts. Throughout the country there was insufficient rain, and it was feared that all crops which were in the final ripening stage would fail. In the middle of this fortnight rain began to fall locally, and by the middle of the month had soaked the earth sufficiently. Except in the south the rain was cold. There was local hail in some parts, but not enough to do any great damage to the crops.

Maize.—The harvest of early maize is in full swing, and showing good yield; the later maize in the plain is in the last stage of ripening, and that in the hilly districts in the first stage. In the north frequent rains are preventing ripening. In the Bitolj districts constant drought kept back the maize, but the rains just before the middle of the month, which have well soaked the ground, have improved prospects.

Vines have borne well. Blight has done some local damage, but not enough to spoil the vintage. In the north some fear is felt that many of the vines may rot on account of the bad weather. Cold rains are preventing ripening and causing rot. In the parts where rot has not set in the grapes are ripening so slowly that e.g. in Osek the vintage is not expected till October.

Potatoes are in some parts already dug; in others digging is going on. The yield is good, satisfactory both in quantity and quality.

Sugar beet is now being dug and dispatched to the factories. The yield is good.

Field Work.—The chief field work going on is the preparation of the ground for the autumn sowing, and manuring. The harvesting of autumn rye, wheat, peas and turnips has begun locally.

Pests.—Of cryptogamous pests, maize blight and mildew on the vines have appeared in some places. Of the insect kinds the maize caterpillar and some smaller garden pests have done some local damage.

Cattle.—Condition good. The chief food is green fodder and pasture. Of infectious diseases, anthrax, swine fever, sheep pox, and fever and cholera among poultry have all broken out in places.

September 15-30.

General condition of crops still in growth is very good practically everywhere.

Atmospheric Changes.—Weather in the second half of September was constantly changeable. In the north rain fell frequently and the weather was cold. There was local frost and snow on the higher hills. The cold has badly affected the ripening of some crops. In the south the weather is warmer, and aiding ripening. The only inclemency otherwise was hail in the Vrbas and Nish districts.

Cereals.—Harvesting of cereals is almost complete everyhere. The only part where it still continues is the Vrbas district, where bad weather held up the ripening of corn for some time.

Maize.—The harvesting and preparation of maize are in full swing, but it is not yet being gathered in those parts where the cold has made it late in ripening. In those parts harvesting will begin later. Where the maize has been carried, its yield is very good.

Vines.—Where there has been cold weather the vintage is late, but where it has been warmed it has already begun, with satisfactory results. In Croatia, Slavonia and Bosnia many growers fear the effects of the cold, for the grapes are beginning to rot in considerable quantities.

Other Crops.—The harvesting and preparation of all fodder crops is coming to an end. Most of the sugar beet is now being dug and sent off to the factories. The yield is good. Hemp is being fibred, soaked, and prepared. The yield is good. Vegetable sowings are completed.

Field Work.—The chief work going on is ploughing, with manuring and preparation for the autumnal sowing.

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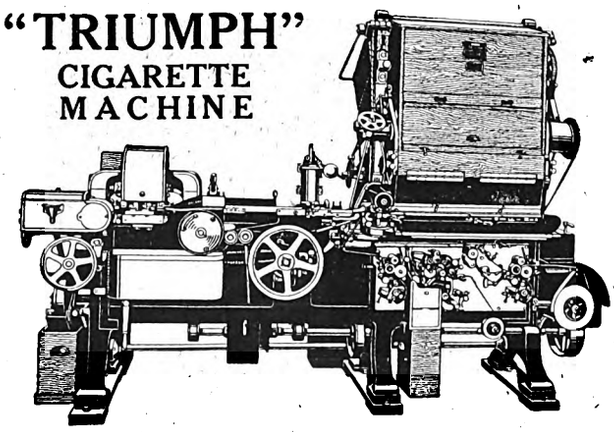

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Pests.—Of fungus pests the maize blight has appeared in some parts, and rot on the vines to a larger extent. Of insect pests there is the maize caterpillar and some smaller pests on other crops.

Stock.—Condition satisfactory. Of infectious diseases have been notified locally: anthrax, swine fever, sheep pox, and cholera among poultry. In the district of Podrinje there have occurred two or three cases of glanders among horses.

YUGOSLAV EXPORTS IN AUGUST.

Exports from Yugoslavia for the month of August amounted to 371,180 tons, valued at 70,506,980 gold dinars, as compared with 389,674 tons, valued at 55,935,070 gold dinars, in August, 1924, representing a diminuation of 4.74 per cent. in tonnage and an increase in value of 26 per cent. During the first eight months of 1925 exports amounted to 2,808,011 tons, valued at 501,594,906 gold dinars, as compared with 2,310,553 tons, valued at 389,138,658 gold dinars for the corresponding period in 1924, or an increase of 21.52 per cent. in tonnage and of 28.89 per cent. in value. The chief articles of export during August of this year were:—

Article	Unit	Amount	Million paper dinars
Maize	Tons	81 965	163 1
Woods: a—building ...	,,	95 029	99 9
b—fuel ...	,,	24 700	5 9
Corn: a—wheat ...	,,	18 774	54.6
b—other ...	,,	3.289	7 4
Eggs	,,	2 232	60 7
Horned Cattle ...	Head	15 518	58 0
Meat: a—fresh ...	Tons	1 107	23 2
b—meat products	,,	58	2.3
Opium	,,	26	17 5
Raw Copper	,,	600	16 0
Calcium cyanimide ...	,,	5 065	14 6
Live horses	Head	3 438	13.4
Pigs ..	,,	7.376	11 4
Cement	Tons	23.799	10 8
Sheet lead ...	,,	795	10.3
Articles of wood ...	,,	2,045	8 2
Fresh fruit ..	,,	2 904	7 2
Wheat flour	,,	1,317	7 0
Lamb and goat skins ...	,,	194	6 7
Small cattle ...	Head	30 855	6 2
Hemp... ...	Tons	334	5 0
Medicinal plants ...	,,	1.139	5.0
All others	,,	98 205	161 6
Total	Tons	371.180	765 0

The most important of these articles went to the following countries:—

Maize.—Down the Danube and via Braila, 119.0 mill. dinars; Austria, 20.1; Italy, 14.9.

Wood.—(a) *Building:* Italy, 73.5 million dinars; Greece, 4.8: Algiers, 3.8. (b) *Fuel:* Italy, 4.3 mill. dinars.

Corn.—(a) *Wheat:* Down Danube via Braila, 32.9; Greece, 10.1; Austria, 5.6. (b) *Other:* Greece, 3.2 mill. dinars; Austria, 2.6.

Eggs.—Switzerland, 26.8 mill. dinars; Germany, 16.1; Austria, 12.8.

Horned Cattle, live.—Austria, 31.8 mill, dinars; Italy, 17.3; Czecho-Slovakia, 5.8.

Meat.—(a) Fresh: Austria, 16.3 mill. dinars; Italy, 5.1. (b) Meat products: Austria, 1.2 mill. dinars; Italy, 0.6.

Opium.—Greece, 17.2 million dinars.

Raw Copper.—France, 16.0 mill. dinars.

Calcium Cyanimide.—Austria, 7.5 mill. dinars; Italy, 6.9.

Live Horses.—Italy, 8.5 mill. dinars; Austria, 2.1; Greece 1.9.

In August maize was again the chief article of export. Of the last crop, from November 1, 1924, to September 1, 1925, 96,448 trucks of maize were exported. valued at 2,039.6 mill. dinars. From January 1 this year to September 1 the maize exported totalled 81,782 trucks, worth 1,728.1 million dinars.

YUGOSLAV SHIPPING DEVELOPMENT.

The Jadranska Plovidba (Adriatic Maritime Navigation Company) is reported to have entered into negotiation with certain English shipbuilding yards for the purchase of two steamers of 4,500 tons each. It is expected that the steamers will arrive in Yugoslav waters some time in November, when they will be placed in the Mediterranean-Levant service.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF THE S.H.S KINGDOM.

Belgrade, October 8th, 1925

ASSETS		
Cash—		
Gold	73.951,475 —	
Silver	17,485,448 —	
Foreign Bank Notes ...	2,881,792 —	
At Call in Foreign Countries	406,560,504 —	
		500,879,219 —
Portfolio Bills ...	1,027,432,665 —	
Advances on Securities	155,091,971 —	
		1,182,524,636 —
Account for the Conversion of Crown Bank Notes		1,186 367,907 —
Account of the Prov. Exchange		367,226,617 —
Advances to the State—		
Treasury Bonds discounted for Budgetary purposes...	966,355,034 —	
Extraordinary advances guaranteed by Treasury Bonds	2,000,000,000 —	
		2,966,355,034 —
State Domains—		
For cover of Bank Notes issued for conversion of Crown Notes		2,138,377 163 —
Sundries		1,124,253,440 —
		9,465 984,016 —
LIABILITIES.		
Capital — Dinars 50,000,000 in gold of which paid up		28,046,800 —
Legal Reserve		6,475,042 —
Bank Notes in Circulation		6,190,391,720 —
Account of the Prov. Exchange		367,226,617 —
Government's Accounts—		
Sundry Accounts		32,567,627 —
Su dry Obligations—		
Current Ac ounts	497,494,767 —	
Special Accounts	130,785,802 —	
		628,280 569 —
Account of the State Domains		2,138,377, 63 —
Agio for the purchase of gold for capital and funds		74,618,478 —
Sundry Accounts		
		9,465,984,016 —

Under the heading "Cash" a gold dinar is reckoned as a dinar, an English pound as 25 dinars. a dollar as 5 dinars, an Italian lira as one dinar, a Swiss or French franc as a dinar, a coined silver dinar as one dinar, etc.

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Sofia: Librairie Francaise et Etrangere, 4a, Bvd. Tsa Ostvoboditel.

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Nicosia: George and Sons, P.O. Box 6.

GREECE.
Athens: Th. Vafiadis, 24, Rue du Stade.
Eleftheroudakis and Barth, Place de la Constitution.

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THE GRAIN TRADE OF THE PERSIAN GULF.

We give below the text of a very interesting lecture on "The Grain Trade of the Persian Gulf," given by Mr. C. Wills, of the Mesopotamia-Persia Corporation, Limited., at the City of London College on October 22.

When I promised to speak on the grain trade of the Persian Gulf, I had in my mind that of Mesopotamia or, as it is now called, Iraq, and that any observations I had to make must necessarily be rather on the general capabilities of the country than its present actualities in grain growing. I, consequently, find it somewhat difficult to make the position, as I see it, clear, unless I visualise the past history of this very classic land and enter with considerable detail into that as well as into its present state. In my opinion we can only get some idea of its possibilities when we realise what its position was in this and other respects in ancient times. Grain growing will undoubtedly always be the most important product, but if we think of that and nothing else we are not really helping in bringing peace and prosperity to that land. Irrigation in the past was the foundation of its prosperity, and will be in the future, and, therefore, I consider this question requires serious consideration in dealing with the subject.

Grain which is now classed as Persian, can, from a trading point of view, be considered as from Mesopotamia and "Persian" barley is a misnomer. Only about one year in five are shipments of wheat and barley exported from Bushire and the Karun (a river running into the Shatt-el-Arab at Mohammerah). Crops from these parts are small, and are dependent entirely on good rains, and are only exportable where it is grown within a very short distance from these ports. There are no means of transport in Persia excepting by caravan, and last year, although there was a surplus of wheat at Shiraz, about 120 miles North of Bushire, it could not be exported owing to the heavy cost of transport.

I understand that the pre-War Karun and Bushire wheats were for strength and colour as fine as can be obtained from any part of the world. It is said, however, that the quality of Karun wheat has somewhat deteriorated since the War owing to the importation by the military authorities of seed from India and Iraq.

Grain Exports.

It can be estimated that the pre-War exportable surplus of grain from Iraq was about 125,000 tons per annum of which 100,000 tons was barley. In 1923 the quantity exported was roughly 250,000 tons, and can be taken as composed of:—barley about 125,000 tons, wheat 100,000 tons, and dari and millet 25,000 tons. Paddy is also grown in large quantities. This year's crops have been a failure, and large imports of wheat have been, and are still being, made from India.

The crops of Mesopotamia are extremely variable in quantity, and are dependent to a very great extent on the rainfall owing to the want of the irrigation schemes of ancient days. From the deliveries of the grain at home it is clearly shown that there is a great absence of organisation in seed distribution. The methods of farming and threshing are most primitive, and little or no attempt is made at putting the grain on sale in a marketable state. Parcels of barley arrive in Busreh from the districts with as much as 20 per cent. to 25 per cent. of dirt, which is not only expensive, but impossible to winnow out. Wheat has also been shipped with as much as 18 per cent. to 20 per cent. of barley. The Iraq Government is most anxious to inprove the quality of the grain, but it must be realised that the Government is handicapped, and is entirely dependent on a small number of British officials as experts—the Turks had none, and took no interest in agriculture, and left the farmers to their own primitive resources. During the War and the British Occupation, a great deal of spade work was done, but naturally this was only taken up by the British authorities as a side issue. When the Iraq Government came into being it took over the British technical staff, but owing to the necessity of economy has had to dispense with a large number of them, and is now only left with a handful of men to deal with an enormous problem, which is far greater than they can possibly control in all its details.

Last year a scheme was on foot to put the area of the Yusifa Canal under wheat cultivation of really good quality and to endeavour to arrange for the best grain in the country to be exported and the poorer quality to be used for local consumption, which at present is the reverse. Further, the Government has also been considering the question of taking action by legislation to stop the mixing of barley with wheat and quantities of dirt in consignments from up country.

Many years ago, similar troubles were the rule in Indian wheats, but owing to the energetic action of the Government these have been got over, and now very little difficulty is experienced in the way of admixture and the mixture of various classes of wheat. It is hoped that the Iraq Government will also find some satisfactory solution to this problem.

Owing to the threshing of barley and wheat on ground which has been irrigated, and which, when dry, forms a hard skin, lumps of hard mud are always to be found to a small percentage in most shipments, and it is impossible to eliminate these by winnowing.

Primitive Methods.

The Arab farmer still uses hand-made tools which are probably much the same as those used in the Babylonian days. They consist of a wooden plough with an iron point, a spade, a hoe, and a sickle. No deep ploughing is done—in fact, one can say, that the ground is merely scratched to the extent of two, and to the utmost three, inches. The ground is never manured, but is sometimes allowed to lie fallow for a season.

Threshing is also carried out in a primitive way by blindfolded donkeys and bullocks going round in a circle, treading out the seed from the grain and straw. The Government and British firms are trying to educate the Arabs to take up modern appliances, but little or no headway has been made, although various types of machinery have been demonstrated. In the district a breakdown of complicated machinery results in delays for the want of a mechanic or the replacement of spare parts.

Mosul is really the only part of the country which has taken up agricultural machinery, and that is due to the absence of irrigation canals in that part. There are, however, a very large number of oil engines and pumping sets which commenced to be introduced into the country about 20 years ago. These are taking the place of the old-fashioned lifting apparatus which one still sees, and is made of a pole tied across another with a lump of mud tied up in a basket acting as a weight at one end and a skin which receives the water at the other and a similar irrigating contrivance which is used where the water is very much below the river bank, when the skins are hauled up by a wheel which is worked by oxen or donkeys.

Locust troubles in the Mosul district are often a serious handicap to cultivators, and some years, such as last, the damage done to grain crops is considerable. The Agricultural Department is studying this question, and

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has given the necessary instructions to farmers as to their destruction. From a report recently published it is stated that over 11,000 acres of breeding grounds have been located, and experimental work has elicitated the fact that each acre may be expected to contain at least half a ton of eggs.

Varying Qualities of Crops.

The variation in the qualities of the crops are most noticeable, firstly as the district in which they are grown, and also seasonally.

The wheat exported from Mesopotamia is generally very mixed in quality. The Department of Agriculture has found about 70 different kinds. While some of the flour millers at home are willing to purchase such adulterated wheat, many more have not the facilities for cleaning it. However, some of the wheat is as good as can be obtained in any part of the world. Its great dryness is much liked, for, as I understand, it is customary to mill wheat here containing up to 14 per cent. of moisture, whereas Mesopotamian wheat will usually have not more than 10 per cent., and water is cheap. A small percentage of barley in the wheat, say up to 4 per cent. to 5 per cent. is not considered extremely detrimental in the manufacture of flour since that quantity is manageable in the cleaning plant, but, as mentioned elsewhere, percentages of barley are considerably higher than this in almost all parcels.

The opinion of brokers is that if Mesopotamian wheat were of 100 per cent. purity it would appeal to a very much wider market. The present price is fixed by buyers to allow for the heavy cost of removing barley and dirt. Therefore if this was unnecessary the market price would be so much higher, and over and above this the brokers consider that a 4s. per qr. premium or about 12 per cent. according to present market prices would be obtainable, as it would meet with a much greater demand.

Growers should be taught that exporters only pay the price of barley for the quantity of such grain mixed with wheat, and that the premium which would be paid at home for pure wheats would go into their pockets, instead of as present, into those of the millers here.

I have little to say as regards barley. It is used here for feeding purposes entirely, and has the usual drawback of Persian Gulf grain, having too much admixture. Wild oats are also a very prevalent feature. The barley generally contains a great deal of dirt, but if only 4 per cent. or 5 per cent. this is immaterial. Generally speaking, however, this percentage is exceeded. A better class of barley comes down from Mosul. It is black and rather a heavy dry grain, but it usually contains small stones.

Dari is a spring crop, and is generally shipped during November-December. Millet is primarily a catch crop, and only comes down in small quantities in exceptional seasons, when it is planted to take the place of barley which has proved a failure. Paddy as a rice is of poor quality and brittle. Only a few mills entertain it as rice. Large shipments were made before the War, but in recent years owing to the high prices ruling for wheat the stocks available have been consumed locally.

To come to the various qualities of wheat, those principally known are:—Jassanieh, Busreh (mixed wheats from up-country), Garaff, Baghdad, Koolah, Mosul, and Nasarieh.

Mesopotamia to-day as a grain growing country is at present one of the smallest as compared with the other grain producing country of the world, but one knows that in Babylonian days it was the chief granary of the world and the country at that time was immensely rich. Early civilisation was centred there and more advanced in those parts than elsewhere.

Mesopotamia is bounded on the north by the Kurdistan mountains, which includes the Mosul area; on the south by the Persian Gulf; on the west by the Arabian and Syrian desert; and east by Persia. Its area is about 120,000 square miles, and its population just under three millions, of which Mohammedans number about 2½ millions.

The principal towns are Baghdad on the Tigris, 500 miles by river and 350 as the crow flies from Busreh; Busreh, the port of Mesopotamia on the Shatt-el-Arab, 80 miles from the Persian Gulf; Mosul, on the Tigris, 220 miles north of Baghdad; and other minor towns, viz., Kerballa, Nejef, etc.

I must now touch at some length on the historical side of this once classic country covered with a network Nineveh and later Ctesiphon, Busreh, Baghdad, and others to-day would be proud of and would find it difficult to improve on. These were the source of the country's great wealth and attracted its once large population.

Large and well known cities, Kish, Ur, Opis, Babylon, Ninevah and later Ctesiphon, Busreh, Baghdad, and others were surrounded by villages and the country fully cultivated by the waters of the Euphrates and Trigris. All these cities, including Baghdad and Busreh which have since been rebuilt have been entirely destroyed. Excavations of Nineveh, Ur, Kish and Babylon give one some idea of the enlightenment of those days, and also the extent of these once large cities. The remains of the Arch of Ctesiphon still stand to-day. It is an architectural wonder in itself, but there is no sign of the town of Ctesiphon, once the capital of the Sussanian Kings which was said to cover an enormous area of ground.

From the earliest days up to 538 B.C., the Elamites and the Semites alternatively conquered Mesopotamia, and discovered records show continued prograss in irrigation and canal making.

In B.C. 538 the Persians conquered Babylon and Cyrus was proclaimed King of Babylonia and dominated the world. Then came the conquest of Alexander the Great, followed by the Seleucids, under Greek influence—and after these the Parthians, conquered the whole of Mesopotamia and Persia. The Romans met the Parthians on the Euphrates in B.C. 54 and history relates that a continual warfare was carried on by them without any result for about 280 years. The expansive and waterless desert between Mesopotamia and Syria was undoubtedly the difficulty. In the end, however, the Romans captured the whole of Northern Mesopotamia when Seleucia and Ctesiphon were completely destroyed in A.D. 254.

Since A.D. 254 Persian, Roman, and Bedouin raids and invasions were carried on and continued until the spread of Mohammedanism which reached Mesopotamia by its conquest by Khalid in about A.D. 630. It is recorded that up to this date although the country had been subject to lengthy invasions and revolutions, the canals and irrigation schemes in Mesopotamia were not seriously damaged, after which, Mesopotamia was a scene of war between Moslems and Persians and during these times the canals and irrigation schemes of the country were damaged to a small extent due to the tactics of the Moslem conquerors. Dissensions amongst the rulers of the Moslems stirred up rebellions and civil wars in Mesopotamia and elsewhere. This brings us up to A.D. 749, the end of the first Moslem Empire.

(To be Concluded.)

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Shipping Intelligence.

NEW GREEK STEAMER.

The launch took place recently at the Wallsend shipyard of Swan, Hunter, and Wigham Richardson, Ltd., of the passenger and cargo steamer, Patris II., which the firm has built for the National Steam Navigation Company of Greece. The Patris II., whose dimensions are 335 ft. in length between perpendiculars, 47 ft. 6 in. beam, and depth moulded of 26 ft. 3 in. to upper deck, will provide accommodation for 138 first-class passengers, and about 176 third-class passengers.

CORINTH CANAL CONDITION.

The Corinth Canal has now been cleared to the full depth of eight metres, and has been declared open for navigation at all hours, subject to the Corinth Canal Company's rules. The tariff of dues issued on April 1, 1923, is still in force.

BULGARIA AND DANUBE NAVIGATION.

The conference which has been considering the question of the establishment of a Bulgarian steamship company for Danube navigation has appointed a special commission to settle the details of the creation of the company, to determine the amount of capital that will be required, and what steamers will have to be purchased.

SAFETY OF THE VOGSLAV.

The Lutine Bell was rung at Lloyds on Saturday for the announcement that the Vogslav, a Yugoslav steamer, had arrived safely in Tor Bay. The Vogslav had been reported to be in distress off Land's End, and subsequently news was forthcoming that a vessel which was accompanying her to Falmouth had lost sight of her in a torrential downpour, and had been unable to find any trace of the steamer after a search lasting several hours. As much as 90 per cent. was quoted for the re-insurance of this vessel which of course indicated that there could be small prospect of her having survived the storm.

The steamer Hound has been sold by the Burns, Laird Line to a Greek shipping company.

An order has been placed by Cammell, Laird and Co. with Lightalloys, Ltd., of London, for 2,500 railway-carriage doors for service on the roling-stock used in connection with the electrified portion of the Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway.

ANCHOR LINE

LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.

KARACHI via Bombay, calling at Gibraltar and Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS UPPER DECK CABINS.
MODERATE FARES.
RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT
Indian Government Vouchers accepted.

Passenger sailing dates :—

*OLYMPIA, Nov. 13.	*OLYMPIA, Feb. 19.
*SCINDIA, Nov. 27.	*SCINDA, Mar. 4.
*MASSILIA, Dec. 11.	*BRITANNIA, Mar. 16.
*ELYSIA, Dec 29.	*MASSILIA, Mar. 30.
*CIRCASSIA, Jany. 12, 1926.	*ELYSIA, April 13.
*CASTALIA, Feb. 2.	*CIRCASSIA, April 30.

*First class passengers only. Specially low fares.

ANCHOR LINE,
48, FENCHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses :—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Olympia for Bombay (Liverpool, November 4). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mahratta for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 31).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Oxfordshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, November 4).

British India Line.—S.s. Shirala for Bombay and Karachi (London, November 6); s.s. Morvada for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 7).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Cypria for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, November 14).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Exeter for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 5).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, November 6). (The last steamer of the season for Sulina, Galatz, and Braila); m.v. Sycamore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, November 21).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. China for Bombay (London, November 13); s.s. Nellore for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 14).

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

BENGAL-NAGPUR RAILWAY.

The report of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway for the year ended March 31 states that the gross earnings were Rs.8,26,70,742, while the working expenses were Rs.5,32,34,801. There was an increase in the gross earnings of Rs.47,69,845, or 6.12 per cent., while there was an increase in the working expenses of Rs.22,26,696 lakhs, or 4.33 per cent., and the ratio of expenses to gross earnings has fallen from 65.48 to 64.35 per cent. The increase in expenses is due partly to larger operating expenses to work the increased traffic and partly to heavier renewals of permanent way and larger outlay on ordinary repairs and maintenance of tracks. The results of working for the year are: Net earnings, Rs.2,94,35,941; add outstandings of the previous year realised, Rs.26,537—Rs.2,94,62,478; deduct: interest on Secretary of State's capital, Rs.1,66,93,409; interest on share capital and debentures, Rs.51,25,932—Rs.2,18,19,341—Rs.76,43,137; less adjustments, Rs.4,88,533; surplus profits, Rs.71,54,604. The company's share of the surplus profits of the year amounted to Rs.5,23,577 after payment of Indian income-tax, to which must be added a sum of Rs.53,647 on acount of increased surplus profits for the two preceding years, arising out of the refund by Government of Customs duties paid, making a total of Rs.5,77,224. This sum, when remitted to this country, produced £43,215 2s. 9d. The shareholders have received as guaranteed interest for the first half of the year under report £1 15s. and an interim dividend of 15s. per cent., less tax. In addition to the second half of the guaranteed interest at £1 15s., less income-tax at 4s. in the £, the directors recommend an additional payment of a further dividend of 15s. per cent., less income-tax at 2s. 1½d. in the £. This will necessitate the withdrawal of about £1,000 from the reserve. With this payment the whole return for the year on each £100 stock will be 5 per cent., less income-tax.

Sir Atul Chatterjee, High Commissioner for India, delivered an address on "The Working Classes of India" at the Working Men's College, Camden Town, last Saturday evening.

M. Lucas Roufos has been appointed to the Ministry of Education in Greece. He will retain the portfolio of of Education for 15 days, after which he will take over the Ministry of the Interior.

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Motors and Motoring.

By G. B. B.

The Outlook.

There is more than an indication of a revival in trade, and, as I said last week, the British light car has now come completely into its own. The home market is good, decidedly good, and the huge market overseas, which British manufacturers have hardly tapped as yet, is daily becoming more and more insistent in its demand. Especially is this true of the Near East, Middle East, and India, where the British light car has only to be known to be bought eagerly. The trouble is the old trouble; a troubie one hardly likes to mention again, so frequently has one mentioned it before. It is this, in a nutshell. The average man in the Near East and India does not know anything, comparatively speaking, about the British light car. The reason he knows so little is because the manufacturer has never troubled to tell him about it. It is the old story; when our home trade is good we never bother about the overseas buyer: we can do without him! As soon as our home trade is bad, we say we cannot afford to tell the overseas buyer about our goods. That is one of the reasons—probably the only reason—why Buicks, Chevrolets, Maxwells, Oaklands, Studebakers, and other cars hailing from the same quarter of the globe are to be seen in the streets of every British Dominion.

The Medium Power Car.

I understand that a leading authority in the motor trading world has expressed the view that a very large number of motorists to-day have "graduated"—a terrible word—from the small car class to the cars of medium horse power, and he does not think that they are likely to return. Well, why should they? The more who "graduate," the better for our makers of cars of about 20 h.p. Those cars are thoroughly well made in every way, and they speak as highly as do the smaller cars of the excellence of modern British motor design. But the light car is still the car *par excellence* for the average man, and the busy state of our motoring industry to-day is largely due to the praiseworthy efforts of the designers and makers of the small power unit, coupled, of course, with the high-class work of the British body builder. The same authority whom I quoted above has had something to say about the question of a revision of motor car taxation. In his opinion this question is soon likely to come into prominence. It is readily admitted, as he says, that there are inequalities in the present system and further inquiry has been promised. How taxation will be revised has not yet been made clear, but from statements made in the House of Commons a reversion to the petrol tax seems hardly likely. The Ministry concerned has said that it is intended to go into the subject of the reorganisation of the taxation of motor cars from top to bottom, and of course this conveys the idea that some change will shortly be made. What this change will be cannot be surmised. One only hopes that there will be no alteration in the present method of calculating engine horse power for taxation purposes.

The A.C. Again.

I have received the following letter from Mr. S. F. Edge:—"On Monday, October 12, Mr. J. A. Joyce, driving a 4-cylinder 12 h.p. A.C. car, broke the Brooklands hill climbing record. His time was 7.748 seconds, the speed being 30.998 m.p.h. Truly a remarkable performance considering that the record for this hill is open to cars of any size, but the 12 h.p. A.C. racer has beaten the world's cars on this test." It is a wonderful achievement; but then one expects great things, by this time, from this famous car whenever it appears on the track.

A £5,000 Motor Car.

One of the most luxurious cars ever constructed for an Eastern ruler was exhibited at Olympia during the last few days of the Motor Exhibition, viz., a 40-50 h.p. Rolls-Royce "New Phantom" chassis with a specially designed body by Messrs. Windovers, Ltd., of 104, New Bond Street, W., and supplied to the order of the Raja Kumer of Vizianagram.

The body is of pure aluminium with gold and silver fittings, three windscreens, one front, one centre and one rear, also two concealed hoods. In addition to the usual dashboard fittings, the car is provided with a gold cigar box, walnut and gold companions, a barometer, a thermometer, a gradient meter, cigar lighters, an ice chest, a fresh water tank, a canteen for four people, three decanters, a champagne holder, a syphon holder, and numerous inlaid cabinets, polished aluminium discs, also a silver-plated luggage carrier, and the car forms a striking example of British craftsmanship. I am informed that owing to the very large clientele Messrs. Windovers have in India, their experience in catering for the requirements for the Indian market is unique.

Commercial Motors.

The seventh Exhibition of Commercial and Public Services Vehicles at Olympia has been excellently organised this year, and as it remains open until November 7, all my British readers will have an opportunity of seeing for themselves the excellent productions turned out by this busy branch of our motor trade. The commercial transport vehicle will be largely in evidence, every variety of van and lorry being represented, and a section which is of great and growing importance and one which will attract more than usual attention will be that of the municipal vehicles. Wagons for refuse collection, street watering vehicles, road rollers, ambulances, tipping wagons, and fire-engines will be shown in great variety, and in the public service vehicle section will be shown some of the very latest and most luxurious coaches, omnibuses, and "charabancs," fitted with special springing and exceptional braking; vehicles which are noiseless in running, weatherproof, well-lighted, and the last word in automobile luxury. During the continuance of the Show I shall be paying a special visit to every stand for the purpose of collecting information for the benefit of our overseas readers, but without going now into any details of exhibits and without pretending to mention more than a few of the chief exhibitors, I should say that the stands of the following firms will amply repay inspection, viz.:—

INDIAN AFRICAN SERVICE.

Regular Passenger and Freight Service from

RANGOON, CALCUTTA, and COLOMBO

To **BEIRA, DELAGOA BAY, DURBAN, EAST LONDON, PORT ELIZABETH, MOSSEL BAY, and CAPE TOWN.**

Excellent Passenger Accommodation.
Wireless Telegraphy.

ORIENTAL AFRICAN SERVICE

Passenger and Freight Service from

HONG KONG, BANGKOK, SINGAPORE & MAURITIUS

To **SOUTH AFRICAN PORTS.**

Excellent Passenger Accommodation.
Wireless Telegraphy.

Information for Freight and Passage may be obtained from the following:—

RANGOON—J. & F. Graham & Co.
CALCUTTA—Andrew Weir & Co.
COLOMBO—Skrine & Co.
BEIRA—Beira Shipping Agency.
DELAGOA BAY—John T. Rennie & Sons.
DURBAN—Andrew Weir & Co
EAST LONDON—Messrs. Dunn & Co.
PT. ELIZABETH—Mackie, Dunn & Co.
MOSSEL BAY—Messrs. E. Searle & Co.
CAPE TOWN—Thomson, Watson & Co.
HONG KONG—The Bank Line, Ltd.
BANGKOK—Siam Forest Co., Ltd.
SINGAPORE—Huttenbach Bros. & Co.
MAURITIUS—Adam & Co.

LONDON ANDREW WEIR & CO, 21, Bury Street, E.C.3

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Petrol and Petrol Electric Vehicles: Albion Motor Co., Ltd.; Associated Equipment Co., Ltd.; Austin Motor Co., Ltd., where the wonderful Austin "Seven" should be closely inspected; Bristol Tramways and Carriage Co., Ltd.; H. G. Burford and Co., Ltd.; Crossley Motors, Ltd.; Daimler Co., Ltd.; Dennis Bros., Ltd.; Fiat (England), Ltd.; Guy Motors, Ltd.; Halley's Industrial Motors, Ltd.; Maudsley Motor Co., Ltd.; Scammell Lorries, Ltd.; Star Engineering Co., Ltd.; Tilling-Stevens Motors, Ltd.; Vulcan Motor and Engineering Co. (1906), Ltd.; and Willy's Overland Crossley, Ltd.

Electric Vehicles: Clayton Waggons, Ltd.; Richard Garrett and Sons, Ltd.; Ransome, Sims and Jefferies, Ltd.

Steam Wagons: Clayton Waggons, Ltd.; Fodens, Ltd.; Richard Garrett and Sons, Ltd.; Mann's Patent Steam Cart and Wagon Co., Ltd.; Sentinel Wagon Works (1920), Ltd.; W. Tasker and Sons, Ltd.; and the Yorkshire Patent Steam Wagon Co., Ltd.

In addition to these there will be a number of interesting exhibits of body work for all purposes.

SUDAN TRADE PROGRESS.

The figures are now available for the external trade of the Sudan for the first seven months of this year. For that period there was an increase in the total trade as compared with the corresponding period of 1924 of £E449,619, the figures being £E6,349,819 as against £E5,900,200.

Government imports amounted in value to £E1,002,442, a decrease of £E174,516, but public imports at £E2,068,892 have increased by £E139,459. The total for the import trade shows a decrease of £E35,057, which is to be accounted for by the smaller imports during the period on account of public works.

The export trade has continued to be brisk throughout the year. For the seven months exports totalled £E3,028,343, at which they show the substantial increase of £E381,683. Re-exports rose from £E116,397 to £E173,127, while transit trade amounted to £E77,015 as compared with £E30,752.

In public imports the most important item has continued to be cotton piece-goods, the imports of which for the seven months totalled £E738,320 as compared with £E558,658. Considerable increases are also shown in imports of flour, tea, and petroleum. On the other hand, decreases were recorded in the imports of tobacco and cigarettes, machinery, iron and steel ware, sacks, coffee, and timber. Imports of machinery, it is to be noted, fell from £E115,363 to £E81,538. With the notable exceptions of gun and cotton-seed there was an increase in the value of the principal exports. Ginned cotton totalled £E1,519,914 as compared with £E1,352,139, though the quantity exported fell from 170,045 kantars to 153,693 kantars. Exports of dura have been more than double the quantity exported in 1924 at 22,428 tons as against 10,544 tons, while the value has increased from £E68,081 to £E188,279. Other notable increases are shown in the case of sesame and ground nuts. The exports of gum declined to 12,830 tons as compared with 14,449 tons, and the value was £E546,162 as compared with £E595,218.

The Austin Motor Company has supplied to H.M. King Faisal of Iraq an Austin Seven and an Austin Twelve, "Clifton" model, for his personal use in Baghdad.

SUDAN COTTON REPORT.

The report of the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government for September gives the following particulars:—

Bahr El Ghazal Province.—90,000 rottles of cotton seed have been issued in the Eastern District. The cotton round Wau shows an amazingly strong and rapid growth.

Kassala District.—Southern District.—Up to date 1,080 sacks of cotton seed were issued at Gedaref, 648 at Mafaza and 84 at Gallabat. Prospects depend very much on rainfall in the first three weeks of September, especially in the areas round Gedaref Town, but a production of 28,571 kantars may be anticipated unless there is a total failure of rain. Gash Delta, August.—The Gash continues to flow, with occasional flushes, but is below normal, and it is improbable that more than 10,000 feddans of cotton will be sown, with another 3,000 feddans incompletely irrigated but suitable for dura.

White Nile Province.—In the Southern District 2,000 feddans of American cotton have been sown and the crop is showing well. In the rest of the Province over 2,000 feddans have been sown, but shortage of rainfall is affecting the crop adversely.

Upper Nile Province.—Cotton in the Northern District (Dinka) is looking well. At Kodok it is in good condition.

Berber Province.—Pumping Stations Reports.—Gendettu: The cotton crop is healthy and is all in flower. The majority of it is carrying large bolls. Picking should begin about the end of September. Kitiab: Cotton planting, 1,000 feddans, was completed on August 6, and the crop promises well throughout the station. The absence of rain during the last 20 days of August has greatly assisted the cleaning of cotton. Bouga: The cotton crop promises well.

Dongola Province.—Pumping Stations Reports.—Ghaba: Cotton, approximately 480 feddans, is looking well. Gureir: Cotton, estimated at 400 feddans, has germinated well. Nuri: Cotton is coming on well. The area is approximately 700 feddans.

The Bulgarian Cabinet has decided to reduce the export dues on cereals by 50 per cent.

An Albanian delegation will shortly visit Belgrade to negotiate a treaty of commerce and "other conventions interesting both countries."

The Prime Minister has accepted the resignation of M. Rendis, the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Admiral Hadjikyriakos, the Minister of Marine, will take charge of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs ad interim.

It is announced that the Rockefeller Foundation intends making Budapest the centre for its work in Eastern Europe. From Budapest operations will be directed in Austria, Yugoslavia, Czecho-Slovakia, and Roumania.

The Air Ministry regrets to announce that as the result of an accident at Abu-Sueir, Egypt, to a D.H. 9a of No. 4 Flying Training School, Abu-Sueir, on October 21, Pilot Officer Geoffrey Walter Cripps, the pilot and sole occupant of the aircraft was killed.

Sir Patrick Dalreagle Agnew, K.B.E., of Northmoor Road, Oxford, late Indian Civil Service, and managing director and vice-chairman of the Central Prisoners of War Committee, 1916-1919, who died on September 9, aged 57, left estate of the value of £8,175.

GELLATLY, HANKEY & CO., LLOYD'S AGENTS

Telegrams: "GELLALY."

KHARTOUM, PORT SUDAN, SUAKIN, MASSOWAH AND JEDDAH.

Branches and Agencies at: GLASGOW, LIVERPOOL, MANCHESTER, ANTWERP, MARSEILLES, HAMBURG, AND COLOGNE.

Head Office: Dock House, Billiter Street, LONDON, E.C.3. West End Office: 62 Pall Mall, LONDON, S.W.1.

Exporters of Sudan Produce. Importers of general merchandise.

Regular Service of First-Class Passenger and Cargo Steamers between Port Sudan and the Continent United Kingdom, New York, East Africa and Australia.

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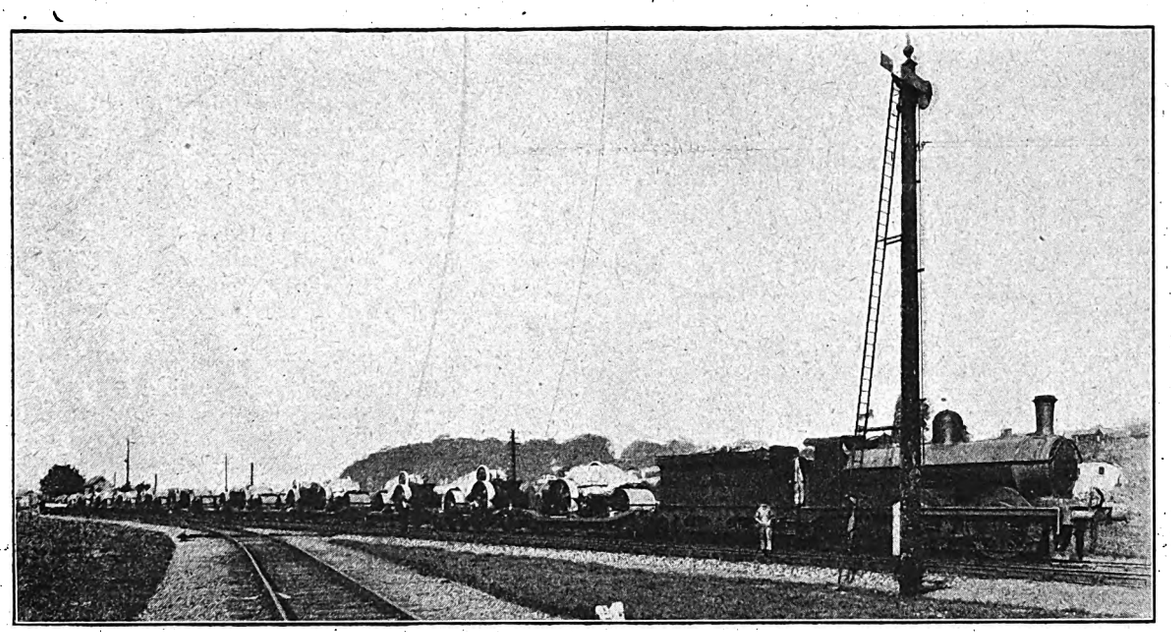
Engineering Topics.

(By Our Engineering Representative.)

Steam Rollers for Greece.

Reference has already been made in these columns to the very important contract obtained by Messrs. Marshall, Sons and Co., of Gainsborough, for the supply of 100 steam road rollers to the Greek Government. We give on this page a photograph of the first consignment of these steam rollers leaving Gainsborough for shipment to Greece. Details of the engines, which are of the "Marshall" latest class "S" series, have already been given, but it may be of interest to recapitulate their main features. The engines have compound cylinders, with piston valves and radial valve gear, while the boilers incorporate the "Marshall" patent anti-incrustation firebox with cambered crown-plate, and every road wheel will have its hub and spokes combined in one steel casting.



A train-load of 20 "Marshall" Steam Road Rollers leaving Gainsborough for shipment to Greece.

Each engine crank-shaft will have ring-oiler bearings, while an "Allen" three-tine scarifier will be attached to each engine. Messrs. Marshall, Sons and Co. specialise in the construction of steam road rollers, and their latest catalogue of this branch of their production shows a large variety of their Class "S" model. In producing this engine, which represents an entirely remodelled design, the firm has aimed at an engine which is not only highly economical in the consumption of fuel and water, but is also of great strength and durability. A feature of the engine of special importance to overseas buyers, is that every part is made to strict standard gauges, and thus can be readily replaced.

The "Gloster-Napier III."

The "Gloster-Napier III.," which Captain Hubert Broad piloted into second place in the Schneider Cup race this week, is manufactured, of course, by the famous aircraft designing and constructing firm, the Gloucestershire Aircraft Company, Ltd. It is a racing seaplane of the biplane type, and it is stated that it is probably the smallest machine for its horse-power yet produced on floats. The seaplane has a Napier "Lion" engine with a direct drive action. Its body is oval-shaped, the type of construction known as monocoque, with wooden longitudinal members and an outer covering of three-ply wood. Everything possible has been done to make the resistance of the body as small as possible, and the space for the pilot is only just sufficient to enable him to be seated with comfort. The wings are of spruce spars and ribs, and the fabric has been specially fixed to stand the suction resulting from a high speed. There are only two interplane struts. The propeller is made of solid duralumin, while the radiators, of a special type, are built into the leading edge of the wings near the body so as to give the least possible resistance. The floats are constructed of duralumin, and are attached to the body by special steel streamline struts and wires. The designer of the "Gloster-Napier III." is Mr. H. P. Folland, R.Ae.S., M.B.E., M.I.Ae.E. He joined the company in 1921, and designed the famous "Bamel," and has since produced the "Gloster I." the "Gloster II.," and the "Gloster Grebe." Recently he has designed two high-speed scouts, the "Gamecock" and the "Gorcock."

Varying Tenders.

The tenders of the various firms in connection with the contract for deepening and improving the port of Alexandria have a special interest on account of the great differences between the estimates. One is for £E1,500,000, another is for £E1,900,00, while a third is for £E3,141,000. It illustrates, I think, very plainly how far we are still removed from normal conditions.

A factory for the manufacture of plywood is being constructed at Hedera, in Palestine.

Contracts have been obtained by the Cleveland Bridge and Engineering Company, Darlington, for the manufacture and erection of mooring masts at the aerodrome at Karachi, and for steelwork at the aerodrome at Al Maza, Egypt.

National Insurance Companies.
"BALKAN FIRE AND MARINE"
(ESTABLISHED IN 1895)
"BALKAN LIFE AND ACCIDENT" and General Re-insurance Company, "BALKAN."
Capital - Leva 5,000,000 each.
Total Guarantee: Leva 100,045,000.
HEAD OFFICE:—SOFIA, BULGARIA.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

MANCHESTER COTTON MARKET.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Ottoman Bank for the week ended October 24 states:—

There has been a noticeable decrease in activity this week, for which it is difficult to account except on the ground that still lower prices are anticipated.

Yarn.—The turnover has not been up to expectations, and such business as has been secured has been mostly for small lines. Medium counts in particular have been neglected, but a fair business has transpired in low qualities and in the finer counts made from Egyptian cotton. In the latter section the raw cotton position is still a very detrimental factor.

Cloth.—The larger Indian demand recently noted has not been maintained, although there is still a good inquiry for "dhooties" generally for early delivery. The position in China has changed for the worse and comparatively little business has transpired for that market. Trade with Egypt has improved and quite a fair business still comes forward from the Continent.

Raw Cotton.—There have been no wide fluctuations but prices have shown a falling tendency throughout the week. Reports from America were not good during the early days, but improved later.

The crop continues to come forward rapidly and exports from the United States so far this season amount to 1,951,000 bales, as compared with 1,577,000 bales last year.

Conditions in Egypt are said to remain very good and spinners are buying sparingly in the expectation of lower prices in the near future. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows:—American Middling, 11.27; Egyptian Fully Good Fair Sakellaridis, 23.35.

THE EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company in their report for the week ended October 15 state:—

Since our last report, the future market has been very active but prices have been rather weaker; the net changes on the week are as follows:—Sakellaridis, 2.62 dollars down for November, 2.36 dollars down for January, 2.22 dollars down for March. Ashmouni, 1.15 dollars down for October, 1.32 dollars down for December, 1.37 dollars down for February.

The drop in prices may be attributed to the heavy hedges put out by the interior merchants following on the break of New York when the last American Bureau Report was published estimating the crop at 14,759,000 bales. This figure was altogether unexpected and reversed the calculations of many people as regards the probable course of cotton prices this year. The demand from abroad has continued moderate; however, we think that the volume of business put through has been slightly larger than last week. From the inquiries received, it looks as if, should the market remain steady at about the present level of prices, a certain amount of business may result. Rumours have been circulated from time to time that the Government was about to intervene in the Sakel market, but so far there has been no official action on the matter. Although this intervention becomes more probable now that prices have broken the 40 dollars level, nevertheless we do not expect that it will have more than a temporary steadying influence on prices. The necessary support must come from the trade, and at present this is adopting rather a bearish attitude; the production will be larger than last year, and consumption probably smaller owing to the comparatively lower prices of the staples which are used as substitutes and which are extraordinarily plentiful this year. With regard to Ashmouni, there too the position is somewhat bearish, owing to the record production of Upper Egypt and that of the American staple crop. Our opinion is that Ashmouni will for the time being more or less follow the fluctuations of the New York market, but later on in the season the weight of the arrivals, coupled with the success of this year's American staples of competing qualities, may cause a narrowing of the present difference.

Spot: Minet el Bassal has only been open five days this week but a fairly good business has been done and sales amount to about 24,300 bales, of which we estimate 9,900 Sakel, 10,800 Uppers, 2,500 Zagora, 900 Pilion, 100 Brown, and 100 White.

Sakellaridis: A good business has been done, Good grades have absorbed most of the business and a very fair Continental inquiry for Extra qualities has appeared, but there has only been a fair demand for the medium grades, which are not as yet offering very freely. Low grades are not in much favour. Spot differences are distinctly easier for Fully Good Fair Ashmouni and the grades above, but for the grades below are unchanged.

Ashmouni and Zagora: Have been in good demand for all grades, the medium qualities especially being sought after. Spot differences generally are steady and unchanged.

Pilion: Has been in far request for medium and good qualities. Spot differences are distinctly cheaper for Good and better but firm for lower qualities.

Brown: A small business has been done. Spot differences are generally easier.

White: A small business has been done in the better grades. Spot differences have eased a lot except for Good Fair, which is in very limited supply.

Crop, 1925: Regarding the new crop, we have very little to say; the yield of the second pickings, however, has been quite satisfactory owing to the warm weather.

An order has been placed by Cammell, Laird, and Co., with Lightalloys, Ltd., of London, for 2,500 railway-carriage doors for service on the rolling-stock used in connection with the electrified portion of the Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway.

Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Richardson, General Officer Commanding the Poona District, is returning to India in the Kaisar-i-Hind, which left Marseilles last Friday for Bombay. Other passengers by the boat include Sir Lancelot Sanderson, and Major-General Sir Walter and Lady Leslie.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria	Piastre to £	97⅛	97⅛
Athens	Drachmæ to £	25 22½	362—365
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	274
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.36
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.18
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 3/16—18 7/32
Brussels	Francs to £	25.29½	107¾
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	1.015
Budapest	Kronen to £	24 02	343-347,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 3 16—18 7/32
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	850—865
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.84 1/16—4.84⅛
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	112¾
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	163⅜
Rome	Lire to £	25 22½	121½
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	660—675
Teheran	Krans to £	50	42.60
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	34.39
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	29

GEORGE J. KAYAT

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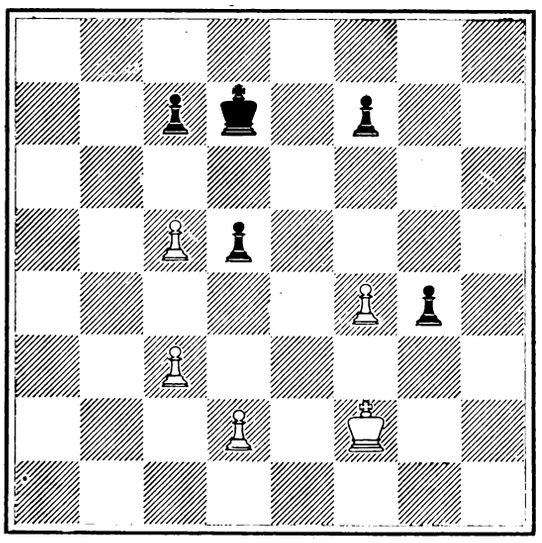

PROBLEM No. 19.

Black to play. What result?

Solution to Problem No. 18:—1, P—B5, K—K2; 2, P—Q4, P—Q3; 3, P—Kt4, K—Q2; 4, P—Kt5, K—B2: 5, K—K3, P—Kt3; 6, PxQP or P—B6, and draws. If Black plays 3 . . . P—Kt4 he loses.

The tournament season is at last upon us, and this week the first rounds of all the competitions at the City of London Chess Club are being played. Sir G. A. Thomas, Bart., is not playing in the championship this year, as he is captaining the badminton team which is going to Canada. In his absence the competition looks to be very open, and a keen struggle may be anticipated. I shall hope to give a game from the first round next week.

November 5 will see the commencement of the Moscow-International Tournament, in which there will be 22 players, including J. R. Capablanca, Dr. Emanuel Lasker, Dr. M. Vidmar, Dr. S. Tartakower, R. Reti, F. J. Marshall, A. Rubinstein, R. Spielmann, F. Samisch, E. Grunfeld, E. D. Bogoljubow, and J. L. Rabinowitch. It will be interesting to see whether Dr. Lasker will be able to repeat his recent triumph in New York. If he does no doubt the question of a return match with Senor Capablanca for the championship will come to the fore.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS.

The 172nd session of the Royal Society of Arts will be opened on November 4, at 8.30 p.m., when the inaugural address will be delivered by Sir Thomas H. Holland, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., F.R.S., Chairman of the Council; the subject being "The Organisation of Scientific Research throughout the Empire" The following week Sir Cecil Harcourt-Smith, C.V.O., will deliver the Trueman Wood Lecture on "The Modern Note in Industrial Art," the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres presiding. Other meetings before Christmas include "The Furniture of Hampton Court," by Mr. I. C. Goodison, "Colour Printing," by Mr. David Greenhill, "The Future of the Motor Car," by Sir Alan Burgoyne, M.P., "Recent Progress in Indian Forestry," by Professor E. P. Stebbing, and "The Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture," by Dr. H. Martin Leake, Mr. L. S. Amery, M.P., presiding. A course of three lectures under the Cantor Trust will be delivered by Dr. R. Lessing on "Coal Ash and Clean Coal."

At meetings after Christmas the following papers will be read:—"Investigations in Agricultural Science at Rothamsted," by Sir John Russell, F.R.S.; "Religions and Races in the Punjab," by Sir Michael O'Dwyer, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., (Sir George Birdwood Memorial Lecture); "The Work of the Imperial Institute," by Sir Richard Redmayne, K.C.B.,; "Women and Children in Indian Industries," by Lady Chatterjee; "Some General Problems of Fruit Preservation," by Professor J. McLean Thompson; "The Propagation of Electric Waves," by Mr. J. E. Taylor; "Problems in Paint and Varnish Technology," by Dr. H. Houlston Morgan; "Domestic Heating," by Dr. Mary Fishenden; "Modern Views of Vitamins," by Professor J. C. Drummond; "Horse Traction," by Mr. James Paterson; "Indian Maps and Surveys," by Colonel W. M. Coldstream, C.I.E.; and "The New Delhi," by Mr. Herbert Baker, A.R.A., F.R.I.B.A.

Courses of lectures will also be delivered by Mr. H. P. Shapland, A.R.I.B.A., on "Ornament in Furniture"; by Dr. G. W. C. Kaye, on "The Production and Measurement of High Vacua"; by Mr. W. F. Higgins on "Thermometry"; and by Mr. C. R. Peers, C.B.E., Director of the Society of Antiquaries, on "Ornament in Britain."

NEWS IN BRIEF.

It is announced from Tirana that Hussein Bey Vrioni has been appointed Albanian Foreign Minister.

King Faisal of Iraq, who had been staying at Nice for a fortnight, left last Sunday for Paris.

The Meshed Correspondent of the *Pioneer* says rumours are current that Persian forces have begun operations, intended to be decisive, against the Turkomans.

A decree has been issued, fixing March 7, 1926, as the date of the elections to the Greek Legislative Assembly, and the date of the meeting of Parliament as March 24.

It is now learned authoritatively that in the great storm in the Persian Gulf at the beginning of October, 1,000 lives and 40 boats were lost. It was the worst storm in the Persian Gulf in living memory.

The Commission for the reform of the calendar in Turkey has decided in favour of the adoption of the Gregorian Calendar, and a Bill for the adoption of the Christian Era will shortly be laid before the Grand National Assembly.

The Skupshtina re-assembled at Belgrade on October 20, when M. Marko Trifkovitch and M. Nicholas Subotitch were re-elected President and Vice-President respectively. M. Stanko Chibenik, a supporter of the Raditch Party, was also elected a Vice-President.

According to a Reuter message from Paris, newspapers there are publishing telegrams from Beyrout reporting that sums of money have been seized which had been sent out by Communist organisations to help the Druses against the French.

According to a Reuter telegram from Tirana, the President of the Albanian Republic has granted a general amnesty to all persons convicted of offences before and after the Revolution. It is added that all Albanian refugees abroad are now free to return to Albania.

The sentence of eight years' imprisonment recently passed on Mencia Carniciu, a Macedonian woman, for the murder of the Bulgarian bandit-leader, Todor Panitza, was cancelled last Saturday by the Austrian Supreme Court in view of the woman's physical condition, and the prisoner was immediately deported to Bulgaria by way of Hungary.

Dr. Gwynne, Bishop in Egypt and the Sudan, will remain in Cairo until December, when he will, as usual, proceed to Khartoum for Christmas. During the next few months the Bishop will attend the annual conference of the Fellowship of Unity in Cairo, the Anglican Church Council for Egypt, and the annual clergy conferences, held in November at Bishop's House, Cairo. He will return from Khartoum in February or March, 1926.

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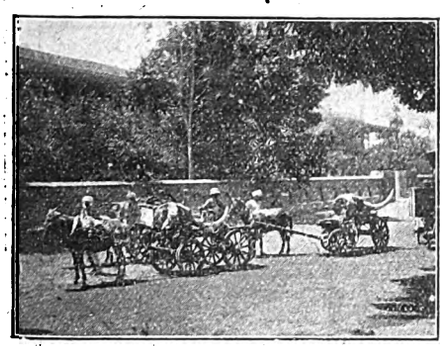

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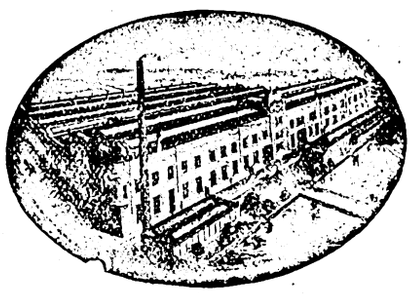
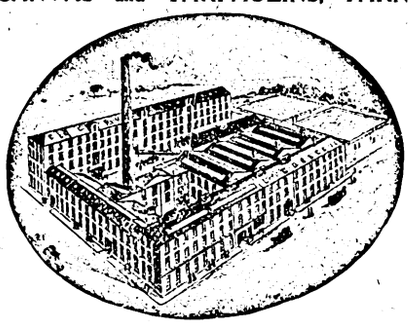
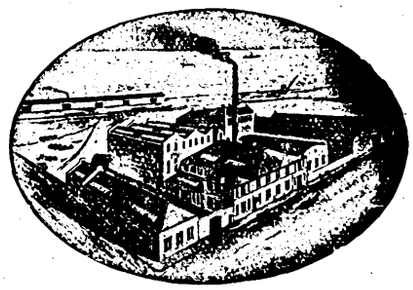

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THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

No. 756.—VOL. XXVIII. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1925.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	Page
NOTES OF THE WEEK	545
SPECIAL LETTERS—	
Egypt	548
Albania	549
Cyprus	549
Yugoslavia	550
Greece	551
Roumania	552
LEADING ARTICLE—	
France and Syria	547
PERSONAL AND GENERAL ...	557
THE WEEK AT HOME	554
BOOK REVIEWS	555
INDIAN AFFAIRS—	
The Viceroy Designate ...	559
Current Topics	560
Special Letters: Calcutta ...	561
Bombay ...	562
The Indian Mail	563
Indian Exchange	564
COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
Notes and News	565
The Grain Trade of the Persian Gulf—II.	569
Shipping Intelligence	570
Motors & Motoring. By G. B. B.	571
Near East Markets	572
Company Meeting—	
Sudan Plantations Syndicate	573
Chess	577

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

The Græco-Bulgarian Incident.

Peace now reigns on the Greek-Bulgarian frontier. Under the auspices of Allied Military Attachés the injunction of the Council of the League of Nations that the two parties must withdraw to their own territory before an inquiry could be held into the incident has been carried out, and the frontier forces now face one another as before October 19. The Greek troops evacuated Bulgarian territory well within the time set for this operation, in spite of an official *communiqué* from Athens that the withdrawal had been delayed by a Bulgarian attack on the extreme right of the Greek Sixth Division at guardhouse 73 on the night of October 27. If it be true, as reported, that the Greek representative with the Allied Military Attachés subsequently admitted that this alleged attack did not take place, a further illustration is provided of the difficulty under which the Greek Government has laboured all along of securing reliable information from the frontier. As soon as the Council of the League of Nations had been notified that its orders had been obeyed, it adjourned to await the report of the Commission appointed to investigate the frontier incident on the spot. The President of the Commission is Sir Horace Rumbold, who signed the Treaty of Lausanne and was at one time High Commissioner in Constantinople; its other members will be a French and an Italian military attaché, and a Swedish and a Dutch civilian. This Commission is due to meet at Geneva on November 6 and will proceed at once to Demirhissar; its inquiry is expected to be finished in time to enable the Council of the League of Nations to meet again early in December. In the meantime a Bulgarian Commission has examined the damage done by the Greek occupation. It reports that little damage has been done to buildings, that all cattle and horses were taken and poultry killed, that all household furniture and domestic belongings were removed, and that the whole of the year's rich harvest of tobacco, rice and wheat was either taken away or scattered. In five villages, it is added, there were several instances of "atrocities." The question of the effect of the occupation will, presumably occupy the attention of the international Commission.

The League and the Dispute.

General satisfaction has rightly been expressed with the prompt action of the Council of the League and with the efficacy of its measures. Report has it that the Council took note of its powers under Article 16 of the Covenant, which binds all Members of the League to joint action of a drastic nature in the event of a resort to war on the part of any State, member of the League, in disregard of the undertaking to submit first to arbitration or to an inquiry by the Council every dispute likely to lead to a rupture. The Greek Government in the present instance claimed to establish a distinction between the invasion of a country and war; but the only consideration that weighed with the Council was the readiness with which Greece agreed to withdraw her troops and to leave her case in the Council's hands. This correct attitude, it is to be hoped, implies that, after the first military excitement which led to the Greek advance, wiser counsels have prevailed in Athens.

Prevention Better than Cure.

The most significant part of the Council's proceedings in connexion with the Graeco-Bulgarian dispute was the remark let fall by Mr. Austen Chamberlain at the penultimate session that the Council had a still more important duty, and that was to discover some means of preventing similar incidents from recurring. It is clear to anyone with knowledge of Balkan conditions that it is putting a premium on incidents to have all along the frontier small military posts on each side confronting one another, within rifle-shot and often earshot. Such a state of affairs ought to have been avoided by the good sense of the countries concerned; but now that attention has been

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called to it by the anomaly of the Greek claim that an invasion of Bulgaria for ten miles was necessary, in order to dislodge a handful of Bulgarians occupying a Greek post less than fifty yards from the frontier, there will be no excuse for a perpetuation of the foolish custom. Difficulties will, no doubt, be encountered in finding a solution of the problem. If a neutral and demilitarised zone be established, its convenience as a nursery for *komitajis* is obvious. On the other hand the "will to peace" has only to be carried a few steps farther to eliminate *komitajis*, who in this part of the world are mainly patriotic Macedonians fighting for their independence as Serbians, Greeks and Bulgarians have fought during the last century. The pacification of South Serbia, that part of Macedonia which has been incorporated in Yugoslavia, is now engaging the attention of the Belgrade Government, and may shortly become the special task of M. Stefan Raditch. Nothing would suit Bulgaria better than to be rid of the danger that continually threatens her of complications with her neighbours as a result of the presence of implacable Macedonians within her borders. If Greece in consequence of the mishandling of a frontier incident should find herself called upon to pay a substantial indemnity, yet a third country would have a strong inducement to listen to proposals for making Macedonia if not an abode of peace, at least no longer a cockpit for the neighbouring States. An autonomous Macedonia within the orbit of Yugoslavia or a Slav federation would probably find her own internal troubles come fast and thick, but they would have an educative value; for Yugoslavia, Greece, and Bulgaria nothing but benefit would accrue from this solution.

The Syrian Revolt.

The recall of General Sarrail, High Commissioner in Syria, became inevitable after the bombardment of Damascus. His contempt for French public opinion, and indeed for the French Government, as shown by the studied brevity of his communications, was a matter that concerned the French alone; but his handling of the mandated territory of Syria, culminating in the bombardment of Damascus, brings France, whether she will or no, before the bar of the world's opinion, and her offence was aggravated every moment that she allowed General Sarrail to remain at his post. Whether the responsibility for what has happened is his or whether it attaches to the system that he was appointed to carry out is for France to determine. The world at large has no interest in General Sarrail personally, and regards him merely as the official representative of France in the execution of the French Mandate in Syria. The past week has produced the inevitable crop of sensational reports regarding the situation in the country, but it would be a mistake to regard them as being within fifty per cent. of the truth. The recall of General Gamelin from his expedition against the Jebel Druse for the protection of Damascus is evidence of the seriousness of the French position, and it remains to be seen what effect this withdrawal of pressure from the Druses will have in the insurrection as a whole.

'Tekel."

The inglorious reign of Shah Sultan Ahmed Mirza has been terminated by a vote of the Mejliss deposing the Kajar dynasty. The young man who succeeded to the Throne of Persia at the age of eleven, and was crowned Shah in 1914 at the age of sixteen, has never had his heart in his high office. For several years he has shown an unmistakable preference for the fleshpots of France over the responsibilities of Teheran, and after repeated invitations to resume his duties as Sovereign has finally intimated his decision not to return to Persia. In spite of the Persians' unhappy experience of the monarchical system in recent years, it is by no means certain that they would fare better with a republic. For the moment the form of government matters little. Reza Khan Pehlevi, as Prime Minister, is in control of the situation and Persia has at the helm the strong man whom she needs. It does not appear that he has been able to do much towards changing the Persian character or the traditions of the bureaucracy, which together offer such insuperable difficulties to good government in the country. While he remains in power, the worst abuses will be stopped and the whole administrative system will show a notable improvement. A recent report issued by Dr. Millspaugh, the American Administrator-General of Persian Finances, bears witness to the reforms that have been introduced under the government of Reza Khan—re-organisation of the Administration, establishment of law and order, restriction of expenditure, increase in revenue and improvements in the method of collection—but confidence in the future of Persia is hampered by the reflexion that a people cannot find salvation through the exertions of one man only. When last year an attempt was made to establish a republic in Persia the scheme was thwarted by the Shiah divines, and it is possible that they acted more wisely than Reza Khan and they themselves knew. With the deposition of the Shah there is bound to be a movement in favour of raising Persia's masterful Prime Minister to royal rank. As Sovereign or subject he will be equally useful to the country, but in one important particular his limitations will be the same; he will be unable to provide that an equally strong and able man shall take his place when he has gone.

Jewish Colonies for the Crimea.

The Soviet Government appears to have revived its scheme for the establishment of Jewish Colonies in South Russia. When the proposal was made some two years ago, it was intended as a counter stroke to the Roumanian occupation of Bessarabia. The first suggestion was the creation of a Moldavian Republic to include the Russian province of Podolia, Kherson, of which Odessa is the capital, and Bessarabia. Then apparently Moscow toyed with the idea of a Jewish State in this region, which might be expected to arouse the envy of, and to unsettle, the large Jewish element in Bessarabia. Jewish colonies in the Crimea could hardly be expected to play the same rôle of pinprick for Roumania as a Jewish State just across the Dniester, and so far there does not seem to be any adequate explanation of Moscow's sudden solicitude for the Jews in the face of the general trend of Soviet policy which has been—in spite of the anti-Semitism of individual leaders—to eliminate Jewish segregation, apparently in order to assimilate the Jew. Opinion in Jewry outside Russia is divided on the subject, Zionists being strongly opposed to the scheme, while other Jews consider it more practical to provide for Jewish relief in Russia—it is part of the Soviet scheme that funds should be forthcoming from Jewry at large—than to transplant Jewish families to a foreign land.

(Continued on page 558.)

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1925.

FRANCE AND SYRIA.

The revolt of the Druses in Syria has now passed beyond the limits of a local rising, and may become merged in questions of first-class international importance. Comment is of necessity handicapped by the fact that Great Britain, in so far as she is a Mandatory Power, also lives in a glass house, and for this reason, as well as from sympathy with an Ally in her misfortune, has no desire to throw stones. France, however, has deliberately set her house on fire, and her neighbour cannot affect indifference. The Druse revolt in itself need not have been a serious affair; properly handled, it ought to have been possible to isolate it and to suppress it without difficulty. It found the French authorities, however, at a grave disadvantage. The Mandate had never been popular in Syria; it was, indeed, to all intents and purposes enforced at the point of the bayonet, in contradistinction to what had happened both in Palestine and Syria, where Great Britain had at least some claim on the good will of the inhabitants, because she had appeared first in the rôle of liberator. France, with her record of successful colonisation in other parts of the world, seems to have failed to understand adequately the difference between the Syrians and the subject people of her African or Asiatic colonies. Public opinion in the latter has been non-existent, or if it is discernible to-day, it is of very recent growth; France, accordingly, has carried out her administration, as it were, within a ring-fence, with the native inhabitants on the outside, looking on, but taking no actual part in the general scheme of things. In Syria she has realised that conditions cannot be the same and that the Syrians have to be taken into consideration, but she has not been able to invest them with any real power, remaining content herself to play the rôle of adviser and supervisor. It may be that the attitude of the Syrians themselves made it difficult for the French to meet them half way; but, whatever the cause, France has continued to administer Syria without the whole-hearted support of any considerable section of the population, and where a measure of autonomy has been instituted, it has proved in practice more of a shadow than the substance.

In the meantime the exigencies of home politics and the economic situation in France have prevented the French authorities in Syria from retaining in the country the forces necessary under prevailing conditions to convince the population of the hopelessness of agitation. If France's Syrian critics are to be believed, her representatives in Syria deliberately embarked on a policy of "the heavy-hand"—the Syrians call it terrorism—to disguise the inadequacy of the armed forces at their disposal in a frankly hostile country. The accusation would never have gained any credence, had it not been for the evidence that the Druse revolt has brought to light. It is charged against the late Governor of the Jebel Druse that he had the ex-prefect of Sarthad bastonnaded and that he sent, without any form of trial, the sub-prefect of another village to break stones on the road. When shots were fired at General Gouraud, the penalties inflicted by the French authorities, it is stated, included the razing of several villages. Only in the light of this alleged policy of the heavy hand and the attitude of mind behind it, betokening real fear, can the more recent Damascus tragedy be explained. The exposure in a public square of the dead bodies of insurgents killed at a distance from the city is not an act of which France can be proud. It often happens in the East, where self-deception and gullibility prevail, that those who have suffered the extreme penalty of the law are left exposed to public view to prevent there being any doubt as to their fate and, it may be, *pour encourager les autres*. To bring from a distance the bodies of those who have been killed in open fight in order to parade them in the capital is the act of men who have no confidence in themselves and certainly no thought for the moral responsibilities of a Mandate. With a large part of the country in arms against them, the French had no need to call attention to the fact that there were casualties on both sides, and more civilised means could have been found for impressing the Damascenes with France's might. Equally inexplicable, except on the ground of panic, was the wholesale bombardment of Damascus without due warning, merely because a body of insurgents had entered one section of the city and had started to loot.

Both the French people and the League of Nations will require a fuller explanation of the course of events in Syria than General Sarrail, the French High Commissioner, has seen fit to give up to the present. Failure on the part of France to live up to the position of Mandatory Power reflects on the League of Nations, under which she holds the Mandate. It is unlikely that what has happened in Syria will enhance the prestige of the French or fail to make their task in the country still more difficult. Unless there are to be both a change of policy and a radical change of attitude towards the Syrians, the French position can be maintained only at a heavier cost in men and treasure, and it remains to be seen whether France will consider that the saving of face is worth this burden. Her repudiation of the Mandate would embarrass the League of Nations and still more Great Britain. It would be a comparatively easy thing for the League to grant full independence to Syria; but such a course must inevitably lead to an intensified agitation on the part of the Arabs in Palestine. No feelings of false pride will ever cause Great Britain to hold on to the Palestinian Mandate; her rôle in the country is to safeguard it against a return of Turkish domination and to see fair play between Moslem, Christian, and Jew. It is noticeable that in the agitation against the French Mandate no thought seems to be given by the Syrians as to their ability to protect their country against the Turks, if the latter should entertain designs upon it. Many people contemplate the day when peace will be as firmly established in this part of the world as it is now in Western Europe; but that moment can hardly be said to have arrived yet, and the territorial integrity of an independent Syria would not be worth many weeks' purchase. Great Britain can have no desire for an extension of her commitments in the Middle East, but from the Syrian point of view there might be much to be said for a single mandate for Syria and Palestine, which could ensure as great a measure of independence and self-government as Iraq has, while safeguarding the country from any possible menace from the north. In such a State the bogey of the Jewish National Home, with which the unthinking Arab or Syrian allows himself to be scared to-day, would assume more modest proportions; for a united Syria would have nothing to fear from a small Jewish minority and might one day grow wise enough to appreciate the value of Jewish co-operation.

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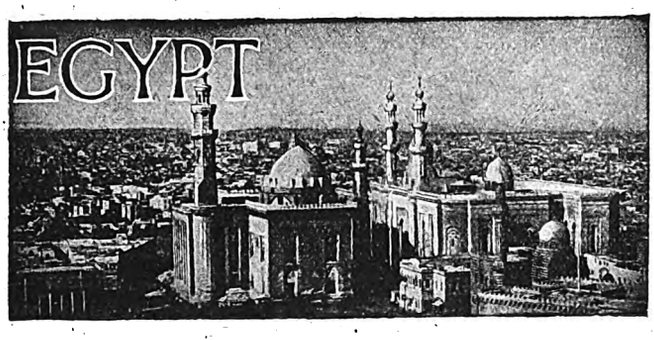
The Near and Middle East*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, October 24.

Exclusive Invitations.

At the inauguration of the Egyptian Parliament Zaghloul Pasha was much criticised for refusing to send invitations to the ceremony to any of his political opponenst. The exclusion of Yehia Pasha Ibrahim, the Prime Minister under whom both the Constitution and the Electoral Law had been promulgated, was regarded as a particularly flagrant piece of partisan spite. But on Wednesday, for the reception of Sir George Lloyd at Cairo station, the Government of which Yehia Pasha Ibrahim is the acting Premier confined its invitations to a few ex-Ministers and others who are supporters of the Unionist Party. That Zaghloul Pasha and his friends would not be invited was, of course, a foregone conclusion, but the failure to include Liberal Constitutional and other ex-Ministers who until quite recently have been the allies of the Unionists was much commented upon. And its result was that the handful of Egyptian notables who greeted the new High Commissioner were very far from being a representative group.

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The Government Reception.

In all other respects the reception was remarkably good. Egyptian crowds are habitually undemonstrative: there is, indeed, only one man living—Zaghloul Pasha—whose presence arouses enthusiasm among his fellow-countrymen, and it was not to be expected that the galabia-clad Cairenes who thronged Bab el Hadid Square on Wednesday would go into paroxysms of joy over the coming of a new British High Commissioner. But, if there were no tarboushes or turbans thrown into the air, nor any lusty cheering, there was at more than one point hearty handclapping. Not only foreigners were impressed and somewhat surprised by the applause. The *Kowkab el Shark*, one of the two principal Zaghloulist newspapers, after complaining that Sir George Lloyd was accorded an official reception such as even Lord Cromer never knew, and attributing this to the servility of the present Ministry, remarks, " . . . but what shall we say about the gathering of people to greet Sir George Lloyd and applaud his arrival? We make no mistake and do not exaggerate if we say that such a feeling on the part of the public is due to the fact that they are sick of the present state of affairs, for which they can find no remedy, and it seems that they imagine that the new High Commissioner's policy may allay their pains and allow them to live in peace . . . ."

Sir George Lloyd.

Of Sir George Lloyd everything, even the impossible, is expected, and rumour is rife regarding what he is going to do. At the moment he appears to be determined to get a thorough grip of the situation in the shortest possible time, and to that end is working like a horse, morning, noon and night. For the next few weeks he will be receiving a constant stream of visitors, for everyone in Egypt appears to be anxious to call on the High Commissioner to tell him just what he ought to do.

Political Activity.

Meanwhile, the various political parties are getting very active. The Unionist "drive" in the province continues, though it has received something of a check through the recent publication in an Opposition newspaper of a report by the Unionist Party's Director General recommending the fullest use of the administrative machine as a means of party recruitment. The report has been disavowed by some of the members, though not by the President, to whom it was addressed, but the repudiation seems a little thin. The Liberal Constitutionals, at last realising that their previous lethargy has been one of the principal causes of their lack of followers, are arranging to hold a series of meetings throughout the country, though it seems possible that the Government may prohibit these gatherings, as it did a meeting fixed by the Nationalist Party for the day of Sir George Lloyd's arrival. Zaghloul Pasha is stated to be contemplating issuing an invitation to all Opposition elements to meet in a general congress, "to decide how constitutionalism may be restored to the country." The Unionists are visibly frightened lest the Nationalists and Liberal Constitutionals may accept the invitation, which would open up the possibility of a very weak Government being confronted by a powerful and united Opposition.

Lake Hadra.

The draining of Lake Hadra, a scheme which has been debated for the last fifty years, and which is recommended on various grounds, among others that the Lake is one of the principal causes of Alexandria's notorious unhealthiness at certain times of the year, is at last on the

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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way to realisation. On Wednesday the Acting Under Secretary of State in the Ministry of Public Works opened the sluice gates of the syphon from which the waters of Lake Hadra are now flowing into Lake Mariut, and in a month's time the four hundred acres of the Lake's bed will be completely dry and ready for conversion into the site of the garden city which is planned by the capitalist who has bought the lake area.

The Flight to Kano.

At dawn on Tuesday Squadron Leader Coningham and his companions will start in three D.H.9A aeroplanes from Helouan aerodrome on their flight to Kano and back. The flight is due at Kano on November 4, where a stay of about ten days will be made, the return journey being scheduled to begin on November 15. A short stay will be made at Khartoum on the return journey, the aviators being expected back in Cairo at the end of November.
[The safe arrival of the airmen at Kano is reported.—ED.]

The Western Frontier.

The Egyptian commission appointed to negotiate with the Italian delegates regarding the Egypto-Tripolitan frontier, and notably about the future status of Jaghbub, had intended to leave for Sollum to-morrow. But now information has been received that the Italian negotiators are coming straight to Alexandria, where the preliminary discussions will be held. The Arabic Press, which was at one period much excited over the possibility of Italian claims to Jaghbub being recognised, has latterly shown little interest in the matter, but Jaghbub will doubtless again come into the news as soon as Ismail Sidky Pasha, who heads the Egyptian commission, and his colleagues get round a table with the Italian envoys.

ALBANIA.

Tirana, October 27.

Cession of Sveti Naum and Vermosch.

The reluctance of members of Parliament to present themselves in sufficient numbers to form the necessary quorum to enable a legal session to be held for the purpose of ratifying the cession of Sveti Naum and Vermosch to Yugoslavia, has after many delays been overcome. Parliament has met and after a fortnight's business on other matters, screwed up its courage to face the unpleasant task. Thus at length the cession of the above territories has come to be ratified, not, however, without a somewhat acrimonious debate and in the absence of many members.

The Foreign Minister.

The Ministry has been reinforced by the appointment of Hassan Bey Vrioni (cousin of the Minister accredited to Great Britain and France) as Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Efforts at Reconciliation.

The negotiations between the President and M. Fasli Frasheri with a view to effecting a reconciliation between the President's party and those in America and elsewhere forming the entourage of M. Faik Konitza, head of the Albano-American Association known as the *Vatra*, are still continuing. Meanwhile the Government has issued a general amnesty, without exception, to all those who were concerned in the armed opposition to the establishment of the present régime. This is an earnest of the President's desire to heal the wounds which at present rend the Body Politic and to broaden the basis of consent to the present régime. It is not expected, however, that more than a minority of those now in exile will avail themselves of the amnesty to return to Albania. So far only about 50 persons have returned and among these there figure no prominent members of the Opposition. Nevertheless the measure has had one good result—it has led to the return of several ecclesiastics who will thus be enabled to resume their religious duties. Monsignor Mjeda, Archbishop of Scutari, to mention the most prominent of them, will be returning to his diocese before the end of the year.

"The National Union."

The efforts of M. Eshref Frasheri to reconstitute the "clique" and thus to unite those of its members adhering to the present régime and those who were driven into exile, has had a grave setback. The group with whom he was in contact has evidently decided to burn its boats. This group, as already reported, had constituted itself under the leadership of the ex-Regent M. Petsi, M. Ali Klissura, M. Suma and M. Bushati representing all four religions in the State—e.g., Orthodox, Bektashi, Catholic and Sunni—into an Association known as the National Union. They have now issued a manifesto which makes any present reconciliation with Ahmet Bey Zogu quite out of the question. The latter is stigmatised as a viper and a traitor. He is compared with Essad Pasha, whose assassin Avli Rustem is extolled as a national hero. Moreover, to Ahmet Zogu is attributed the murder of Avli Rustem, as well as that of Gurakuqi, Bairam Tsuri, Zia Dibra and others who met their death by violence either during or subsequent to the recent revolutions.

The programme announced in the Manifesto is couched, in contrast to the above, in very moderate terms, It is framed to satisfy the Catholics, whose chief planks are a wide measure of devolution and a fairer distribution of State funds towards the maintenance of the Catholic schools, and the big landowning Beys of the South, who hitherto have had a heartfelt distrust of the Opposition in consequence of the latter's programme of land reform as advocated by Monsignor Fan Noli. Monsignor Fan Noli in fact has been altogether thrown over by the National Union.

It is to be feared that the effect of the Manifesto will only be to make the task of reconciliation more difficult. In fact the two main groups of the Opposition, namely that of the National Union and that of Monsignor Fan Noli, seem to have made up their minds to refuse to treat on any terms with a view to a *modus vivendi* with other groups except on the condition of Ahmet Zogu's elimination.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, October 28.

The Elections (Legislative Council).

No elections since the establishment of an Elective Council in 1883 have caused so much interest and excitement as those just carried out for the elective members of the new Council, in which the numbers of Greeks is increased from 9 to 12, in consideration of the preponderance of Greeks over Turks in the population. The number of Turkish (or Moslem) representatives remains, as before, three, and three non-elective members have been added. The Cyprus Council will thus consist of the Governor, 9 non-elective members, 3 Moslems, and 12 non-Moslems.

In spite of the plain answers that have been given to the Greek party that agitates for "union with Greece," the

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leaders have done all in their power to secure the election of members who will place their political aims before all other considerations. All who support such candidates are called by the Press "Nationalists," or Unionists, while all others are regarded—with worse than questionable taste—as "Government" supporters. Seven out of the nine non-Moslem members who sat in the late Council have incurred the displeasure of the "Nationalists," apparently because they placed the cause of the rural classes and general progress before that of politics, and every endeavour has been made to prevent their candidature or election to the Council. It was thought quite possible from indications during the canvassing period, that there might be trouble in some of the electoral centres. A proclamation of the Governor prohibited the carrying of firearms or offensive weapons in Nicosia between 6 a.m. on October 8 and 6 a.m. on October 10. In one locality a candidate was warned by the police that he had better not enter certain villages to speak, as trouble might arise. The police were thereupon accused by the Greeks of showing partiality to one side. An indignation meeting was forthwith held, and a resolution of protest passed which three leading persons were deputed to present to the Governor. The party opposing the Nationalist candidate —branded as "the party of disorder"—was aided by a monk of the well-known Monastery of Machara, in the Larnaca District. The brothers of the monastery, with their abbot, regarding this as a reflection on the place, held a meeting, at which the monk was ordered to take no part in electioneering matters, and his confinement within the monastery was ordered.

Rural Interests.

An impartial onlooker, acquainted with Cyprus and the history of the Council, would not hesitate to conclude that it would be well if there were a larger representation of the rural classes and interests. Hitherto the elected members—chiefly advocates, merchants, and perhaps moneylenders, have subordinated loyal efforts for progress in the island to political efforts, and have offered captious opposition to many Government measures, involving serious waste of time. The elections have been carried out without disorder and most of the Nationalist candidates have been elected. Two of the foremost champions and speakers of the "Union with Greece" party will, however, not sit in the Council. One failed to be elected: the claim of the other—who had previously posed as of Hellenic nationality—to be a British subject, and therefore eligible, was rejected.

Possibility of Progress.

It now remains to be seen whether the Greeks will co-operate with the Government. If so, the coming session should mark a turning point. There are many important matters that press for consideration, and there are movements on foot which promise well for island development, if properly encouraged. All well-wishers of Cyprus will hope that the newly elected Councillors will perceive in clearer perspective in what direction lie the true interests of the Colony. Should the leading men fail to work wholeheartedly for the people they represent, it is to be feared that progress will be as slow as in the past. And it may be added that in taking the line they have hitherto adopted, not only has a great deal of money been wasted, but probably far more harm than good has been done to the cause they have advocated.

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Liubliana, October 28.

The Prime Minister's Speech.

The political event of the past week was unquestionably the speech made by the Prime Minister, M. Pashitch, in the Radical Deputies' Club. This speech had been long expected, and demanded, because the veteran Radical leader had kept on delaying his clear pronouncement upon the Understanding *(sporozum)*, as the present agreement between Serbs and Croats is called. Meantime, the Opposition, and especially the Pribitchevitch group, tried to make capital out of this delay by endeavouring to prove to the electorate that the Agreement between M. Pashitch and M. Raditch would be short-lived, and that M. Pashitch at the bottom of his heart was against this policy. By the Prime Minister's speech, however, all these manœuvres have been checkmated, because the speech was a clear and unequivocal proof that the present Coalition Government has come to stay.

The substance of M. Pashitch's speech is as follows:—

You cannot fight a man who will not fight but does want to come to an agreement. The Raditch Party desires no intensification of the struggle, for fear that the State itself might break up over it. They desired agreement and therefore took up their stand altogether upon the Constitution. There is to-day no difference between the Raditch and Radical parties as regards their views upon the State. Therefore an agreement between these parties was bound to follow, and the logical conclusion of this agreement was the Coalition Government of the two. This understanding between the Radicals and the Raditch Party is necessary to State and nation, and therefore of primary importance.

It is true that, on account of the work of consolidation now begun, it is to be desired that the whole nation should take part in this work. For this reason the Radicals sought to draw the Independent Democrats into the Government. But the Raditch Party were emphatically opposed to this. This left the Radicals with the choice, either to decide for the Raditch Party and an understanding between Serbs and Croats, or to take the Independent Democrats into partnership and decide against the understanding. As the understanding was an exigency of State, and the inclusion of the Independent Democrats in the Government a secondary question, the Radicals could not find the decision difficult.

All the same, the Radicals were anxious to do their best for their old allies. M. Pashitch urged the Independent Democrats not to take up a hostile attitude towards the new policy of understanding; but the Independent Democrats would not take his advice and thereby so injured their own position that their power to-day is comparatively insignificant.

M. Pashitch's speech was perfectly clear and has put an end to the speculations upon fresh party combinations. Yugoslavia's position in internal politics is cleared up and the durability of the present Government established beyond discussion.

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The Slovene Difficulty.

But, however strong the present Government, it has one flaw. The Slovenes are not represented in it, and therefore the national understanding is incomplete. Those in authority are exceedingly anxious to remedy this defect, but for the moment the matter is not easy.

The first party to come into consideration would be the Slovene People's (Koroshets) Party, which commands twenty out of Slovenia's total of twenty-six mandates. This great electoral victory the party owes in the main to its plank of Complete Autonomy for Slovenia. But such autonomy is not compatible with the Constitution, and as the understanding with M. Raditch is based upon the Constitution, the Koroshets Party would likewise have to jettison the autonomist part of its programme. But this it dare not do, for fear of future elections. The party certainly realises that the economic interests of Slovenia categorically demand its taking a share in the activities of Government, and the question of autonomy is largely one of party strategy; yet in view of vacillation observable among the electors the Slovene People's Party cannot summon up courage for a change of policy. So a different solution is being attempted. In place of the People's Party the so-called progressive parties in Slovenia are to enter the Government. And these parties are very anxious to secure the reins of government *en miniature*. There is only one difficulty. They are all badly at feud with one another! On one side stand the Slovene Independent Democrats, and the rest are all ranged on the other. The Independent Democrats are making every effort to get into one or other of the Government parties, preferably the Radical, and to that end ask permission from the Independent Democrat party leaders for themselves to join the Radical Party. Permission was given, but the union has not yet been effected, because the Radicals made certain conditions, the principal one being, that the Slovene Progressive Parties should first come to an agreement among themselves. This condition the Slovene Independent Democrats have so far not been able to fulfil, and the question is still open.

The problem of this flaw in the Government is the chief feature of the present situation. It may be remedied shortly, and then there will remain but one unsolved problem, viz., the reconstruction of the Cabinet. But there is no doubt that M. Pashitch will show himself equal to dealing with this also, and then there will be nothing to hinder the Government from assuring profitable parliamentary work. There can be no more startling developments, and for the present phase of consolidation in Yugoslavia this is of decisive importance.

GREECE.

Athens, October 25.

Contracts Signed.

The contract for the drainage of the Vardar having been signed after long delays, surveying has already begun in the district of Lakes Amatovo and Ardzan, where operations will start as soon as the severe Macedonian winter is over. Other contracts which have been signed are that with a Belgian company for the extension of railways, and that with the English Power and Traction Co., Ltd., for the lighting, electric railways, and tramways of Athens-Piræus and district. The latter company, which will be known as the Hellenic General Society, undertakes to erect a power station within two and a half years which will provide the necessary current for lighting, traction and industrial purposes; the existing installations will be provisionally reinforced. Within the same period seven of the present tramway lines will be extended, and the circulation increased. Services of motor-'buses will supplement the trams along the same routes and with the same fares. An immediate improvement will be effected by the supply of fifty new trams and fifty new 'buses. The railway to Kiphissia will be electrified and connected up with the existing electric railway to the Piræus by a tunnel passing under Homonia Square, where a large underground station will be built.

Position of the Government.

The signing of the above contracts reflects great credit on the Pangalos Government (which has had the reputation of being hostile to foreigners), and should influence the elections, which are definitely fixed for March 7, in its favour. The Government has certainly lost popularity of late, on account of its repressive attitude towards some of the newspapers and some of the party leaders, notably M. Papanastassiou, the violence of whose language, however, invited it. The dramatic appearance of Col. Plastiras, the leader of the 1922 revolution, who had been living in retirement at his home at Karditza, and his still more dramatic disappearance from a hotel at Phaleron a few days afterwards, caused a great sensation. This morning's paper announces that he has been arrested at a private house in Athens. It is devoutly to be hoped that nothing incriminating will be found against a man of such high character, and whose services to his country are admitted even by his enemies to be inestimable. Otherwise the political situation seems, for Greece, not abnormal. Though an onlooker cannot hope to follow the currents and cross-currents of internal politics, perhaps the appointment of a Royalist, M. Rouphos, as Minister of Education is significant. M. Rentis, Minister for Foreign Affairs, who represented Greece at Geneva, has suddenly retired, and his successor has not yet been appointed.

The Refugee Commission.

The friction between the Refugee Settlement Commission and the Government is at an end. It was a happy conception of Mr. Howland, President of the Commission, to form an Information Section, which will keep the public informed of the work which the Commission is doing, and to inaugurate it by a dinner to which the representatives of the Press were invited. The death of M. Bonzon, who has twice temporarily filled the position of the President of the Commission, is a great loss both to the Commission and to Greece, to whom he was a real friend.

External Politics.

With regard to external politics, the negotiations with Yugoslavia have been postponed till after the March elections. A more than usually serious frontier incident, which occurred at Demir Kapou on the Græco-Bulgar frontier at a spot which will be remembered by many who took part in the campaign in Macedonia, has called forth the prompt intervention of the League of Nations and should prove its usefulness. To try to get at the truth about such incidents is, at this stage, obviously futile, but, on the face of it, neither Greece nor Bulgaria would seem to have much to gain, and the creation of it must

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provisionally be attributed to "persons unknown." At the moment of writing the Bulgars are stated to have withdrawn from Greek territory, while the Greeks are still occupying Bulgar territory near Petritch. The ultimatum of Greece and the claim of six million drachmæ compensation are perhaps not unreasonable, if she is the aggrieved party.

The American Invasion.

From the dawn of history, Greece has been subject to invasions at fairly regular intervals. Dorian, Persian, Roman, Goth, Slav, Frank and Turk in turn have come into the country and left traces, fleeting or permanent, of their coming. The latest invasion is the American. Every year, about the time when nightingales are beginning to sing in the Palace gardens, and in the pine-woods of Penteli the turf is bright with scarlet anemones, these, her latest invaders, begin to converge by steamer, train and car upon the sacred soil of Greece. This wealthy and energetic race has marked out Greece for its own. A permanent memorial of their devotion to learning, the stately building, which is to contain the library of M. Gennadios, is rising on the slopes of Lycabettus. And now comes the news that the great scheme to excavate the area north of the Acropolis is about to be carried out. Work will begin in the spring in the triangle between the Theseion, the Areopagus, and the Acropolis. Forty universities, one is told, are to take part in it. The president of the American committee formed for the purpose is Mr. Capps, and the American School of Classical Studies will collaborate. The value of the results for archæology and learning in general is sure to be great; the devotion of wealth to this object cannot be too highly praised.

Consumption in Greece.

Disquieting details of the spread of consumption in Greece are published in the current number of *Hygieia*. In the towns, on an average 34 deaths in every 10,000 are caused by consumption, outside the towns 14, as opposed to an average of 18 and 10 respectively in other countries; and it is estimated that in the ten years between 1915 and 1924, 12,000 out of 52,000 deaths were due to the same cause. To combat this state of things, there exist in Greece only three Institutes for diagnosis, all of which are also used as sanatoria. An Anti-Tuberculosis Society has been formed to awaken public interest in this serious problem.

Dissolution of Monasteries.

Those who have travelled much in Greece, especially in the out-of-the-way parts, and enjoyed the courteous hospitality of Greek monks, will learn with regret that 50 of the smaller monasteries are to be compulsorily closed or secularised. Next to her classical remains, Greece has nothing more attractive than her monasteries, whose romantic setting and historic associations add so much to the charm of the country. No economic gain can ever compensate for the sentimental loss which will ensue, if these buildings are allowed to fall into decay or to lose their special character, as, if they are secularised, is bound to happen. Ideas of progress lie at the back of much hasty legislation, and too often ideas, like fashions in hats and clothes, reach Greece only when they are being abandoned elsewhere.

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ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, October 26.

M. Yorga and the Government.

Parliament opened on October 15, and the proceedings were without incident but for a violent attack made upon the Government by M. Yorga, leader of the United Opposition party. Apparently the Opposition expected that, in view of their signal defeat in the elections for the Agricultural Chambers, the Liberals, would resign in deference to the will of the electors thus expressed. M. Yorga's violent indignation was directed against a party so devoid of conscience, he said, as to force itself upon the country when it is obviously not wanted: for the speech from the Throne made it clear that the Liberals have every intention of remaining in power to carry out the remainder of the programme they have laid down for themselves.

In the House itself there was no debate upon the speech of M. Yorga, but the violence of its terms has aroused the usual Press vituperations, which serve no useful purpose.

Liberal Schemes.

The remaining programme of the Liberals includes a number of important measures, e.g., a law for the co-ordination of the Orthodox Church of old Roumania and the annexed provinces, an Education Law, a new Tariff Law, and other economic measures, a law for the organisation of the Postal, Telegraphic and Telephone Services, and of the Sanitary or Health Service, and other measures rendered necessary by the New Constitution, and last but not least the electoral law, to which in his speech the King invited the particular attention of the Members of the Chamber. M. Yorga stated in his speech that his party would take part in the debate on the Electoral Law, but would not trouble about the other "dying efforts" of the Liberals. After three days' session Parliament closed again until the 28th.

Official Salaries.

In the couse of last week a Royal Decree was issued endorsing the proposals of the Minister of Finance for the distribution of the sum already earmarked for providing increased salaries to State functionaries, a much-needed measure, for the present rate of their pay is far short of what would be required to enable them to live with the smallest degree of comfort in view of the greatly increased cost of living. It is true that they have many advantages, such as canteens where meals are exceedingly moderate, dormitories, cheap firewood, and so on. Nevertheless, the new measure will be greatly appreciated.

Roumano-Hungarian Litigation.

According to the French edition of the *Argus* the Minister of Finance has given instructions to the Roumanian delegates now on their way to the Conference at Washington, to settle while in Paris certain questions still pending before the Arbitration Tribunal there in connection with the liquidation of Hungarian properties which were under sequestration in Roumania.

Birthday of King Ferdinand.

On the occasion of the sixtieth birthday of King Ferdinand, the Government laid a Bill before Parliament for the dedication of a sum of 200 million lei to a fund to be called the "Ferdinand Foundation." Half the revenues from this fund are to be used for the encouragement of the education of the young and for scientific research, and the other half is to be devoted to the education of the families of army officers.

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THE HOLY LAND IN WATER-COLOUR.

Two years ago Mrs. P. A. F. Stephenson held in London an exhibition of water-colours of Palestine. Those pictures, the result of a two months' visit, were in themselves sufficient to stamp the artist as one who had to an unusual degree the facility to wrap herself in the subject of her art: it was patent that she went to the Holy Land with no preconceived ideas, but simply to saturate herself in its historical spirit, and then to reproduce various of its scenes. This year she revisited the Holy Land, making a stay of six months. The result of her sojourning and journeying (she has work of places as far apart as Gaza and Jerablus) were to be seen in the short exhibition, closing to-day (November 7), at the Alpine Club Gallery, Conduit Street, W. Here there is even better work than Mrs. Stephenson did two years ago, though her interiors of churches done at that time could not be excelled. The present exhibition is at once more various and compact; she both includes and excludes more—in other words, her art has both deepened and been more swift in seizing the essentials.

One of the most remarkable features of this exhibition is the denoting of the historical nature of the Holy Land: Mrs. Stephenson has pictures which show to the discerning spectator the successive glories of Rome, of Christendom, of Islam, and, finally, of British arms. Unconsciously, at it were, she makes one feel the universal reference of Biblical prophecy and comment to which the Holy Land is susceptible—partly by the deliberate use of scriptural quotations (though this device weakens with repetition), but in greater part by the purposeful beauty of her brush. Her "Sunset at Palmyra," for example, is in effect the sunset of Græco-Roman civilisation, her "Dead Sea Morning" (done from the northern end) a morning of immemorial and possibly endless gloom, her "Making Straight the Desert" a real straightening of purpose in Palestine. She has, in fact, seized wherever it is proper upon the essential qualities of the scene, whether it be in Jerusalem, Lydda, Damascus, Aleppo, or by Haifa, the Jordan, or the Lebanon. Nor does she confine her attention to things built by man's hands: the loveliness of Nature in a lovely country she also strives to convey. The Oak Tree by Lydda (*el Jumaizi*), the barren flotsam of the Dead Sea, Galilean flowers—in all things such as these she delights. But perhaps her most notable drawing of all is of a subject that one does not remember to have seen done before: "In the Cave of the Nativity," a rich and pregnant study. This, together with her "Church of the Nativity, Bethleham" irresistibly call up, as I think, the immortal words of Mr. G. K. Chesterton, who, when he caught sight of those crushing red columns of Constantine and of that "dark stairway that descends under canopies of rock to the stable where Christ was born" felt the bridge between the pre-Christian Romans and our own time. "I can never," he wrote, "recapture in words the waves of sympathy with strange things that went through me in that twilight of the tall pillars, like giants robed in purple, standing still and looking down into that dark hole in the ground. Here halted that imperial civilisation, when it had marched in triumph through the whole world; here, in the evening of its days, it came trailing in all its panoply in the pathway of three kings. For it came following not only a falling, but a fallen star, and one that dived before them into a birthplace darker than a grave."

It is something that Mrs. Stephenson's water-colours can stir feelings something like these. She intends, one understands, to make reproductions, in the form of Christmas post-cards, of her "Cave of the Nativity": an excellent and worthy idea. Quite certainly her industry in the Holy Land has been balanced by unusual perception, skill, and sympathy.

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HUNGARY AND THE NEAR EAST.

Hungary in 1919 and her subsequent relations with the Near East formed the main themes of an interesting address given by Admiral Sir Ernest Troubridge at a meeting of the Near and Middle East Association, held on October 27 at 63, Queen's Gate, the residence of Sir Edward and Lady Boyle. Explaining the conditions that paved the way for the events of 1919, Admiral Troubridge, who commanded the British Naval Brigade on the Danube and was subsequently President of the International Commission of the Danube, pointed out that the great Italian victories on the Piave had resulted in a large and disorganised army drifting homewards without much discipline but with great discontent, *en route* for Budapest, the seat of a Government itself disorganised and insecure. When the union with Austria was dissolved on October 17, 1918, Count Michael Karolyi, leader of the Socialist Opposition, placed himself at the head of all the revolutionary elements and demanded a new Government. His planks were universal suffrage, complete disarmament, and a republic. His first act on assuming power was to demand the abdication of the King. On November 13 he proceeded to Belgrade, where he drew up a Convention with the Allied representatives for the dismemberment of Hungary in accordance with the Allies' understandings with her neighbours, and Allied armies started to occupy nearly two-thirds of Hungary. The Magyars will never forgive Karolyi for this Convention, which he is credited with having accepted without demur in order to procure the Allies' recognition of his Government and of the new Hungarian republic with himself as head of the State. Count Karolyi's party included a large number of Communists, and it was immediately after the declaration of a "Republic of the People" that Bela Kun arrived from Russia ostensibly on a mission connected with the exchange of Hungarian and Russian prisoners. The steady diminution of Hungarian territory by successive demands of the Paris Conference played into the hands of Bela Kun, who had set himself deliberately to oust Karolyi from power. The last straw came in March when all Hungarian forces were required to withdraw from the territories finally taken from Hungary and allotted to her neighbours. Karolyi handed over to Bela Kun. The four months of Bolshevist régime culminated in the occupation of Hungary by a Roumanian Army. Summarising the reasons for Hungary's collapse into Bolshevist hands, Admiral Troubridge mentioned the alien population, the inflammatory propaganda among the wretched and poor, neglect on the part of the rulers to remedy housing and feeding conditions, indifference on the part of the aristocratic and bourgeois classes to what was going on, the clever and systematic evolution of the situation by determined men acting under instructions from Moscow. When the Roumanians withdrew, Admiral Horthy took command of the situation, and Count Bethlen had now held office as Prime Minister for three years, during which time steady progress had been made in Hungary.

In conclusion, Admiral Troubridge said, "Whether any nation ever accustoms itself to the loss of territory that has, for long periods, been included within its frontiers, is a question. Whether it is wise, upon the successful termination of a war, to sever whole provinces from a nation, is another question. The answers to these questions are in the hands of time which, we know, brings its revenges. With the examples in the past hundred years of Alsace-Lorraine, of Silesia, of Poland and of the

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Baltic Provinces, of Russia, of Lombardy, and of Venice, I, at least, do not care to prophesy and do not propose to. Too much depends on the degree of justice, of equity, with which the peoples of ravished provinces are treated by the new rulers; to judge by that we must look into the future, and that, fortunately, we are unable to do. All I am prepared to say is that I believe it were advantageous to Europe that the Hungary of to-day should remain as a valuable make-weight in the equilibrium of Europe and, at least, should be maintained in its present integrity. I am prepared, not as a propagandist or as a partisan, but on a purely objective survey of its past and present, and a certain knowledge of its people, to wish it every success and that its people may enjoy the blessings of the land with the fruits of their labours and a happy issue out of all its afflictions."

Other speakers at the meeting included Sir Maurice de Bunsen, Sir Edward Boyle, who urged the importance, for the rehabilitation of Central and Near Eastern Europe, of the removal of tariffs, and the Hungarian Chargé d'Affaires. Answering an inquiry as to the present status of Hungary, the latter said that Hungary was a Monarchy under a Regent, a state of affairs which had been accepted by all parties alike, and that the question of a King did not arise and would not arise until Hungary could appoint her own Sovereign without fear of interference from outside.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The End of Wembley.

On Saturday the great British Empire Exhibition at Wembley came to an end. It was great, even though it was a financial failure; nor did its finish come without the accompaniment of a certain national emotion. Admittedly it was in the main a parade of the material riches or potentialities of the Empire, but it also, and in perhaps in a more valuable way, showed to the insular Englishman a glimpse of wider vistas, and a strange sympathy with distant horizons.

There are more people at the end of 1925 than there were at the beginning of 1924 who realise the splendour of the ideal under which men of the Far East and the Far West can beneficially be gathered: the Exhibition did impress unmistakably the function of the ubiquitous Briton as one essentially of service. And now that it is all over there is a gratifying disposition to underestimate the financial loss and to emphasise the national or imperial lessons that may have been learned therein.

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Political Appointments.

The appointment of the Minister of Agriculture to the Viceroyalty of India will have been dealt with elsewhere in this journal; it will be sufficient here to indicate the probable successor to Mr. Wood. Lord Bledisloe, who is now Under-Secretary to the Board of Agriculture, has been supposed to desire the succession of the Cabinet post, and, indeed, his would be an excellent appointment. But it is stated that, on the plea that the Cabinet is already short of Commoners, Mr. Walter Guinness will become Minister of Agriculture. Whoever is eventually appointed will probably endeavour to show more activity than has been exhibited of late, for the Conservative farmers of the South and West and Midlands are still waiting for a definite policy.

The Political Levy.

Mr. Baldwin still stands with feet firmly planted upon common-sense in regard to the question of the Political Levy. As is known, many Conservatives and not a few Liberals would like to interfere, on behalf of the minority Conservative and Liberal Trade Unionists, into the domestic legislation of Trade Unionists, and, indeed, Mr. Macquisten, whose last effort in this sense was silenced in the House of Commons by the Prime Minister's now famous speech, "Give peace in our time," has again addressed a letter to the Cabinet pointing out to them their obvious duty. It was noted by him and by his supporters that a pious remark at the Brighton Conference on the part of Colonel F. S. Jackson that justice should not be sacrificed to expediency implied in effect that the Prime Minister was changing his mind. But it is very obvious, from the reply that Mr. Macquisten has received, that the Prime Minister's attitude is unaltered, and that, like Lord Oxford and Asquith, he intends to distinguish severely between national and domestic questions. Whereat there is in the Conservative camp much gloom, but in the country at large, much rejoicing.

The Shaping of the Parties.

There appears to be a speculation on the part of some Liberal leaders that if the Conservatives burn their fingers over this Political Levy question the Liberals, going to the rescue of the Labour Party, may once more enjoy the fruits of office. To intellectual Liberals of the type of Professor Gilbert Murray this conception of a coalition between Liberal and Labour, so often thought to be dead, still makes a strong appeal.

The trouble is, however, that in whatever degree certain Liberals would wish to join with the Labour Party, the Labour Party have shown no inclination whatever to join with the Liberals. It is the story repeated in politics of the Anglo-Catholic Party and Rome: nothing short of complete conversion is countenanced by the larger institution. And of this fact the most considerable men in the Liberal Party are probably well aware—it is mostly to the academic theoreticians that the idea yet presents itself as a possibility.

A Welsh Wales.

After Ireland, Scotland—possibly; and after Scotland, Wales—perhaps. At any rate there has sprung up in Wales a new "Sinn Fein" party, which intends, not indeed to have "Wales for the Welsh," but to have "a Welsh Wales." From "Y Plaid Genedlaethol Cymru" (The Welsh National Party) has emanated a demand that the English name of Holyhead should be changed into the Welsh name of Caergybi. And it appears that the fate of the proposal is being watched with considerable interest by the Welsh nation.

Anglesey is claimed as supporting the change, and it is said that the argument that such a change in nomenclature would tell financially against Holyhead falls off Welshmen's shoulders like water off a duck's back. In quite the correct "Nationalist" way, these Welshmen are demanding complete independence, not Home Rule under another Government. They insist that the Welsh language have its place in all the schools of Wales, and in the courts and councils: in fact, that Welsh shall be the only official language.

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According to the Party that I have mentioned, an attempt is to be made to concentrate on securing control of the local authorities and, on the ground that Parliamentary elections involve the recognition of the right of a foreign nation over Wales, to boycott Parliament and all English political parties. At the same time a free invitation is given to all aliens to visit and to dwell in Wales—on the condition that they accept the language, customs, and ideals of Wales.

Lord Rothermere's Ultimatum.

Whether Lord Rothermere, the proprietor of the *Daily Mail*, himself wrote his much-heralded ultimatum to Mr. Baldwin's Administration which was published last week, or whether it was a Lovat Fraser-cum-Marlowe effort supported by the Viscount's signature, I do not know, but there is no doubt that it fell on the *Mail's* millions of readers like a bomb. But the bomb was a dud. What it was all about I rather forget, though doubtless the unwearying scanners of this pseudo-Conservative journal's leaders know its points by heart. One seems to remember that the noble peer railed against part of Mr. Baldwin's Cabinet for being Socialists, against the Chancellor of the Exchequer for not reducing expenditure, against Mr. Amery for risking the bones of British soldiers in Mosul, and so monotonously on. As far as can be seen, its effect has been absolutely nil.

Mr. Baldwin has properly ignored it; but Mr. Churchill promptly answered it, and, from his own particular point of view, made short work of Lord Rothermere's vague recommendations. One would not go to the extent of saying that the policy of Lords Rothermere and Beaverbrook is as good for the Government as the existence of a genuine penny Conservative newspaper would be, but no discerning publicist doubts that these repeated personal and petty attacks on the Prime Minister are having the opposite effect to that intended.

The Press as Priest.

Mr. St. John Ervine is always, in spite of a tendency to speak with his tongue in his cheek, worth listening to, and an address that he gave last week on "The Press as Priest" has been widely quoted. He maintained that the influence of a newspaper decreases as its circulation grows—the *News of the World*, which has the largest circulation in England, had far less influence than the *Spectator*. In the provinces, e.g., Liverpool and Manchester, Liberal papers were read by hundreds of Conservatives who would never abandon in favour of the papers they read their Conservative principles. The Sunday newspapers had enormously increased their circulation and influence, and could now be regarded as the providers of spiritual food for the people, to some of whom, indeed, they had become a kind of confessional. The mind of the public was more and more being directed by the Sunday newspapers.

In these contentions there is obviously much truth. But surely the case was overstated? The Sunday papers are read, not for their political opinions, which according to my observation at any rate, are largely ignored—who ever read through the vast article in the middle of the *Observer*?—but for the literary and artistic and sporting features. And the informing of a person's literary and artistic tastes is hardly the same thing as the directing of his mind.

Armistice Day.

Into the controversy that has arisen over the proper nature of Armistice Day I do not propose to enter. It is obviously a fact that a vast number of purveyors of food and wine and dance would have it regarded merely as a celebration of victory; it is also obvious that there have grown up or survived a generation untouched by the War and a quantity of people to whom the War actually meant little but temporary inconvenience. But, most obviously of all, there are those men and women who know and cherish the fact that Armistice Day and the Silence were instituted as a Commemoration Day: and on the respective claims of the former crowds and the latter band I will not trust myself to dilate.

The Fall of the Year.

The year is now completely fallen, and from this time to the spring there will be in England that sucession of fog and mugginess and wet and cold which is so detested by the poet and so beloved of the sportsman. In London the change of the time is peculiarly apparent. Not only have the last few days been of unpleasant, unseasonable (as one says) closeness, but there has been considerable fog, and, above all, a showering down of plane leaves.

Everywhere the fall of the plane leaves is to be seen. The winds have whisked them, hurtled them, and huddled them into all sorts of quaint places; there are courts off the Strand, for example, which are completely covered by them. Gold and green they strew the highways, so that walking is by no means the safest form of exercise now. But the smell and the sight of these fallen leaves are worth the risk of a slip.

ALTER EGO.

The Mosul Commission of Inquiry appointed by the League of Nations has arrived in Mosul.

Colonel Veith, the Austrian historian of Cæsar, has been murdered by brigands in Asia Minor.

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The "Blue Peter" is published monthly at its Offices, 12, St Mary Axe, E.C.3.
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Book Reviews and Notes.

IN THE UNPAVED EAST.

"BELED-ES-SIBA." By W. E. D. Allen. (London: Macmillan and Co. 8s. 6d. net).

To readers of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA, Mr. W. E. D. Allen will need no introduction, for included in this little book of sketches and essays in history and travel is one picturesque chapter that appeared originally in these pages. The author of this work has indeed visited many of the remoter parts of the East, having an obvious and a delightful sympathy with *Beled-es-Siba*, the free country, as opposed to *Beled-es-Makhsen*, the "government" country. He loves the out-of-the-way places of the Near East, such as the outposts of bygone or present Empires, whether they be in Morocco, Yugoslavia, Transylvania, or the Caucasus. And in the communicating of his delight he has ready for his purpose a style that is at once purposeful and vivid.

Of all his chapters probably that on his travels in Morocco is the best. In Morocco he does not like the "starch-cuffed hand of progress," but he is very willing to pay testimony to the French colonial administration. One of his most characteristic passages, indeed, concerns this very point:—

> The Frenchman is in North Africa for his own good and for the greatness of France, not soaped over with high-minded tags of soft city-folk that think in circles—and the *indigène* knows it and respects him for his honesty and for the interested good he brings, in relief from *Kaids'* oppression, equal-handed justice, better agriculture, roads and sanitation. He does not rise up to use the vapoured platitudes of transatlantic professorial persons against the Frenchman, for the Frenchman has not pretended that life is run on fourteen points. So in Morocco the white man is neither spat upon nor shot at in the streets. Nor is the voice of the *baboo* heard in the land, unless he happens to be yelping to the thwackings of the bastinado, wielded by the sturdy countrymen upon the orders of His Sherifian Majesty.

Mr. Allen never endeavours to wrap up his views upon things, and in this respect resembles the violent and vivid Leo Africanus, whose sixteenth century book, "History and Description of Africa" he quotes with so much gusto.

Other subjects on which the author touches, and always illuminatingly, are the Banat of Temesvar, the Geography of the Treaty of Trianon, the languages of the Caucasus; and his historical essay upon the operations of the Allies in the Caucasus in 1855 is particularly useful at the present time, when the question of the fortress of Kars is likely so soon again to be in the limelight.

Altogether Mr. Allen has written, not only a very readable book, but also one that is of considerable importance to the student of the Near East. With all his ideas one may not agree, but with what traveller worth his salt can one wholly agree?

THE INDIAN SECRET SERVICE.

"CARAVANS BY NIGHT." By Harry Hervey. (London: Thornton Butterworth, Ltd.)

This is a lurid tale of adventure, "featuring" a member of the Indian Secret Service who, to one who knows something about that service, is a more grotesquely improbable figure than its members usually are in fiction. Persons with some knowledge of India will not be surprised to meet, in the pages of this book, a Mohammedan whose name is Guru Singh; nor a servant who greets his English master with "Burra Salaam, O Presence." Persons not acquainted with India, or with the Secret Service, will not find anything of value in the story: but may not improbably enjoy a tale of breathless adventure whose inherent absurdities will not be apparent to them.

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BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Ocean of Story." Being C. H. Tawney's Translation of Somadeva's Katha Sarit Sagara. Now Edited with Introduction, Fresh Explanatory Notes and Terminal Essay by N. M. Penzer, M.A., F.R.G.S., F.G.S. Vol. II. With a Foreword by Dr. F. W. Thomas, Ph.D. (London: Chas. J. Sawyer, Ltd.)

"East Christian Art: A Survey of the Monuments." By O. M. Dalton. (London: Oxford University Press. £5 5s.)

"The Slender Debt." By John Leslie. (London: Williams and Norgate, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Things Seen at Constantinople." By A. Goodrich-Freer. Illustrated. (London: Seeley Service and Co., Ltd. 3s. 6d. net.)

"In the Heart of Asia." By Lieut.-Colonel P. T. Etherton I.A. (London: Constable and Co., Ltd. 16s. net.)

"The Red Terror in Russia." Translated from the Russian of S. P. Melgounov. Illustrated with Photographs. (London: J. M. Dent and Sons, Ltd. 6s. net.)

"Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata." A Chronicle of His Life." By F. R. Harris. (London: Humphrey Milford. 15s. net.)

"A History of the Transport Services of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, 1916-1918." By Lt.-Colonel G. E. Bradcock. (London: Hugh Rees, Ltd. 21s. net.)

GOVERNANCE OF THE HOLY PLACES.

Signor Romolo Tritoni writes:—

"The writer of your review of my book 'Come Va Risolta la questione dei Luoghi Santi' (in your issue of October 1) has not always understood my Italian, because he seems to attribute to me the idea that the Mandate for Palestine ought to have been given to Italy. I have never said that or anything like it, because I know very well that Italy has loyally agreed to the English Mandate.

"Another gratuitous affirmation is to let the readers believe that I am a mouthpiece of others with whom I have never had the least connexion.

"I have explained all the historical precedents of the question, for the most part Latin, and I have deduced the logical conclusion from these precedents. I have spoken objectively and my point of view is Italian, but without Chauvinism.

"If the persons responsible for this question will not esteem of any account these precedents, they will make a mistake and will leave the question unsolved, because a limping solution is not a solution in a matter like this."

Our Reviewer replies:—"In stating that Signor Tritoni seemed to wish that Italy had been granted the Mandate for Palestine I had in mind his remarks on p. 284 of his book, which in my opinion bear that construction. I excluded the possibility of their being pure Chauvinism, and in this I am supported by his letter to you. He cannot have it both ways. Signor Tritoni has also read into my statement that he was *not* the mouthpiece of the Vatican an accusation that he is. The learning shown in displaying the Latin historical precedents was fully acknowledged by me. I merely deplored what seemed to me its one-sidedness, as well as the author's insistence on the opening of this terrible Pandora's box."

Sir Lucas White King, C.S.I., LL.D., J.P., of Abercorn Place, St. John's Wood, N.W., and of Craigveigh, Aboyne, Aberdeen, formerly Professor of Oriental Languages in Dublin University and Commissioner of Rawalpindi, who died on August 23, aged 68, left property of the value of £5,575.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY

November 5, 1925 (New Style).
October 23, 1925 (Old Style).
Rabia II, 18, 1344 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Sheshvan 18, 5686, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Bulgarian Minister left London last week for a fortnight's visit to Paris.

Colonel Yovanovitch, the Yugoslav Consul-General, left London last Friday for Belgrade.

The Aga Khan left the Ritz Hotel, London, last week for Paris *en route* for the South of France.

Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Charles Waley Cohen left for Athens on October 26, and will be away until early in December.

Lord and Lady Cable left 44, Grosvenor Square last Friday for Lyndridge, where they will remain until Christmas.

M. Constatin Laptew is acting as Chargé d'Affaires at the Roumanian Legation in London during the absence of M. Titulesco.

Lady and Miss Coutts-Trotter left London last Thursday by the P. and O. special train to join the s.s. Narkunda at Marseilles for Bombay.

The Government of Afghanistan has purchased the freehold of 31, Prince's Gate, which will be the permanent offices of the Afghan Legation.

The Minister in London of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, Dr. Georges Jouritch, left last week for Switzerland to take a cure.

Mrs. Henry Morgenthau (senior) and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Morgenthau were among the passengers in the Leviathan, which arrived at Southampton last Friday.

The following appointment in the Consular Service is notified in the *London Gazette*:—
Mr. Bernard Joseph Gilliat-Smith, Consul at Tabriz.

Colonel Giles, the British Military Attaché in Athens, left on October 27 for Petritch to join the French and Italian Military Attachés from Belgrade, remaining to watch the execution of the League of Nations' orders.

Madame Venizelos was present at the marriage of her niece, Miss Margaret Schilizzi, to Mr. Massingbred-Mundy, which took place at Guilsborough, Northamptonshire, last Thursday. M. Venizelos was kept away by indisposition.

The following appointments to the Colonial Service have been made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies:
Cyprus.—Captain H. G. Mountain, to Inspector of Mines.
Ceylon.—Mr. W. W. Williams, Mr. J. K. Clegg, and Mr. H. A. S. Smith, to Survey Probationers.

The Roumanian Minister in London, accompanied by Madame Titulesco, left Liverpool last Saturday on board the Aquitania for New York, at the head of the Roumanian Financial Mission charged with the negotiations for the funding of the Roumanian Debt to the United States.

The Earl of Ronaldshay has accepted the invitation of the literary executors of the late Marquess Curzon of Kedleston (Dr. F. W. Pember, Warden of All Souls, and Sir Ian Malcolm) to write Lord Curzon's Life, in which will be incorporated one or two chapters by Sir Herbert Warren, President of Magdalen College, Oxford, on Lord Curzon's Chancellorship of the University. The arrangements for the publication of the book are in the hands of Messrs. A. P. Watt and Son.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH REPUBLIC.

In celebration of the anniversary of the foundation of the Turkish Republic the Turkish Ambassador in London and Mme. Ferid Bey held a reception last Thursday afternoon at the Embassy in Portland Place. This was the first social event to take place at the Embassy since the War. Among the guests were:—The Afghan Minister, Lady Huntly, Lord Headley, Lord and Lady Inverforth, the Master of Elibank and Mrs. Gideon Murray, Commander and Mrs. Kenworthy, the Dowager Lady Boyle, Sir Henry Burt, Sir George Armstrong, Sir John and Lady Henniker-Heaton, Sir Hamar and Lady Greenwood, Sir Thomas and Lady Comyn-Platt, Lady (Charles) Henry, Sir Denison Ross, Admiral Sir Edmund Fremantle, Count Grixone, Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Cobham, Mr. W. E. Eyre, Mr. and Mrs. Bowring Hanbury, and Mr. J. B. Monck.

VICTORIA HOSPITAL, DAMASCUS.

Dr. Percy Brigstocke and Mrs. Brigstocke, together with two nurses, left London last Saturday for Damascus, where Dr. Brigstocke is superintendent of the Victoria Hospital of the Edinburgh Medical Mission. He stated that he had no fresh news about the happenings in Damascus, except that the staff of the hospital were safe and well. Five hundred Armenian families sought the protection of the hospital and its grounds during the recent bombardment.

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THE DESERT MAIL SERVICE.

A correspondent in Iraq sends the following notes on the journey from Jerusalem to Baghdad—the route now being followed by the Nairn Transport Service:—

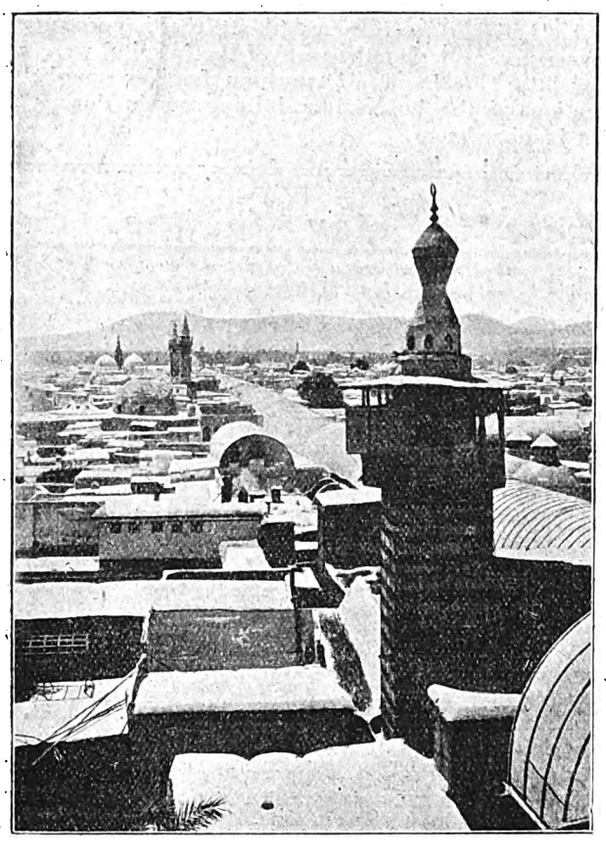
"We left Jerusalem at 6 a.m., on the 15th, and reached Baghdad on the evening the 18th. Our route lay through Jericho, Es-Salt, Amman, Rutba, Ramadi and thence to Baghdad. The first 200 miles of this route are so rough and broken as to prohibit high speeds, but the going was not uncomfortable. The road from Jerusalem to the Jordan valley is extremely rough. At Amman hot lunch was ready, and after half-an-hour we were off again. Towards 5 p.m. of the same day we came in touch with armoured cars from the R.A.F. at Amman, which remained with or at a short distance from us until near midnight, and two hours later we encountered R.A.F. armoured cars from Baghdad. These cars had accompanied a West-bound convoy. At Rutba Wells we found the work on the police post and rest-house in hand, and were informed that shortly Nairn passengers will be enabled to break the journey there. From Rutba the cars received an additional armed guard from the Desert Camel Corps, who went with them as far as Ramadi."

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

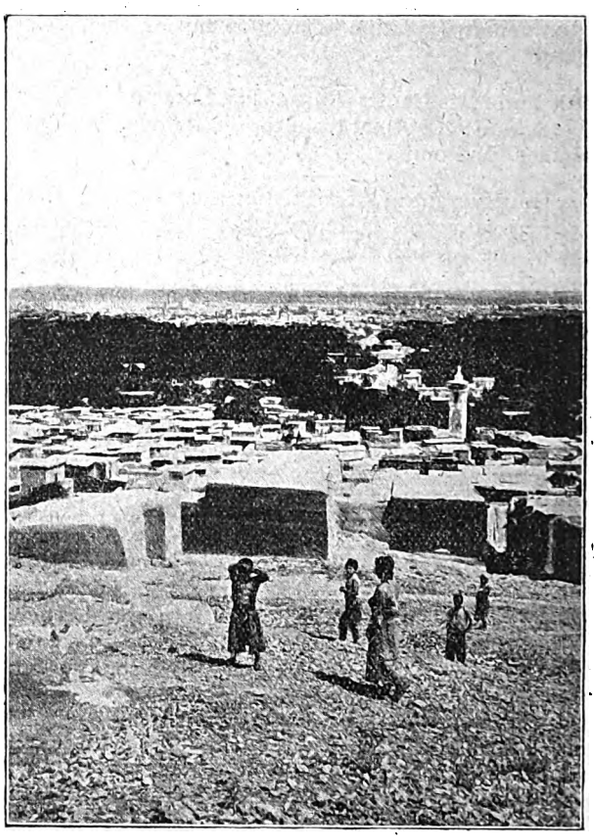
(Continued from page 546.)

The Palestine Mandate.

The questionnaire of the Permanent Mandates Commission addressed to Great Britain on the Mandatory Power, is an illuminating document, and as published by the Stationery Office (Price 1s.), with the brief replies of the British Government, deserves to be read by all who are interested in Great Britain's commitments overseas. For a more searching cross-examination of a prisoner at the bar one would have to pass many court records in review. The Mandates Commission has studied its subject well and is bent on taking its duties seriously. Great Britain is not allowed to escape with platitudes and generalities; every aspect of her authority in Palestine and every responsibility placed upon her by the terms of the Mandate are set forth and an account of her stewardship in regard to each item is demanded. Mr. Ormsby-Gore on behalf of the Palestine Government faced his examiners of the Mandate's Commission last week and obtained full marks. It was decided to postpone his examination on the subject of Iraq until the Mosul question has been settled. France in regard to Syria was granted an *ægrotat* by the Commission.



Damascus: Straight Street, now largely in ruins.



Damascus from Es Salehiyeh.

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Indian Affairs.

THE VICEROY DESIGNATE.

The appointment of Mr. Wood to succeed Lord Reading has been hailed with a chorus of praise by English newspapers of practically every shade of opinion; while even the most extreme of Indian papers profess to regard it as "unobjectionable." Mr. Wood will certainly take up his task with many advantages: and perhaps—as all reports agree in describing him as an exceptionally modest man—with only one disadvantage: one which is likely to be more apparent—especially to himself—than real. It is never an enviable task to take up an appointment that has just been laid down by a man of commanding intellect: most men faced with such a task will admit, if only in their heart of hearts, the diffidence with which they undertake it. To one who is described as "always seeming to hold office rather as a matter of duty than as an object of ambition" this consideration must necessarily be very apparent. But, among the many qualities that Indians admire in their rulers, modesty holds a high place. A few years ago, when a rather specially "prancing Proconsul" was succeeded in the government of an Indian Province by one of less spectacular gifts, a highly placed Indian voiced the approval of his kind by saying that the new Governor appealed particularly to him and to his friends "because he was modest." But Mr. Wood has no cause for modesty: he has a solid record of service behind him: as *The Times* says, "his record is precisely of that kind which should win him welcome from the outset from the people and the Services of India. He is known in this country as a man of the highest character, a popular administrator, a soldier who has rendered valiant service in the field, a scholar, a good sportsman and a great gentleman in the truest sense of the word." It is not so very many years ago that a Scottish newspaper wrote, of a compatriot appointed to the same great office that Mr. Wood has been selected to fill, "His Lordship's experience as Chairman of the Dunfermline Local Board will stand him in good stead when he assumes the Governorship of India." Mr. Wood's modesty will not, one may hope, take alarm at the thought that the manifold activities of his public life hitherto have provided him with even more valuable experience that that of this particular member of his distinguished predecessors. The *Yorkshire Post* has, perhaps, more solid ground for patriotic approval of the appointment of a Yorkshireman when it declares that "Mr. Baldwin has discovered in the cultured and patient Minister of Agriculture a balance of mind and a sobriety of judgment which are qualities most needed in the Viceroy at the present time. His sincerity may get nearer to the heart and mind of India than the brilliance of Curzon or the urbanity of Reading."

One special item of Mr. Wood's distinguished record in English public life is likely to be of particular value in India just now: the fact that he has not only been Minister of Agriculture, but is himself a practical farmer, imbued with "a genuine zeal, based on personal association, for the advancement of the interests of agriculture." He has described his own agricultural policy as one of "inculcating effort and determination on the part of the industry itself, wisely encouraged by the State": and this is exactly what is so greatly needed in India at present. As Lord Reading said a few weeks ago, India's most pressing need just now is the improvement of her premier industry—agriculture: and Mr. Wood, who will find the foundation of such an improvement laid by his predecessor, may be trusted to build on it a firm and lasting edifice for which the Indian peasant will have cause to rise up and call him blessed long after his tenure of office has expired. The passivity of the "ryot," always accustomed to rely on a paternal Government instead of on himself, needs the introduction of a changed angle of vision, and the realisation that Government, while ready and anxious to help, can only help those who help themselves: and, for such a need no choice could have been more fortunate than that of Mr. Wood. Another fact in the record, that many will hold—though certainly wrongly—to be even more important, is Mr. Wood's visit to the West Indies while holding the appointment of Assistant Secretary for the Colonies, and the recommendations that he made with regard to the autonomous development of the Islands. For the fateful Parliamentary inquiry into the Reforms, even if it occurs at its latest possible date in 1929, will take place during his term of office: and it cannot be questioned that the considered opinion of the Viceroy will have great weight in determining the effect of its conclusions. Nor can it be questioned that, when that time comes, his opinion will be authoritative. He is described, by those who know him well, as one whose constant endeavour it is to be scrupulously fair to opponents and to their point of view: who can be trusted to keep to a set and sane course without disheartening or antagonising those who endeavour to persuade or bully him into deviation, and to temper with tact and understanding a fixed and unmistakable determination to rule India for India's good in the name of the British Raj: who, if a sympathetic attempt to understand, and a courteous way of approaching and being approached, can solve a difficulty, is the man to do so: who is able to converse freely and frankly with the enthusiast and the fanatic, even with the enemy: who is able to reach points of view that are entirely different from his own: and, above all, to give to all races and all creeds the sense of the moral superiority of a thorough English gentleman.

The last point in this appreciation is perhaps the most important of all. Indians are as quick as any nation in the world to recognise a "Sahib"—a born gentleman: they may admire great gifts, and recognise high endeavour, in men less fortunately placed; but the trust and honour that, when they give them, they give so freely and generously, are reserved for the man whom they know to be a "Sahib": and no British official, however greatly endowed, can really reach their hearts by any other road. Another personal advantage that counts for much in the East is presence: and Mr. Wood is fortunate in this respect. He is described as notable for his great height, standing some inches over six feet: rather handsome, with the most charming manners, and altogether a dignified and pleasing personality. One, not the least, of his distinguished predecessors, whose personal and moral nobility was freely recognised later, had the misfortune to be of small stature and rather insignificant appearance: and, on the occasion of his first great durbar in the North of India, a ribald Indian Prince remarked to an English friend, "I suppose it's the depreciated rupee that prevents the Government from buying a better Viceroy." Two final advantages may be claimed for Mr. Wood: the first, that he is the grandson of that great Secretary of State for India who recast the constitution of India, reconstituted her finances, reformed her judicial system, developed her railways, laid the foundations of Western education, reorganised the Indian Army, opened high official careers to India, established the first Legislative Councils, abolished patronage and introduced the principle of competition: the second (to quote *The Times*) the fact that he "has an unconcealed preference for his own country, has had no experience whatever of Oriental problems or administration and, so far as is known, has never displayed any special interest in Indian affairs." This, which might at first sight appear as a disadvantage, is, in the circumstances, certainly the reverse: to continue the quotation, "it may be no small advantage, at a time like the present, to set out with a record in which the bitterness of Indian controversies of recent years has no place at all." This not only may be, but certainly is, a great advantage: and to its existence is due to the attitude of extremist Indian politicians, as reflected in their newspapers, of readiness to await Mr. Wood's arrival and to judge him by results; so that his Indian career begins hopefully—with the active approval of all Englishmen and at least the passive approval of even the most extreme among Indians.

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CURRENT TOPICS.

The Khyber Railway.

The opening of the Khyber Railway marks an important step forward in the Government's plans for the pacification of the Frontier tribes. The policy, which has been tried for so many years but has now been discarded, of keeping the tribesmen within their borders and answering raid by counter-raid, has now given place to one of "peaceful penetration"—as peaceful, that is, as the tribesmen will allow it to be. Living in the midst of inhospitable mountains whose valleys, fertile though they be, do not produce more than is required for a bare subsistence, the tribesmen have been, almost of necessity, driven to supplement their incomes by raiding their more prosperous neighbours in the plains: and the Government subsidies that they receive are given with the object of enabling them to avoid this necessity. A second source of income was found by the enlistment of Pathans in the Indian Army—a source that was entirely cut off, towards the end of the War, by the stoppage of recruitment across the border. A third, though temporary, source was provided by the construction of the railway, the necessary manual labour for which was provided by the tribes. With the completion of the railway this last source has come to an end: and many people expect that the result will be a recrudescence of raiding, of which the railway will form an attractive object; not only for the loot that may be expected from passengers and goods carried by it, but also because damage to the line will require repairs; the labour for which, as well as the payment for it, will be the perquisite of the tribesmen.

But roads and railways have a wonderfully civilising influence: and, though it cannot be expected that the railway will remain permanently immune from attack, the fact that it runs along one of the great trade routes of Asia will certainly tend to an increase in the material prosperity of those who live near it: and this, in turn, will not only reduce the incentive to raids in general, but will bring home to the tribesmen the fact that it is the railway that is mainly responsible for the improvement in their condition, and that its interruption will therefore be against their own interests. Further, the frontier tribesman is a born tactician, with a perfectly sound appreciation of the danger of being taken in flank or rear: and a few experiments in raiding the railway will convince him of the uncanny ability of the modern engineer to deal adequately and swiftly with what looks, to the amateur, a hopeless break in the line: so that the tribesmen's best efforts will only result in a few hours' delay, before the threat to their flanks and rear is again in full working order, with their outbreak as an added incentive for translating it into action.

In the years to come, the railway may also be expected to exercise a civilising effect on Afghanistan. The railhead at Chaman, on the Kandahar frontier, has been for many years past an object lesson to Western Afghanistan of the advantages that railway lines bring to a country that makes use of them: and this will now be reinforced by a fresh object lesson of the same sort in the near neighbourhood of Kabul. Afghans are among the most suspicious people in the world of the effects of European penetration; but the present Amir is credited with the desire to introduce railways into his country, and with having suggested a beginning by the construction of a short line from Kabul to the new summer capital now being built a few miles to the west of that city. Such a suggestion, if it was ever seriously made, was put forward in vain, in face of the stubborn conservatism of the Afghan "elder statesmen" and the mass of the people; but, if the Khyber railway attains the practical success which it is reasonable to expect from it, it should further familiarise the Afghan trader, and eventually the Afghan "man in the street," with the advantages of railway transport, and may well lead to the disappearance of the prejudice against internal lines. Once these are constructed, their linking up with the Indian lines would only be a matter of time, to the great advantage of both the countries concerned.

The Khyber Railway, which is of the standard Indian gauge of 5 feet 6 inches, is 26½ miles in length, from the previous rail-head of Jamrud, ten miles north of Peshawar, to its terminus at Landi Khana, close to the Afghan frontier. It includes 32 tunnels, most of which are short, the longest being just over a quarter of a mile in length. Its highest point—at the well-known fortress of Landi Kotal—is 2,000 feet above Jamrud and 1,000 feet above Landi Khana. It has taken five years to build, and cost nearly two million pounds—about £70,000 a mile. All the stations are, to all intents and purposes, forts: and block-houses guard the approaches to the line at all vulnerable points between stations.

Magna Charta for India.

Several English papers have copied, from the *Chicago Tribune*, a paragraph under the above heading: in which it is stated that "important developments towards self-government are expected as the result of an important conference now being arranged to be held shortly in Delhi, over which N. C. Kelkar, the prominent Swarajist leader, will preside. The object of the conference is to adopt a Magna Charta for the Indian State, which it is hoped will form the basis for essential independence."

This rather puzzling announcement has been explained by a later message, which shows that the singular "Indian State" should have been a plural: and that the object of the conference is to discuss the constitutional status of the subjects of Native Indian States.

The *Chicago Herald* is, of course, entitled to its own opinion about the important developments that may be expected to follow such a conference; but it is quite certain that no one in India—not Mr. Kelkar nor another—expects anything of the sort. This is not the first time that a similar conference has been held: and its composition will, no doubt, be what it has been before: a gathering of discontented persons—in many cases, professional agitators who have entered various Native States from British India and have promptly been expelled—professing to speak on behalf of the subjects of the Indian Princes. That anything they can say will deflect by a hair's breadth the internal policy of any Indian Prince is not only unthinkable but preposterous. Among the demands that are to be put forward are an elected Representative Assembly in each State, to which the Executive of the Government shall be responsible and subordinate: and an Executive Council at least half of whose members are to be elected by the Representative Assembly. That is to say, that the personal rule of Indian Princes is to cease and is to be replaced by constitutional rule.

The force of example offered by the progress of the Reforms in British India has already led a few of the important Indian Princes to make a tentative start in the direction of constitutional government; but this is in its infancy where it exists at all, and in the great majority of States it is entirely non-existent. It cannot be denied that the subjects of some of the Indian rulers have good cause for complaint against their methods; but these are, at least, methods that they understand and, indeed, sympathise with whenever it is only their friends, and not themselves, who are affected. If it were possible to take a plebiscite on the question of transferring their allegiance from their native rulers as they are, to the British Government as it is, there can be no possible doubt that the subjects of the former would be practically unanimous in voting in the negative. If British India should ever achieve the sort of independence that the extremist politicians profess to desire, the voting might quite possibly go the other way; but, in such a case, if the extremist politicians were there to hear the result—one has belief enough in their intelligence to expect that they would make themselves scarce "while the going was good"—they certainly would not remain to enjoy the fruits of it.

As time goes on, no doubt more and more of the Indian Princes will think it advisable to take steps towards assimilating their form of government to that which prevails in British India. As things are at present, there is no possible method by which the "Magna Charta" of Mr. Kelkar and his friends can be achieved except by a violent upheaval that they themselves certainly recognise as not only undesirable but impossible. If their conference were

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in any way representative of the interests that it professes to champion, the result would be the same: as it is, their proceedings are worse than ineffective—they are merely ridiculous.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, October 15.

A Gesture.

Signs are not lacking that India is waking up to her responsibilities, perhaps the most important indication having come from the Central Provinces, in the acceptance by Mr. Tambe of the Home Membership of the Provincial Executive Council when it falls vacant next December. He is the first Swarajist to acept office under the Crown.

Mr. Tambe was a Swarajist Member of the Central Provinces Legislative Council and was elected to its Presidency as the result of Swaraj votes. Prior to his election in this capacity, he was a strong supporter of the creed of obstruction, but one of Mr. Tambe's characteristics has been a propensity for thinking for himself. In July last, he advised the Berar Legislative Committee to follow a policy of responsive co-operation, which did not add anything to his popularity, particularly as his rulings in the Legislative Council did not always favour the Swarajists; but his independence of thought has brought about a very healthy respect for him from all shades of political opinion.

Motilal Nehru and Sen Gupta have both expressed their astonishment at Mr. Tambe's breach of one of the fundamental principles of the Swaraj doctrine, the latter petulantly remarking that, at the next general meeting of the party, he will move that no Swarajist shall accept any appointment from Government which carries with it a remuneration. It is doubtful what reception such a proposition will receive; even among the most ardent Swarajists the Rupee still has a very real value. It is not so much the fact that they have lost one of their stalwarts which is causing trepidation to the extremist leaders: it is the fear of the unknown, before which the most experienced politicians have quailed. Surprise tactics have always been a *forte* of the Swarajists: and, with their own weapon turned against them, they do not find the position a pleasant one. Mr. Tambe has undoubted influence and courage, and it will not be surprising if, as a result of his acceptance of office under Government, a Cabinet of Swarajists comes into being in the Central Provinces—Swarajists who reserve the right to think for themselves and, in thinking, to make the gesture which England awaits.

(As this letter goes to post, it is learnt that certain Central Provinces Swarajists have called a meeting to consider the situation which has arisen, and that Motilal Nehru has been invited to attend.)

Indians in South Africa.

Sunday last was observed throughout India as a day of protest against the Asiatic Repatriation Bill now before the South African Parliament. Devout Indians are reported to have spent the day in prayer, and protest meetings were held in all the large towns. Although Gandhi, in a press message, stated that the question was not one of party politics, political speakers could not resist the opportunity the occasion offered, and did their utmost to make party capital out of it. Sen Gupta was in the van with a statement to the effect that the cruelty and dishonesty of the South African measure was directly attributable to the unbending bureaucracy of the British Cabinet, the whole policy of British administration in India and the die-hard and irresponsible British Press. If it had been his intention to do this just cause the greatest amount of harm, this effort would be difficult to improve upon. The general tone of speakers who confined themselves to their subject was one of helplessness; retaliation, in the shape of a boycott of South African imports, the chief of which is coal, was advocated, but was found to be futile: and general opinion tended to follow the finding of Gandhi, who said, "Let me however say that retaliation will be no remedy, if only because there can be no effective retaliation." He went on to say that the only remedy was diplomatic pressure. This had been successfully applied before by Lord Hardinge, and he asked whether the present Government would repeat "that performance."

The demonstration should make a real impression on South African feeling, but its effect would have been greater had the extremists refrained from their suggestion that opinion was divided. This is not the case; but it is the sole achievement of dragging in party politics which, in this question, are irrelevant.

Protection for Coal?

Government has announced its intention of referring the question of protection for the Indian coal industry to the Tariff Board. This arises out of an undertaking given by Sir Charles Innes in the Legislative Assembly last year, after that body had passed a resolution calling for a countervailing duty on South African coal coming into India. Ostensibly, the resolution was made on economic grounds, as it was argued that the South African industry was already in receipt of a rebate on coal supplied to the railways of the Union. At the time, it was explained to the Assembly that, in fixing this rebate, which amounted to a bounty, there was no intention to attack the Indian coal industry; it was merely an economic adjustment to prevailing local conditions. It was further pointed out that a saving of three rupees per ton could be effected on Bengal coal sent to Bombay, if a part sea route were utilized in place of the current practice of direct railway transportation.

Reviewing the conditions prevailing in the coal trade in India, the *Pioneer* shows that in 1922-23 India imported 881,000 tons of foreign coal but, in 1924-25 ,coal imports had fallen off to 448,000 tons. Again, in 1922-23, India exported only 98,000 tons of coal, whereas last year's figures show that exports had risen to 228,000 tons. In comparison with India's total production of twenty million tons, the imports of Natal coal, which is the bone of contention, amount to only one per cent., and it may well be asked what useful purpose protection will serve. So far as foreign markets are concerned, no benefit could be derived from it: and the tendency would be for the price of coal to rise in India, which would immediately have its reflex in other Indian industries. The absurdity of the situation becomes apparent when the statement of the Tariff Board in connexion with the steel industry is considered. They state that they anticipate a reduction in the cost of steel production of Rs. 15/8 per ton in 1926-27, Rs. 9/- of which would be the result of the reduced cost of coal. The taxpayer would welcome such a large saving; but what becomes of the optimism of the Tariff Board in the event of the cost of coal rising?

The case for giving protection to the Indian coal industry cannot be said to be a good one from any point of view; which is perhaps not surprising when the suggestion comes from those whose aims are purely political.

Markets.

The Jute market continues to pursue its course of steadily increasing prices, and it is considered that the limit has not yet been reached. The crop is expected to fizzle out at the end of next month, and it is the almost universal opinion here that a general shortage of the commodity is inevitable. Gunnies close steady but register a small fall on the week. The Tea market has been firm, and shows every appearance of going better; sales here this week indicate a small increase in rates for most qualities and, with the latest report from London that the market there is strong and advancing, the outlook may be said to be considerably more promising. A further decline in stocks of about ten million maunds is anticipated, and on this assumption the surplus will have dropped to the comparatively small amount of one million maunds. There has been a slight hardening tendency in the piece goods market, but operators have been nervous since the receipt of the report from Manchester of a sharp decline in the price of raw cotton.

The Share market reopened officially at the beginning of the week and, apart from a certain amount of excitement over Rubber shares, there has been no outstanding

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feature; it is rumoured that a considerable business in these shares has been done privately during the holidays: and, though the demand still continues, the turnover has been more restricted of late. Jute shares have fluctuated within narrow limits and close firm: and, in sympathy with the better position of the commodity market, teas have hardened and, with more buyers in evidence, are being talked higher. Of Government securities the long-dated issues have been most in request.

Money has been tighter, the latest rates being quoted at $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. and $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. for one and three months respectively. Exchange has been steady for the near position and quiet forward.

BOMBAY LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bombay October 14.

The Mill Strike.

All textile mills within the area of Bombay are now closed down, and the strike has extended to Kurla, which is technically outside the city, though there is no reason why the mill hands there should be actuated by any other motives than those working a mile or two away.

Two aspects of the strike appear on the same page of Tuesday's *Times of India*. On one side it is stated that the cessation of work has already had a remarkable effect on stocks of both cloth and yarn, and that the position has changed so much for the better that it is very probable that the owners will be able to restore the reduction in wages in a few weeks: and, in a parallel column, there is recorded a violent attack in the Municipality on the Government in general, and the Governor himself in particular, for weakness and incompetence in failing to intervene in the crisis. Eventually a very mild resolution was substituted and carried, but not until several of the members had taken advantage of this opportunity of talking nonsense.

It is difficult to see how any sensible man can hold the view that the time has come for Government intervention. If it were possible for any unprejudiced Committee to review the whole position of the mills, it would almost certainly come to the conclusion that the market was overstocked and that the prime need was, in one way or another, to restrict output for a time; which, after all, is a very sound cure for the diseases of most industries, from the production of rubber downwards. No doubt a sudden strike is far from being a scientific way of bringing this about; but it is more effective than any amount of delay spent in argument. As has been shown, the present time of year is a very convenient one for the coolies to return to their villages; and it is very doubtful whether the great majority of the working classes look upon the present situation as anything but an unusually good opportunity for visiting their own country. They ought to have sufficient savings to make them very welcome guests at home: and, at the moment, there seems to be very little of a problem to solve: at any rate there has never been a strike like this one, with no sign of any crowds of unemployed in the bazaars.

This is obviously to take a very rosy view of the situation, and it may of course eventually take an ugly turn. At the best, there will have to be a readjustment of the whole situation when the mills reopen: and it may be as well for the Government to take a hand and see fair play all round, when that time comes. But it is hard to conceive a moment less suited to intervention than the present when, except for a few zealous and self-appointed Labour Leaders, all parties concerned appear to have come to a tacit agreement to treat the cessation of work as a sort of extended Whit week: and when, as a matter of fact, Bombay is subject to the most oppressive heat wave within the memory of man. The thermometer is not, of course, recording anything spectacular. It never does in Bombay: but October at its best is quite trying enough: and, when we have it five degrees above normal for a week on end, there are many better places in the world than the loom-sheds.

The Currency Commission.

Mr. Phiroze Sethna has been expressing himself very strongly on the suggestion that India as a whole should boycott the Commission, and that Sir Purshottamdas Thakurdas in particular should be called upon by his fellow countrymen to resign his seat on the Commission. And as Mr. Sethna is the present Chairman of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, it is sincerely to be hoped that his views will prevail. The opposition to the Commission is based on the assumption that it is certain to report adversely to the wishes of the Indian people, whatever they may be: for, in a matter of exchange, it does not follow that the most consistent of us will adhere to the same views for many months at a time: and it seems at least conceivable that the present cry, that the 1s. 6d. rupee is the ruin of India, may be entirely altered before very long; for arguments on exchange are a delicate business and the problem is not one that can be solved by vague generalities. But, as matters stand to-day, a certain block of Indian opinion has made up its mind, first that a reversion to 1s. 4d. is necessary for the salvation of India, and secondly, that the majority of the Commission is pleged to oppose such a reversion without listening to argument. Both these views are probably equally wrong; but the average Indian mind is not yet capable of conceiving the attitude of people who can listen to argument: and they are also quite unable to hold their own in argument, unless they are supported by the shouts of their adherents.

It is much to the credit of both Sir Purshottamdas, and Mr. Sethna that they both enjoy arguing on the side that is not certain to have support; and it is most earnestly to be hoped that, with their help, it will be realised throughout India that the Commission is not sitting on a foregone conclusion, but will do its very utmost to clear up scientifically one of the most difficult international problems of the world, on which nobody with any degree of sense would be unwise enough to dogmatise.

THE INDIAN MAIL.

Indian Coal Industry.

In the course of a lecture recently delivered at the Rotary Club, Calcutta, Mr. George Millar gave some very interesting facts and figures. He said that the capital invested in coal mines in India amounts to over nine crores of rupees, or nearly seven million pounds.: and that the annual output of coal, which was only five million tons in 1901, had reached 25 million tons in a recent year, though it had since fallen to 22 million. In spite of this fall, the chief reason for the present depression in the trade was over-production: and the root cause of trouble was the great increase in cost. Capital expenditure, involving heavy overhead charges and interest, had recently much increased: and care was necessary to ensure that expenditure should be strictly limited to what was necessary to obtain higher working efficiency: otherwise the Indian coal industry was likely to follow the example of the over-capitalised iron and steel industry "which had now to be kept tottering on bounty stilts."

Mr. Millar's remarks about the Indian miner were far from complimentary. He described him as perhaps the lowest producer of coal in the world, his average production (with his wife to load the tubs) being only just over half a ton a day. That he could do much better than this was proved by an experiment, in which an average Indian miner by no means a Hercules: his "record" is given as 25 years of age, 5 feet 4 inches in height, and 7 stone 10 pounds in weight—worked, under supervision, on a seam of moderately hard coal, for eight hours and five minutes: during which period he cut, and his wife loaded into the tubs, 7 tons 18 cwts. of coal. From these facts the lecturer deduced that the Indian miner's effective day's work is really less than one hour a day: "the balance of his time underground is spent in playing the flute, talking bazaar gossip, or waiting for an empty tub—which he has a great dread of getting." It is true that he is paid on production, but the rate per tub, which was only $3\frac{1}{2}$ annas twenty years ago, is now $10\frac{1}{2}$ annas about a shilling. A tub holds about three-

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quarters of a ton of coal. The increase in his wages has not improved his efficiency as a workman, for its only effect has been to reduce the number of his working days per week, and to make his already irregular attendance even more so. The Indian miner comes to work and leaves when he chooses, and does as much work as he thinks fit: if he takes offence at anything, not only himself, but his whole gang, clears out at a minute's notice, to be received with open arms at the next colliery.

The remedy put forward by the lecturer was the elimination of the miner as a coal cutter, and the substitution of machinery. A crew of four men, properly trained to work a modern coal cutter, could produce 150 tons of coal in a working day of eight hours. Machines should be worked two shifts of eight hours each, the third shift being occupied in fitting spares and doing small repairs. If this were done, it would be possible to engage a better and more intelligent type of workman, and to pay him a much higher wage; for one machine, properly manned and efficiently worked, would produce in one day 300 tons of coal, the equivalent of the work of 600 miners.

If, as the lecturer declared, an Indian miner does about one-eighth of a day's work in his day, his average is about that of the ordinary Indian labourer. A common sight in India is a gang of road-menders at work, usually consisting of about eight men. One of these wields a shovel, to which a rope is attached which is held by another, the combined efforts of both directing the spadefull into a wheel-barrow. A third sits waiting for the barrow to be filled, in order to wheel it away: during which process the first two cease from their labours and take a pull at the family pipe, which a fourth has been assiduously keeping alight for the purpose. A fifth sits on the roadside and warns the workers to stop work whenever a passer by looks respectable enough to be likely to suffer in dignity from a shower of stones: a sixth is the "Shabash Karnewala"—the professional encourager of the toilers, whose life's work is summed up in Brer Rabbit's promise to the cow who had asked him to help her pull her horn out of the tree: "You do de pullin', Sis Cow, and I'll do de gruntin.'" A seventh keeps a small fire alight, and does the gang's cooking: while there is generally an eighth somewhere round the corner, where he has gone to drink water or for some similar purpose. And the total output of the gang would make a British navvy laugh: certainly with scorn, and possibly also with envy.

The Bombay Cotton Mills.

There has just appeared a report by the Bombay Labour Office on wages and hours in the cotton mill industry. The report—as such publications often are—is very much out of date, for it is based on facts and figures collected in August 1923, while the industry was still flourishing. The number of persons employed in the cotton mills of the Bombay Presidency was then 190,000 men, 46,000 women and 12,000 children: the latter—boys and girls between the ages of twelve and fifteen—being already a diminishing quantity. The daily working hours for mill employees are limited by law to eleven (with a weekly maximum of sixty) for men and women, and six for children: and no woman or child may be employed at night, or at more than one factory in the same day. In Bombay the hours actually worked were 10 by men, 9½ by women and 4¾ by children. The average monthly earnings of all persons employed were almost exactly double those of the period immediately preceding the War: being £2 10s. for a man and £1 5s. for a woman or child, exclusive of overtime pay and the money value of the concessions made to employees in the matter of housing, clothing and food.

Absenteeism is rife, and the average earnings would be increased by about twelve per cent. if it did not exist: the figures given above take it into account. The report says that it is a common thing for a worker to absent himself because he has earned enough for subsistance and lacks the will to increase his wages to the maximum: and that the ascertainable percentage of absenteeism is really less than the actual, since a weaver who absents himself because he has earned enough for subsistence and the man in charge of the next loom to look after his own as well. In most mills the man, to whom the loom is assigned in the pay-roll, receives his earnings on the output of his loom, irrespective of whether he actually tended it himself during the month or not.

Thus the report, belated though it is, adds a further piece of evidence to the Indian side of the controversy about "underpaid Oriental labour": that any increase in the standard of living of the Indian workman must originate with himself. At present, he is deliberately content with his existing standard and deliberately declines to try to improve it: if he would exert himself to do so, higher wages would necessarily follow on increased effort and improved output.

Cotton Mill Profits.

In a recent issue we suggested that the Bombay mill owners were themselves largely to blame for the position in which the industry now finds itself, owing to the fact that when, during and immediately after the War, they were making enormous profits, they made no attempt to use even a reasonable part of them as an insurance against a rainy day. The present mail brings some figures that support this contntion: and remarkable figures they are. Specially outstanding cases are those of two mills which, in the four years ending with 1923, paid out, in ordinary dividends, nearly 270 lakhs of rupees on a capital of 47 lakhs, and 60 lakhs on a capital of 8 lakhs, respectively.

One does not know whether these and similar figures were quoted in the Legislative Assembly when that body passed their recent resolution in favour of the suspension of the Excise Duty: though, if not, they well might have been. Not that, if they had been, their quotation would have produced any effect on the champions of the mill owners: for it is quite obvious that the resolution was put forward as a political manœuvre, not as a serious economic proposal. On the face of it, the strike is due to an attempt by the owners to reduce wages: they profess to be driven to such a reduction by the handicap of the Excise Duty: therefore owners and strikers alike can throw the blame for their action on Government, on whom the odium remains, while they divest themselves of all responsibility.

The Belgian Royal Visit.

The flying visit of the King and Queen of the Belgians to India has proved a great success, and their Majesties have won golden opinions wherever they have gone. Considering the shortness of their visit, and the amount of ground that they covered, it was inevitable that railway travelling should form a large part of it. A letter from an official of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, which we have been privileged to see, says that the King showed a great interest in railway matters, and displayed a quite astonishing knowledge of railways in many parts of the world. On the journey from Nagpur to Calcutta, His Majesty alighted at most of the stations where the train stopped: and, besides making very favourable comments on railway management and control in India, expressed himself as particularly struck with the neatness and tidy condition of the little wayside stations.

The Mineral Wealth of Burma.

The report on the mineral production of Burma in 1924 contains some striking figures. The total output of petroleum was over 270 million gallons, valued at nearly 100 lakhs of rupees: and, among the other important productions are—refined lead, 50,500 tons, valued at 232 lakhs: zinc concentrates, 18,650 tons, 21 lakhs: copper matte, 3,000 tons, 16 lakhs: tin ore, 2,400 tons, nearly 28 lakhs: antimonial lead, 1,200 tons, 3 lakhs: silver, 5¼ million ounces, over 112 lakhs: jadeite, 2,630 cwts., over 8½ lakhs. It is noted that the depression in the wolfram market continued throughout the year, the ore only being extracted in mines where it occurred, and had to be worked, along with tin. The production of precious stones—rubies, sapphires and spinels—was much smaller than the previous year, declining from 187,000 to 101,000 carats: but it is noted that the ruby market was satisfactory and that there was a good demand for stones of good quality.

The total value of all mineral products exported from Burma during 1924 was 1,410 lakhs: of which 867 lakhs —mostly bar silver and mineral oils—went to India, and 543 lakhs to other countries. The report mentions that the royalty collected on petroleum was nearly 37 lakhs of rupees.

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INDIAN COMMERCIAL NOTES.

The prospects of the export season just about to reopen are problematical. On the whole the monsoon, on which so much depends, has tricked the pessimists and has turned out better than was expected. Gujerat and Kathiawar are short, and badly short, of rain; but the general crop position in India is not unfavourable. The wheat crop of last spring was poor, and exports for the five months April to August, 1925, are low at 162,293 tons, as compared with 406,444 tons for the same five months of 1924. There is even talk of imports. But high prices will undoubtedly stimulate sowings this autumn, and there is no reason why, if all goes well, exports should not be in full swing again by February or March. Rice exports are nominal at 1,167,000 tons for the five months, Germany taking less and the United Kingdom more, than last year. Jute exports are well maintained, especially to America and the Continent. For the five months April to August, 1925, 125,000 tons were exported to a value of Rs.6½ crores; whereas, for the same period of 1924, exports of 110,000 tons were valued at only Rs.3¾ crores, showing the phenomenal rise of prices in 1925. It is doubtful how long exports can be maintained this season in view of the known shortage of the crop.

Tea exports are satisfactory at over 109 million pounds for the five months, as compared with less than 90 million pounds this time last year. The cotton position is of considerable interest at the moment. India's cotton season runs from September 1 to August 31, and the statistics for the season ended August 31 1925, just published, show total exports of 4,245,000 bales out of a total crop of 6,058,000 bales. Of the exports, 2,340,000 bales went to Japan, 1,245,000 to the Continent, and 200,000 to the United Kingdom. The prospects for the new season are on the whole fairly good. Sowings, as reported so far, have advanced from 21¾ to 22¾ million acres. If all goes well, it is quite on the cards that last year's record output of over six million bales will be exceeded this year. Purchases by Japan have been particularly heavy. In fact, the demand for Indian cotton has been so keen during the past few years, when American has been scarce and dear, that the margin between the two has shrunk considerably. Before the War, when middling American was quoted at 7¾d., the best grades of Broach could be purchased at Liverpool for less than 6d.—a margin of nearly twopence. To-day, even after the slump, with American middling in the neighbourhood of 10¾d., Broach is quoted at nearly 10d.—a margin of less than a penny.

On the import side, India's purchases of cotton textiles have fallen off during the five months, from 700 million yards in 1924 to 637 in 1925. The British share of this yardage has fallen from 654 to 537, while the Japanese share has increased from 51 to 82 million yards. In coloured goods especially, Italy and Japan have made considerable strides in the Indian market during the last three years. In iron and steel goods and machinery the British share of the trade is fairly well maintained. During the eight months January to August, 1925, India imported iron and steel girders, plates, bars, etc., to a total value of nearly eleven crores of rupees, of which the United Kingdom provided over 7¾ crores and the Continent 2¾. In machinery, out of total imports to the value of 9¾ crores, the British share amounted to eight crores, the American to 84 lakhs, and the Continental to 74 lakhs.

In general, if prices can be further reduced, the prospects of British trade with India during the coming season are distinctly good. The slump in cotton will help Lancashire, by bringing cotton textiles nearer to the purchasing capacity of the Indian cultivator, who is getting high prices for his jute and wheat, fair prices for his rice and, in spite of the slump, a still handsome price for his cotton.

INDIAN EXCHANGE.

London, November 2.

Less activity has characterised the Indian Markets during the past week and Rupee Exchange has been a shade quieter. This has been particularly so in Bombay, where business appears to be on a restricted scale. T.T. in Calcutta and Bombay is quoted at 1s. 6 5-32d. to 1s. 6 3-16d. with business done for cash at the higher rate, to a moderate extent, and rates showed no tendency to fall away until Monday, when a fair amount of inter-bank T.T. was reported at 1s. 6 11-16d. for delivery this month. It is said that the buyers were the Japanese Banks, so that it may be assumed that they do not anticipate any early pressure upon their resources to finance cotton shipments to Japan.

Three months' credits are on the same level at 1s. 6 7-16d. for delivery within the next three months, and there is less inclination this week on the Bombay side on the part of the banks to make any concessions. The last weekly statement of the Imperial Bank of India shows that the withdrawals for trade purposes have diminished, and this is further borne out by the shrinkage in Government purchases of sterling for immediate delivery, which for the week are reported to be £250,000 only.

Forward rates are unchanged at 1s. 6 3-16d. T.T. for the next three months, but that rate is now available for March delivery, at which a moderate business has been done in Bombay, while some April fixtures are reported at 1s. 6 5-32d.

The money market in India is inclined to be easier, and short deposits for a month or two have been fixed at 2½ to 3 per cent. Rupee rates in London are stationary at 1s. 6 7-32d. T.T. for delivery to the end of February, with occasional opportunities of obtaining 1-64th lower for cash, which merchants readily take advantage of when the rate is offered.

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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

170, *Strand, London, W.C.2,*
Tuesday Morning,

The End of Wembley.

The passing of Wembley at the end of last week was hailed by most people with considerable regret. But as I pointed out recently the Exhibition could scarcely have carried on indefinitely, even in an altered form, and the figures for the attendances this year showed quite plainly that Wembley was outliving its usefulness. The Exhibition had, in fact, done its work as an educative influence and as an instrument for the development of trade within the Empire, and in both directions has more than justified the high hopes that were entertained on the initiation of the project, and, if Wembley is no more, its results will be more and more in evidence with the passing of the years.

The B.I.F.

After Wembley the British Industries Fair, of the prospects of which I hear the most encouraging reports. Already the number of applications received for the White City section constitutes a record, and I understand that this is also the case with regard to the Birmingham section. Besides testifying to the value of the Fair as a trade medium, the increase in the number of exhibitors indicates very plainly the widespread belief that we are at length on the verge of a great trade revival. It is a fact worth noting that a very large number of the firms who will exhibit at the White City and Birmingham have been represented at every fair since the commencement of the series in 1915. On the Continent and particularly in the Near East fairs are regarded as a most important medium of trade development, and it is evident that the same view is now beginning to gain ground here.

P. and O. Dividend.

The reduction in the dividend on the P. and O. Deferred stock reflects the difficulties that the shipping industry has continued to meet. Last April an interim dividend of 6 per cent. tax free was announced, and this very naturally led to the belief that the dividend would be maintained at 12 per cent. Since then, however, we have had the shipping strike, which affected the company's Australian services, and the proposed final dividend of 4 per cent. ought not therefore to have come as a surprise to the stock markets (though it evidently did so), especially in the light of Lord Inchcape's suggestion at the last general meeting of a possible dividend reduction on account of the continued trade depression.

Anglo-Persian Oil Report.

A most satisfactory report is forthcoming from the Anglo-Persian Oil Company for the year ended March 31 last. After providing for depreciation, debenture interest, etc., the profit was £3,571,967 as compared with £2,507,867 for 1924 and £2,689,143 for 1923. £393,000 is allocated for extra depreciation, while the various reserves receive £800,000, and it is proposed to pay an ordinary dividend of 12½ per cent., less tax, as compared with 10 per cent., leaving £2,073,000 to be carried forward as against £1,747,000. Obviously the great increase in the profits would have justified a larger dividend, but no one is likely to criticise the conservative financial principles pursued by the company, and it is obvious that the extremely sound progress made will mean increased distributions in the future. Most favourable accounts are given of developments in the Persian main fields. The area of oil-bearing territory has been greatly extended, while a large additional area of productive territory has been proved. In the Argentine production continues to increase, and the company's property is now being worked at a profit. Finally, test drilling has been started on the concession recently acquired in Albania.

Empire Cotton Growing.

The meeting of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate has been awaited with more than ordinary interest this year on account of recent developments in the Sudan and the desire to know something of the immediate outlook for cotton growing in that region. Important speeches were made at the meeting by the Chairman, Mr. F. Eckstein, and Lord Lovat, and what they had to say with regard to the company's operations will be read not only with the keenest interest but with the most justifiable satisfaction at the record of the achievements of the company in the cause of Empire development. Twenty-one years ago—for the undertaking has just come of age—cultivation was started at Zeidab with a few hundred acres of cotton. To-day, including the Kassala Cotton Company, in which the concern is largely interested, nearly 100,000 acres are under cotton, and next year it is hoped to add a further 20,000 acres in the Gezireh alone. Mr. Eckstein, it may be noted, stated that negotiations have been begun for a considerable further extension of the Syndicate's operations in the Sudan, and he indicated that if they reach a satisfactory conclusion it will probably mean a further increase in the capital of the concern.

The Rubber Position.

As I expected, November 1 came without any modification of the restriction scheme. There was the usual ten per cent. increase making the percentage 85, and three months hence we shall have a further increase of 10 per cent., bringing the suspension of the operation of the scheme within sight. It shows how sensitive the market is that the approach of November 1 should have brought about a decline in the shares, and that to-day sees a firmer tendency in evidence. It will be remembered that writing two weeks ago I suggested that a further upward movement in the shares was not to be looked for before this week. I expect now, provided no unforseen factors intervene, that we shall see a sustained period of activity, as we have three months before the date for a further increase in the percentage, though there will doubtless be fluctuations from time to time as holders take their profits.

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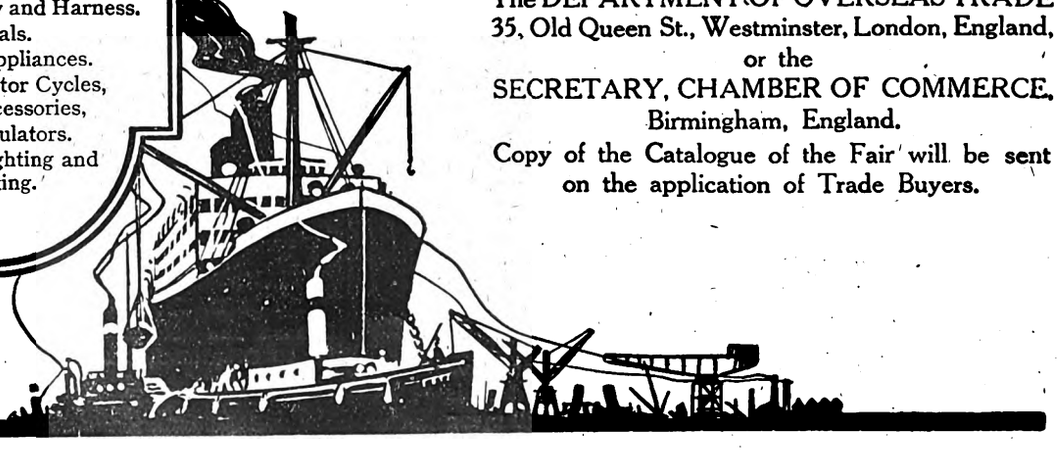

C.F.H.

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THE GRAIN TRADE OF THE PERSIAN GULF.*

(Continued from page 537.)

Between A.D. 775 and 809 El Mahdi and Harun el Rashad became Caliphs, and during the period of the latter the extent of the Empire enveloped Persia, Arabia, Syria and Egypt, and prosperity took the place of revolution and war. Baghdad then became the centre of trade, and amassed great riches.

The decline of this vast Empire commenced after the death of Harun el Rashid in A.D. 809. Baghdad was again the scene of rebellion, and its rulership changed hands no less than five times up to A.D. 865. Mesopotamia, however, continued under the Abbasid Caliphate to prosper until the time of the Crusades in 1127, when Northern Mesopotamia fell into the hands of a Turkish leader.

In 1258 the greatest disaster to Mesopotamia took place, and its complete destruction was carried out when the Mongolian invasion took place under the leadership of Hulagu who set out from Turkestan on a gigantic raid. His sole object was plunder and destruction. His forces consisted of hordes of Chinese, Georgians, Afghans, Persians, and Turks whom he captured and collected en route. They besieged and captured Baghdad, massacred its inhabitants, razed the town to the ground, and carried away all its riches. It was during this raid that the canal and irrigation schemes North and South of Baghdad were completely destroyed and 5,000 years of progress was obliterated in one year. The whole country became a waste and desolate land, and so it has since remained.

Mesopotamia thereafter became part of an Empire governed by the Khans of Persia and Timur, and ultimately on the advance of the Ottoman Empire was annexed during the years 1514 and 1517.

Up to the time of the Hulagu Raid, it would appear that all Mesopotamia's wars, excepting, perhaps, the Moslem and Persian wars, resulted in no irreparable damage to the irrigation and cultivation of this country. The early rulers boasted of the irrigation works which they initiated or restored before they spoke even of foreign wars. Later conquerors undoubtedly realised that the protection and the continuance of the wonderful schemes which they acquired was for their own benefit as well as as that of the population.

The Tigris in those days ran between Baghdad and North 34 degree latitude in a westerly direction to that of its present course. The carrying away of the weirs during the Hulagu period was undoubtedly the reason for the Tigris altering its course and breaking into the Nahrwan Canal and the devastation of the country.

Iraq Under the Turks.

Since the Ottoman or Turkish occupation in 1514, nothing was done to restore these canals and irrigation works or to reclaim the land until 1910. Although the Turkish Government had conquered Mesopotamia and held it for 400 years they never actually conquered the tribes, nor could they obtain regular tribute from them. The Government kept sufficient troops to control Baghdad, Busreh and Mosul and to keep open the Tigris, but on the Euphrates and other outlying districts the country was unsafe and generally in a state of tribal warfare, which the Turks themselves encouraged for their own safety.

During the time of the "Young Turk" Government, say 1908, a change took place and a progressive policy was adopted. The system of bribery and corruption amongst officials was to a certain extent minimised by the appointment of Nazim Pasha as Governor of Baghdad. During this period Sir W. Wilcocks was asked to advise and report on irrigation schemes for Mesopotamia. The only sign of any irrigation works then were the useless old Hindia Barage which was undermined by the Euphrates and the silted up canals which had not been used for centuries. This was the state of the country when Sir W. Wilcocks, with a staff of capable engineers whom he brought from Egypt, surveyed the whole country.

Busreh at the outbreak of war was a thoroughly undeveloped port. There were no roads outside the town worth mentioning. The streets were narrow and practically impossible for vehicular traffic. Lighting was carried out by badly trimmed oil lamps very far apart. There were no wharves, and steamers discharged and loaded their cargoes in mid-stream.

This was all revolutionised during the years 1914-1920 when a vast expenditure was incurred by the British authorities. Concrete metalled and other roads were built, and extensive reclamation work was carried out. A large power station was installed at Busreh, sufficiently powerful to provide electric light for the military camps and stations in Busreh and its neighbourhood, and also the wharves. Also telephone systems, water supplies and fire stations, with modern engines, were installed.

Wharves were built at Maaghil, four miles up river, and it is estimated cost the British Government something in the neighbourhood of four million sterling. There are a continuous permanent wharf to berth six ocean steamers and temporary wharves to accommodate six more. The permanent wharf was constructed on up-to-date lines and with all modern conveniences such as electric cranes, etc. Many railway sidings were laid down to these wharves from the railway station of Busreh. The wharves probably dealt with a traffic of 700,000 to 800,0000 tons a year during the war, and as a war measure they may have been necessary, but they are far beyond the present and future needs of the port, so far as one can judge.

Since the war the Port Authorities have provided five wharves north of the permanent wharf for the grain export trade, a progressive move as grain can now be brought down from up country and delivered alongside steamers berthed by railway or river. Before the War grain was stored on the Kunduk Creek, and necessitated a great deal of handling. This site was inconvenient as loaded lighters of grain could only navigate this creek at high water. The country is well served by ocean transport. The British India Co. maintain a regular weekly fast mail service of steamers, also a weekly subsidiary service to and from India, the latter calling at Persian Gulf ports. The Strick and Ellerman Lines have a regular service to and from the United Kingdom. On the Tigris and Euphrates and Tigris S. N. Co., has frequent sailings between Busreh and Baghdad.

Baghdad is a larger and better built city than Busreh, and remains to-day very much the same as in the British occupation. The Military Authorities arrived too late in the War, and had no time to wield their gilded brush to the same extent as they did at Busreh. They, however, erected Government offices and dwellings and also a Cantonment south of Baghdad for the troops. A fine bridge known as Maude Bridge was built across the Tigris.

Climatic Extremes.

The climate of Baghdad and Busreh is of the two extremes. During the summer, from April till the middle of October, there is no rain and the thermometer rises to as high as 120 degrees in the shade, but during the winter the rainfall is only about 4 to 5 inches and frosts are to be expected during December and January. The winter is more to be compared with a fine English spring or autumn. In the Mosul district the climate is different from that of Baghdad and Busreh, and the hills to the north and east, about 30 miles away, are covered with snow every year from November to April; the rainfall in these parts is heavier.

It is generally thought that the climate has changed considerably since Babylonian days. There was then probably a greater rainfall and a less trying summer, and it may change again with the extension of irrigation, cultivation, and possible afforestation. The country is flat, and there are no hills except north of Mosul.

The country's resources are entirely dependent on the produce of its land, which, owing to its small rainfall, is dependent on irrigation. Of mineral wealth it has none, excepting the possibility of oil in the Mosul district, for which the Turkish Petroleum Co. have been granted a

*A lecture given by Mr. C. Wills, of the Mesopotamia-Persia Corporation, Ltd., at the City of London College.

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concession and are now about to explore its possibilities. There is no coal of any commercial value.

One of the principal exports from Mesopotamia other than grain and wool, is dates. There are grown around Busreh along the banks of Shatt-el-Arab to the entrance of the river at Fao, also to a small extent around Baghdad. The export can be estimated at 80,000 tons, and the dates are shipped to all parts of the world.

From Busreh to Fao there are numerous large canals which were specially built and intersected by other canals for these date plantations, and Sir W. Wilcocks states that in order to protect them, when his irrigation schemes are completed, it will be necessary to run a sweet water canal down the banks of the Shatt-el-Arab as the sea water will then come up as far as Busreh.

Before the war the only transport routes were the Euphrates and Tigris. On the former river, between Busreh and Baghdad, steamers towing barges and vessels drawing not more than three or four feet, according to the season, could be navigated.

From Mosul only kileks or rafts of inflated skins were used to bring down the produce of that district. These rafts were composed of 300 to 500 skins with poles and brushwood, the latter two from the forests north of Mosul and in the lesser Zab district. The skins are whole goat or sheep skins, and are returned after the voyage to Mosul. The poles and brushwood are sold in Baghdad. The carrying capacity of a kilek can be based on 25 skins to the ton.

On the Euphrates only native craft can be navigated, and have to tranship cargo at the Hamar Lake owing to the shallowness of the water there. Since the British occupation the British Government have built a metre gauge railway which runs between Busreh and Baghdad, and has since been extended to the Persian frontier at Khanikin, and is being further extended to Mosul. The present mileage completed is 733 miles. This railway benefits the country greatly, and taps the grain growing districts of Mosul and the Euphrates area, and grain can now be brought down to Busreh in a little over twenty-four hours.

Before the War grain from Mosul used to be sent down by kilek or camel, and the journey occupied by the former to Baghdad was from 3 to 13 days and by the latter 24 to 30. On the Euphrates grain used to be sent down by boat to Busreh and occupied about two months.

As I have said before, in 1908 Sir W. Wilcocks was asked to advise and report on irrigation schemes in Mesopotamia. He stayed with me when in Busreh, and was most optimistic on the possibilities of the country, and said it could be restored to its riches of ancient days. He was of opinion that its potentialities were even greater than those of Egypt and that the exportable surplus of grain could be increased 100 times.

In his report published in 1911 he states that the irrigation system of Mesopotamia cannot be carried out on the same lines as that of Egypt, as the former is basin irrigation and the latter perennial. The Nile is in flooding from August to October, while the Tigris and Euphrates are in flood in March, April, and May which are followed by the burning and rainless months of June, July, and August, and irrigation must be practised if any summer crop is to be brought to maturity.

As regards the extent of irrigation which will one day be possible, Sir W. Wilcocks mentions that the water supply of the two rivers will permit of over 7,000,000 acres of winter crops, wheat, barley, etc., while the summer discharge will permit of 950,000 acres of rice and 3,000,000 acres of millet, sesame and cotton.

Schemes which he recommends should be carried out with as little delay as possible will allow for 3,500,000 acres to be put under cultivation. He estimates on the basis of his experience in Egypt that this acreage which at the time lay waste will have an intrinsic value after his schemes are put into effect of £91,000,000, on which a revenue of nearly £8,000,000 can be expected and is made up of net rents less tithes) 6¾ million and tithes less maintenance 1¼ million. These schemes on a pre-War basis he estimates would cost £26½ million. Most of the land is Government property. In his report, he states that, as is well know, the population of Mesopotamia is insufficient to carry out the agriculture of the vast track of country, and he points out that although a certain number of people can be expected to come from the countries around, it will be necessary to encourage some of the surplus population of India to settle down in Mesopotamia. The question of population is a serious difficulty, especially as the infantile mortality recorded at the present time is about 80 per cent.

The Government of the "Young Turk" showed great keenness in the schemes, and one of the first it authorised was the building of a new Hindia Barage and the Hindia Canal, which was completed by Sir John Jackson and Co. in 1913. The estimated cost of this scheme was £300,000.

But for the War I think the Turks would have carried out further schemes, and probably the Habbanyeh Escape and Regulator scheme, north of Hindia on the Euphrates, would have been the next one to be put in hand. The cost of this has recently been estimated at £400,000, and it would hold up 255 milliards of gallons of water for use in the dry season, estimated to be sufficient for the annual cultivation of a million acres. Now this water escapes through the Hindia Barrage during the flood season in the spring of the year.

During the War and the British Military occupation, the Military Authorities carried out the necessary work of flood protection and river conservancy, and also made the Yusufia Canal and completed the Sakliwa Canal, besides carrying out a great many improvements and the extension of the then existing canals.

Since Mesopotamia has been handed over to the Iraq Government, owing to the finance of that country being in such an impoverished condition, only 32 lacs (= £200,000) has been spent on irrigation schemes. The Iraq Government continues the Rustrum Experimental Farm started by the British Military Authorities about 10 miles due east of Baghdad on the Diala. The estate has an area of 650 acres of which 100 acres are reserved for experimental work. An agricultural college has also been erected on the estate.

Cotton Growing.

I would mention that the growing of cotton has been recently seriously started. At present it is in its infancy, and was only experimented on during the latter part of the War. To-day the crop only amounts to 3,000 to 4,000 bales.

I understand that the best district for cultivation of cotton is on the Hindia Diala and north of Baghdad. Progress would be slow and if all Sir W. Wilcocks' schemes were carried out the crop would probably not exceed one million bales of 500 lb. From experiments on a small scale the production of cotton is 1,250 lb. per acre.

While on the question of irrigation schemes, a serious point has recently arisen as to the Iraq Government's rights to the Euphrates waters owing to the French in Syria in the Muskana and Kabow districts carrying out large irrigation schemes at these places, which, if completed, will take away a very large quantity of water. This, of course, would affect the scheme of the Habbanyeh

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Escape, but it has still to be decided if the Syrians have a prior right to all surplus water though the Euphrates in the first instance runs through their territory. Similar cases have arisen between the Egyptian and the Sudanese Governments over the Nile waters.

To give you some idea of how large is the Iraq Government's landowning interests, I find it stated in official reports that it owns approximately 75 per cent of all land under cultivation. The revenue given last year as that collected on agricultural profits was 109 lacs, approximately £880,000. The export duty on grain is 1 per cent. ad valorem.

Now to review the position of Mesopotamia to-day and the hopes raised of those interested from the time the Turks appointed Sir W. Wilcocks and seriously started to carry out his schemes.

The Turks were in a position to find the capital required, and concessions would easily have been made acceptable to the financial houses of Germany and Great Britain who were at the time, i.e., before the War, in very keen competition respectively to secure or maintain their important interests in this country. The former having secured the concession of building the Baghdad Railway from Constantinople to Busreh with a kilometric guarantee made it all the more important to the Turkish Government to re-establish the resources of Mesopotamia. The War intervened, and the conquest of Mesopotamia by the British still strengthened the hopes that the British Government would continue these irrigation schemes, but at the time it was never expected that after the conquest of the country the new system of Mandatory Power would be established.

Mandatory System Unsatisfactory.

This Mandatory system is not conducive to the progress of the country as its period of control is so indefinite. Mesopotamia, which is now known as Iraq, has its own Government, and the British Government under this benevolent system of mandates has pledged itself to help and protect the country for only a short period of years until August 1928, with a probability of renewal for a further restricted period. The Iraq Government is unable to-day to balance its budget after paying its share of the Ottoman Debt, and there is no hope that it will be able to do so for some time to come. When the British Government withdraws, the expenditure of the Iraq Government will be increased as the Army which the Iraq Government at present employs is only 7,000 men and would have to be considerably augmented to replace the British Air Force and troops which now cost Britain £4,000,000 a year, which is incidentally approximately the figure of the country's present total revenue. I also doubt if the Iraq Government could possibly raise the necessary troops for its own protection as the Arabs look down on a military career. It is also asking too much to expect the Arab to govern and control the finances of their country without some experience. They are a proud and intelligent race, but have been subject to centuries of oppression and misgovernment by a power whose policy was based on extortion, bribery and corruption and the education of its people has been neglected.

With the Iraq Government in this unsatisfactory and unstable condition no financial houses are likely to sink capital in the country for irrigation and agricultural works which the Iraq Government could not protect if the British withdrew. Had the British Government after its conquest of Mesopotamia been in the same position as it was in Egypt, there is no doubt that continual development would have taken place and the country would be gradually restored to its ancient prosperity. A further point is that in all probability the British Government would have been able to recover ultimately a very material portion of their heavy post-War expenditure that they have incurred and are still incurring there.

The policy of the Iraq Government according to an official report is that "Indian labour will not be admitted to the country on any account, at any rate for agricultural purposes. This alone will result, owing to the small population, in the prevention of any speedy development.

The question of Mosul being retained by Iraq is also vital to its interests, as without it not only would its expenditure increase owing to the necessity of larger forces to protect an unnatural and open frontier on the north.

At the time of the signing of the Anglo-Iraq Agreement, it was, of course, well known to both parties that the country would not be able to carry on by itself in 1928 and, therefore, that a renewal of this agreement would be necessary. The policy advocated by some parties that the British should clear out from Mesopotamia "bag and baggage," would result in chaos, and the alternative proposal that the Turks should return, though most undesirable, would then in the natural course of events take place.

The people of Busreh were not in favour of the country receiving self-government and the notables of Busreh, when the decision was arrived at to form the present Government, petitioned the British authorities to annex the vilayet of Busreh and to leave Baghdad vilayet to form their own Government, which they were so keen on doing.

The Iraq Government have in land and water valuable assets which are worthless to-day, but only want capital labour and security to make once more a "land flowing with milk and honey," to use a Biblical expression.

Without support the Iraq Government would be in a parlous state, and the only solution to the extraordinary deadlock which prevents Mesopotamia's valuable resources being developed is for the British and Iraq Governments to come to some permanent understanding.

ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, October 26.

International Congress of Oil Engineers.

The meetings of this congress have been taking place for some time, and the foreign delegates have been conducted over the Roumanian oilfields. The congress has been organised under the chairmanship of Engineer T. Metzianu, formerly technical manager of the Steaua Romana Company, and several of the large oil companies have placed important sums at his disposal for this purpose. In connection with the congress an exhibition of oil well machinery and appliances has been opened in the Parc Carol since September 27 and will last till October 31. The exhibitors include French, English, German, Austrian, and Swiss firms beside all the important Roumanian manufacturers of oil well appurtenances.

Roumanian Trade Balance.

The trade balance for the first six months of this year shows a considerable excess of imports over exports. The Government Press, however, is still hopeful that the deficit may be made up by the end of the year, in spite of the falling off in grain exports during the usually busy autumn season.

Miscellaneous.

Owing to the loss of several registered letters from abroad a special office has been opened at Timisoara to deal with all registered mails coming in over that frontier station.

The export of salt has just been made free from restriction as to quantity, etc. The selling price at the salt mines, free of export tax, is from £9 to £13 3s., according to quality.

The Egyptian Ministry of Communications has decided to enlarge the Kafr Sakr railway station at a cost of about £E6,000.

For the first six month of the current year Roumania's oil production amounted to 1,602,051 tons, compared with 857,535 tons in the same period last year. The pre-War output was passed last year, with 14,300,000 barrels, of which the State concerns accounted for 33 per cent., and those in private hands for 67 per cent.

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Shipping Intelligence.

LIGHTING AND BUOYAGE IN PERSIAN GULF.

H.M. Government has decided, in consultation with the Government of India, that the cost of the service of lights and buoys in the Persian Gulf shall in future be defrayed from light dues to be collected at Basrah. The dues will be levied, with certain exceptions, on vessels which will derive benefit from the service, and will for the present be at the rate of 3 annas a ton, both on entry and departure. The shipping interests concerned have been consulted, and have agreed to constitute an advisory committee for the purpose of advising the Government of India, who will manage the service, on certain questions connected with it. The date from which the dues will be levied has been provisionally fixed as November 1, 1925.

CONGESTION AT BOURGAS.

The necessity for undertaking at once the development of the port of Bourgas is emphasised by M. G. Kanazirsky in a recent article in the *Slovo*. He points out that the port is no longer equal to dealing with the available trade. The port was constructed in 1903 to deal with a quarter of a million tons of merchandise annually, but since 1909 the traffic has outstripped the available facilities. Thus in 1911 the total volume of goods that passed through the port amounted to 385,000 tons. When the port was first built the average length of the vessels calling there ranged from 70 to 80 metres, and as the quay is 597 metres in length only 7 or 8 ships could be loaded or unloaded simultaneously. During and since the War, however, the average length of the vessels has increased to 105 to 110 metres, so that now only 5 ships can be dealt with at one time. The introduction of the eight-hour day has further aggravated the congestion which is a periodical occurrence. Three times during the present year there has been delay. For instance, in May five ships had to wait five or six days outside the docks before accommodation could be provided for them. The development of the railway service has now gone ahead of the port facilities, and only too frequently truck loads of grain are held up. As regards imports, Bourgas is now becoming more important than Varna. In 1924 104,787 tons of goods were imported through the former port as against only 51,535 tons through the latter. Owing to a series of poor harvests, however, the volume of exports through Bourgas has been inferior to that through Varna, but as Bourgas is the natural outlet for the south of Bulgaria the congestion is bound to become much more pronounced after a good harvest. The writer urges that the work of extension should be undertaken at once, and states that quays of a total length of 300 metres are required.

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NEW B.I. STEAMER.

The steamer Quiloa, which has been built by Messrs. William Gray and Co., Ltd., West Hartlepool, for the British India Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., ran her official trials successfully last month. The vessel's dimensions are as follows:—Length over all, 502 ft.; breadth, 60 ft. 9 in.; depth moulded, 32 ft. 8 in. The vessel is provided with accommodation for a few passengers, and has 18 derricks fitted on masts and derrick uprights, one 25-ton derrick, and 19 steam winches exhausting into a winch condenser. The propelling machinery, which has been supplied by the Central Marine Engine Works of the builders, consists of balanced quadruple engines having four cylinders, 28½ in., 41 in., 58½ in., and 85 in. diameter by 54 in. stroke, with five large multi-tubular boilers working at 225 lb. pressure.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses :—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Scindia for Bombay (Liverpool, November 23). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Matheran for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, November 14).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Lancashire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, November 18).

British India Line.—S.s. Shirala for Bombay and Karachi (London, November 6); s.s. Morvada for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 7).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Cypria for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, November 14).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Manchester for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 14).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Aviemore for. Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, November 6). (The last steamer of the season for Sulina, Galatz, and Braila); m.v. Sycamore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, November 21); s.s. Kenmore, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 5).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. China for Bombay (London, November 13); s.s. Nellore for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 14).

Prince Line.—S.s. Sailor Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Famagusta, Jaffa, Haifa, and Beyrout (London, November 13).

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

EGYPT.

Miscellaneous Stores.—The Prisons Department, Ministry of Interior, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of miscellaneous stores including white cotton yarn, khaki serge and drill cloth, tailors' marking chalk, harness backs, fire hose, packing and belting, helical pulley blocks, leg vices, twist drills, chuck plates for drilling machines and lathes, beading or swaging machine, injectors for boilers, etc. November 23. (D.O.T.)

INDIA.

Sub-station Equipment for Jaipur.—The Indian Stores Department invites tenders for the supply of miscellaneous sub-station equipment for Jaipur, comprising steel poles, pole brackets, shackle and pin type insulators, bare copper wire, trifurcating boxes, distribution pillars anchor rods, underground low tension cable, cable boxes, leading-in tubes, house service watthour A.C. meters, current limiters, one 30 K.W. transformer, extra high tension feeder panel, medium tension A.C. switchgear, galvanised iron wire and pole clips. November 30, but tenders for steel poles must be received by November 9. (D.O.T.)

Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons have received information from Alexandria that, owing to the illness of Judge Vaux, the President of the Mixed Court of Appeal, and to the crowded state of the list, the hearing of the appeal in the Egyptian Tribute Loans case has been adjourned to December 31 next.

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Motors and Motoring.

By G. B. B.

The chief topic of conversation just now in the motor world is the outstanding success of the Commercial Motor Show at Olympia. Special efforts have been made by manufacturers to cater for every industrial need from the heavy steam wagon to the light delivery van; from the passenger-carrying omnibus to the refuse-collecting tipping wagon used by municipal authorities. At the inaugural luncheon, Lt.-Col. the Right Hon. Wilfrid Ashley, Minister of Transport, told us that in the exhibition were 62 British and foreign commercial vehicle exhibitors, 124 accessory concerns, 27 exhibits by body builders, and 40 exhibitors who were classed as inventors. Of all these the great majority were British. To show the importance of the British commercial motor industry, Col Ashley pointed out that on the first of September last, England had on her roads about 325,000 commercial vehicles, of which about one-third were passenger-carrying omnibuses, taxi-cabs and hackney vehicles plying for hire. To my mind, considering the size of our towns and cities, and the number of active commercial and industrial enterprices which we possess the number seems ridiculously small, and there should be no difficulty in doubling or trebling it in a comparatively short time. It may be admitted and this total shows how active our manufacturers have been, but to my mind it shows far more than that: it shows the immense field before our industry and indicates how great the strides necessary in development and production are before we begin to dream of "flooding" the home market.

The Trade Abroad.

The one thing which will embarrass our somewhat complacent commercial motor manufacturers will be that if they continue to neglect, as they do at present and that so grossly, our overseas markets, they will never be able to get their production costs sufficiently low to compete, on a price basis, here at home with American and Continental makers. The production costs of every vehicle made in this country are swollen by a too high percentage of overhead charges. Overhead charges are practically constant no matter whether few or many vehicles are made. Obviously if our production is limited the proportion of overhead per car is high and the total cost such that we cannot compete, on a fair and square selling price basis with foreign markers.

A recognition of this fact is probably the reason why there was so much hinting about Protection at the luncheon and why Protection has become one of the chief —if not the chief—topics of conversation among people in the trade during the past few days. Col. Ashley, at the luncheon said that although he was optimistic regarding the future, it may be said that conditions to-day are not as they should be, and that he for one, would be glad to see the protection tariff already in force in connexion with private motors, extended to commercial vehicles. This remark, of course met with the cordial approval of most though not all of his hearers.

A Simpler Remedy.

The cases, I venture to say, are not on all fours. The McKenna duties stopped a flood of foreign imports which would otherwise have swamped our infant light car industry. Under the McKenna duties a fine virile industry has been built up which is catering splendidly for the home market. At one time it will be remembered, unintelligent legislation caused the McKenna duties to be taken off and the British light car industry had literally to fight for its life. The duties were re-imposed and all is well again. The industry is alive in every sense of the word and is one of which this country may justly be proud.

But had there been any other way of saving the light car industry probably it would have been adopted, but there was no other way.

With commercial vehicles the case is entirely different. It is true makers are exposed to foreign competition, but not to anything like the extent to which the light car industry was exposed. Our country is not being flooded by cheap American built char-a-bancs or omnibuses. There are no foreign makers of steam driven commercial vehicles to compete with us, and the import of cheap, Continental or American built road rollers or traction engines is practically nil. The truth of the matter is that the British commercial vehicle industry is not flourishing as it should because it has had several very lean years during which the Slough vehicles, scattered broadcast after the War, have been in use. Now these Disposal Board lorries are worn out and scrapped, and there is a fair market for new stuff. Our commercial motor firms are seeking to fill that demand in a manner that reminds one of a well-intentioned gentleman turning the other cheek to the bellicose footpad. They are trying with one market and that a comparatively small home market, to compete with firms who have two markets, their own and ours, in which to sell goods. The American can keep his own market against all comers for many reasons: he can make in his factories any number of vehicles for that market, confident that he will be able to sell them, and to keep his factories working at high pressure he turns out "over makes" of everything and assembles them into vehicles for the British market. The American may, and often does, sell his motor lorries or whatever it may be more cheaply here than he does at home, but even so he makes a bigger profit on it. His overhead expenses are spread over a stupendous production; our overheads have to be borne entirely by a few hundred vehicles a year. This is where the trouble lies. That is the burden that is pressing ominously on the shoulders of our manufacturers.

The Remedy.

I am not regarding this from a political point of view at all. I hold no brief for Protection; I do not propose even to begin to consider the relative merits of Protection or Free Trade, nor am I going to say whether I do or do not regard them both as moth-eaten palliatives. But I say this; that for the present position in the commercial motor trade, Protection would not be, could not be, a remedy. Nor can any far-seeing man do other than admit the fact. The solution of the problem, the way out of the difficulty, the path of salvation for our British commercial motor industry is to cater for and supply the immense

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and ever-growing demand for commercial motors in India and Australia, the Near East, and New Zealand, in South Africa, and in the great neutral markets of Turkey, Bulgaria, Greece and China. I say advisedly, and with more than ordinary knowledge of the subject, that as a class our big motor firms are not seeking to make their goods known abroad in a through and scientific manner. The American, on the other hand, is as keen as can be on getting into these markets. The British Dominions and the great neutral markets I have mentioned, do not care unduly for American products; they would prefer in most cases, and in other cases have a favourable leaning towards, our British cars. They would buy them if they could. But how can they buy them if they are told nothing about them? How can they buy British products if our British makers do not let them know what there is to buy?

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL.

The report of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company for the year ended March 31 last shows that the trading profit amounted to £4,599,676, the total revenue being £4,609,357. After allowing for depreciation, debenture interest, home charges, and royalty, the profit amounted to £3,571,967, and a net amount of £1,687,582 was brought forward, making £5,259,549. The following appropriations have been made: Extra depreciation, £393,000; debenture stock redemption reserve, £200,000; preference share reserve, £500,000; and amortisation reserve, £100,000, leaving £4,066,459, and after providing for the preference dividends and the proposed dividend of 12½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, there remains £2,072,799 to be carried forward, subject to corporation profits tax and excess profits duty, if any.

The report states that the results of the principal producing company, the First Exploitation Co., Ltd. (in which the Bakhtiari Oil Co., Ltd., is now incorporated), show a continued improvement both in production and profits, the output being over half a million tons in excess of the preceding year. The area of oil-bearing territory on the Persian main fields has again been greatly extended by the bringing in of a number of new wells in various directions. These wells all give the same high rates of yield as those from which the present production is being drawn. Drilling operations in other parts of the concession have been actively continued and a large additional area of productive territory has been proved. Further investigations at Kishm have led to the conclusion that the volume of oil obtainable in this field is not sufficient to justify commercial exploitation, and consequently operations there have been suspended.

Productions at the field in the Argentine continues to increase, and several new wells have been brought in during the year. This field is now being worked at a profit. Since the end of the year a concession has been acquired over certain areas in Albania. These areas have been carefully examined by the company's geologists, on whose recommendations test drilling has now been started.

The throughputs of the refineries at Abadan and at Llandarcy show a large increase over the previous year, and work has been conducted satisfactorily without interruption. The capacity of the plant at each refinery provides a satisfactory margin to meet any increase in trade in the near future. The refineries operated by the associated companies have also worked satisfactorily and dealt with larger throughputs. Continuous employment in carrying the company's crude oil and products has been found for the fleet of tank steamers operated by the subsidiary, the British Tanker Co., Ltd., and there have been no serious accidents. The marketing of the company's products through the various distributing organisations has been successfully conducted during the year, and sales of all qualities show a satisfactory increase.

ASSAM RAILWAYS AND TRADING.

The report for the year end March 31, 1925, states that the gross earnings show an increase of Rs.4,11,093 compared with 1923-24, and the expenditure an increase of Rs.59,851. The general revenue account shows a profit of £146,070, and after payment of debenture interest, and allowing for preference dividends, there remains a balance of £90,604. Out of this the directors have provided £50,400 for the service of the "A" stock, and they recommend a final dividend of 6 per cent. on the "B" stock, making 9 per cent. for the year, and that £10,000 be written off the discount on debentures, leaving £3,204 to be carried forward.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

A communication from the Egyptian Government has reached the Board of the Egyptian Markets, in effect authorising the continuance of the present cattle market tariffs until December 31, 1927. The continuance of these tariffs is subject to the Government's participation in the company's receipts, for the corresponding period, being increased by 10 per cent., viz., from 40 per cent. to 50 per cent. over the £44,000 allowed for expenses, with effect from January 1, 1925, with a reduction of the Government's participation by 10 per cent. in the event of receipts falling to such a figure that the company is unable to pay 5 per cent. to the shareholders. The directors have been reluctantly compelled to accept, under protest, the decision of the Egyptian Government. On the basis of the returns for 1924 the additional sum to be paid to the Egyptian Government would be approximately £6,500 a year.

Mr. Lewis Huth Walters has joined the board of the Indemnity Mutual Marine Assurance Company. Mr. Walters, who is associated with Fredk. Huth and Co., merchants and bankers, 12, Tokenhouse Yard, E.C., is a director of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, the Midland Bank and the London City and Midland Executor and Trustee Company.

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Company Meeting.

SUDAN PLANTATIONS SYNDICATE.

Large Increase in Cotton Area.

Mr. Eckstein's Speech.

The eighteenth ordinary general meeting of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, Limited, was held on October 28 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C. Mr. F. Eckstein (the chairman of the company) presided.

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, who was received with cheers, said:—Ladies and gentlemen,—Before proceeding with the business of our meeting, I feel I must refer in a sentence of two to the loss the British Empire, and the Sudan particularly, has sustained in the death of Sir Lee Stack, Governor-General of the Sudan and Sirdar of the Egyptian Army.

Both the British Government and the Press generally paid unstinted and well-earned praise to the unselfish character and to the outstanding qualities of this distinguished administrator and gallant soldier. (Hear, hear.)

As chairman of our syndicate I had yearly opportunities of meeting Sir Lee in Khartoum, and of discussing with him the problems facing us.

On every occasion he showed intense interest in our work and progress and never forgot to impress on me the paramount necessity of fair and straight dealing with the native, whose welfare he had so much at heart.

It always has been and always will be our aim to carry out this part of his policy and so honour the memory of the man who devoted his best years and gave his life to the service of the Sudan. (Hear, hear.)

The commotion and rumours following upon the murder of Sir Lee Stack might have had more serious results in the Sudan but for the firm action initiated by Lord Allenby in Cairo, ably seconded in Khartoum by Sir Wasey Sterry, the acting Governor-General, and his council.

I take this opportunity of recording our syndicate's high appreciation of the courage, patience, and firmness displayed by all Government officials and officers in those difficult times now happily over. (Cheers.)

We extend a hearty welcome to the new High Commissioner for Egypt and Sudan and the Governor-General of the Sudan.

Sir George Lloyd's connexion with the Sukkor Barrage and Sir Geoffrey Archer's association with cotton development in Uganda, give promise of an energetic policy for the development of the Sudan's natural resources.

Twenty-one Years' Development.

As the director's report and the accounts have been in your hands for nearly a month, I presume you will take them as read. (Agreed.)

Our syndicate was originally formed in 1904 as a private concern, with a capital of £80,000. We have consequently reached our majority, which coincides happily with the completion of that great engineering work, the Makwar Dam.

The syndicate has at this moment an issued capital of £600,000, valued by the Stock Exchange at roughly £5,000,000. It has paid about 250 per cent. in dividends, which I admit at once is nothing to boast about, considering that we have been at work for 21 years, and have raised all our working capital at a considerable premium.

Our shareholders now number something like 2,500.

In 1904, we started at Zeidab cultivating a few hundred acres of cotton. To-day, including the Kassala Cotton Company, in which you are largely interested, we have nearly 100,000 acres under cotton.

This is not our limit, as we hope to add next year a further 20,000 acres in the Gezira alone.

In all we have to-day about 10,000 tenants, and if you take each tenant with a family say averaging five heads, we have working as our partners 50,000 people earning a very substantial livelihood. (Cheers.)

Past Season's Operations.

Turning now to the 1924-25 season, my comments must be almost exactly the same as those which I made last year. Zeidab again produced a good paying crop of American cotton, whilst the Gezira crop was unsatisfactory. Notwithstanding all precautions and special seed treatment, the cotton plants were again attacked by blackarm and thrips. Good luck, however, favoured us, as high cotton prices more than made up for low yields. In consequence of this unfortunate experience our managing director decided to take drastic measures, and ordered the whole new area to be planted with entirely new seed which we bought elsewhere.

An interesting example of the influence of local conditions on disease is furnished by the Kassala Cotton Company, which bought Sakellaridis seed from us which we knew to be infected with blackarm. Notwithstanding this fact, the seed proved to be entirely satisfactory and eminently suitable for the climate and soil conditions of Kassala. The young cotton plants, it is true, developed blackarm in the early stages, but soon outgrew this disease and eventually produced strong and healthy cotton.

I paid a visit to Kassala in January last and saw with my own eyes the best and strongest cotton I could wish for.

Whilst dealing with this important question of pests, I would mention that following on the report of Sir John Russell and Dr. Martin Leake, to which I referred last year, there has been a reorganisation of agricultural research work in the Sudan.

The Sudan Government, the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation, and our syndicate all contribute to this work and are all represented on the small supervisory committee which has been established in London to deal with the subject. It is to be hoped that the work undertaken in this all-important field may in time result in great practical benefit to all concerned.

Before passing from the subject, I must refer to the indebtedness of our company to Major Archibald, of the Welcome Research Laboratories, in Khartoum, for the progress which he has made in the scientific study of blackarm, and to the continued efforts of the Government entomologist staff in the study of the insect pests in the Gezira. We have acquired the services of Mr. Jefferys, whose success whilst under the State domains in maintaining the supply of pure Sakellaridis cotton seed in Egypt is well known. Mr. Jefferys has joined us for a time, and after rendering valuable services in procuring fresh selected seed for our present crop, is now helping us to establish in the Gezira a seed farm from which we hope to draw in future supplies of selected seed of best strain for sowing throughout our irrigated area.

New Issue of Capital.

Before analysing our balance-sheet, I venture to plunge at once into a subject which I know you are all anxious to hear about, viz., our capital account and its proposed increase. (Hear, hear.)

From the notice convening this meeting you have seen already that your board recommends an increase of capital from £750,000—our present nominal capital—to £2,500,000. From the circular sent to you you have also seen that we are to issue at once the remaining 150,000 shares of our old capital at £3, viz., £2 premium, payable in three instalments. At current quotations this issue involves a modest bonus to shareholders which I hope they may find satisfactory. (Cheers.)

When these shares are all taken up and fully paid up we shall close our books for a short time. Then we shall capitalise £750,000 of the share premium account and issue to every shareholder then on the register one new fully-paid share—I prefer not to call this a bonus share as it is created out of moneys subscribed by the shareholders—in respect of every old share which he holds. When this is done we shall have a paid-up capital of £1,500,000.

As, however, we are extending our operations, it appears advisable to be prepared for contingencies, and we have therefore decided to ask for authority to issue, as and when occasion arises, a further 750,000 shares, viz., one new share for every two old shares.

This would give us ample working capital and at the same time put us into a position to undertake any new great business that is offered to us.

I can assure you that the greatest possible care will be taken in its selection.

You would be surprised to hear how our experience in cotton-growing, capital, and staff are sought after and how many really good offers are made to us to acquire interests in other countries.

The Sudan, however, still ranks first in our affections, and, for the present at any rate—so long as there are opportunities there on satisfactory terms—we prefer to save our main efforts for the development of that country. (Cheers.)

To be quite frank, I think I must tell you that during the present month negotiations have begun having for their object a considerable further extension of our operations in the Sudan. These negotiations are bounds to be protracted for reasons which I need not go into at this moment. They may lead to nothing, they may come to a satisfactory conclusion. Should the latter be the case it would probably end in my proposing to you and recommending to you a further increase of our capital.

Let me say at once that I hope it would be the last time I should have to come to you for money. You, Ladies and Gentlemen, have been so extraordinarily good and loyal to us in accepting without a murmur every increase of capital we have had to come to you for, and for our part we have the satisfaction of knowing that we have not misled you, and that all the money you have been good enough to subscribe has been wisely spent and has proved a profitable investment to you. (Cheers.)

If we have to approach you again we want you to feel that we do so with a clear conscience and that we have been as careful in our estimates and calculations as in the past.

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The Balance-sheet.

Now let us run through the balance-sheet. Share capital I have dealt with.

Share premium account will be increased by the premiums on the present issue of 150,000 shares to £1,313,223, and will be reduced subsequently by the issue of the 750,000 new shares to £563,223.

Hosh pumping station has been completely amortised, while the reserve for the Wad Nau pumping station has been increased by £70,000 to £140,000.

Staff Provident Fund.—The £22,500 standing to the credit of this fund will disappear from our next balance-sheet.

This fund has now been put on a proper basis and is in operation since July 1 last, and I am glad to say that practically the whole of our Sudan staff has joined and the Syndicate is contributing on £ for £ principle.

Creditors amount to £247,000, against £207,000 last year; most of this has been liquidated since the close of our books.

On the credit side you will find Zeidab station about the same as last year, and the same remark applies to the Gezira pumping stations.

General Development is increased by	£60,000
Canalisation	£66,000
Buildings and Furniture	£100,000

In connexion with the last item you will be glad to hear that our building programme for the 300,000 acres area is practically finished and our staff properly housed. (Hear, hear.)

It may be of some interest to you to learn that in completing these houses we have used over:—

13½ million bricks,
33,000 tons of sand,
13,000 ,, ,, broken stone,
2,600 ,, ,, cement,

beside large quantities of lime, homra, etc.

For the pumping stations of Hag Abdulla and Wad el Nau and the four new ginneries, including workmen's quarters, we used:—

9½ million bricks,
9,000 tons of cement,
35,000 ,, ,, broken stone,
30,000 ,, ,, sand, etc.

This will give you some idea of the work we have been doing and perhaps even more so when I tell you we made and burned these 23,000,000 bricks ourselves, and that the stone had to be brought up the Blue Nile by sailing boats to Wad Medani, and that all the other building material, such as woodwork, tiles, windows, doors, etc., had to be transported to sites scattered throughout our wide area, comprising about 500 square miles.

Agricultural implements and machinery figure at £103,000, against £66,000 last year. It may also interest you to learn that we are now in a position to plough something like 1,000 acres per day.

Our four new ginning factories were not quite completed when we closed our books and you will find next year an addition to the £222,000.

We have added to our report a few pictures of three of these new factories, and I believe I am right in saying that these installations are the largest and as well equipped as any in the world. I saw the No. 1 factory in full running order last season.

Light railways account is about the same as last year, but heavy additions will have to be made this year.

Stock of Cotton.—Most of our crop had been sold at the end of our financial year, but not paid for. As usual, we valued the cotton in hand, and I am happy to say that it has since been disposed of at prices in excess of the valuation.

In connexion with this, I would like to put on record the great indebtedness we owe to Mr. W. H. Himbury, the general manager of the British Cotton Growing Association, for the assistance he gave us in selling our cotton. (Hear, hear.)

Stores and building materials are £56,000 more than last year. The more extended our operations are becoming, the greater is the necessity for keeping large amounts of stores and spares of all kinds in the Sudan.

Debtors are £121,000—all good.

Kassala Cotton Company.

Now I come to our holdings in other companies. First and most important is our holding in the Kassala Cotton Company. You will notice that we have the same number of shares as last year, but to provide this company with further working capital we paid up 4s. on the preference shares, making them 5s. paid up.

At the annual meeting held in June, the chairman gave full information about the first year's work done by that company. At that time the crop had not been entirely picked, so I can somewhat supplement the information then given by telling you that the crop yielded in all 27,250 kantars. The gross proceeds, out of which the tenants and the Sudan Government will have to receive their shares will amount to roughly £300,000. To-day the entire crop has been disposed of.

During my visit to Kassala I was struck by the amount of work done by our very competent staff under at times most difficult circumstances, and it is with the utmost regret that I have to inform you of the great loss the Kassala Cotton Company sustained about two months ago by the death of their manager, Mr. Gray. Mr. Gray was a man of great ability, who never spared himself to make his company a real success.

As already mentioned, I was more than pleased with the healthy appearance of the cotton plants, and I am more than ever convinced of the suitability of the Province of Kassala for growing the best kind of Sakellaridis cotton.

Last year we had about 15,000 acres under cotton, and for this season we had prepared an area of 30,000 acres, but, alas, the Gash has left us in the lurch by an unusually poor flood.

In the past, from such records as are available, it appears that a bad flood of this sort has occurred about once in every five years. Anyhow, I do not expect to have more than 10,000 acres under cotton, which is less than last year.

Brazilian Interests.

Turning now to Brazil, I told you last year that I felt convinced that this enormous country would in time become one of the big cotton-growing centres of the world. I based this statement on what I had read in text-books dealing with that subject, and also on information I gathered from men who knew the country and knew what they were talking about. I had the privilege of accompanying my colleague, Lord Lovat, on a visit to that country this year, and from what we saw and from what we learned on that trip, I can truly say that the statement I made to you last year is correct in every way.

I feel sure from personal observation that Brazil possesses more wonderful natural conditions for cotton-growing than any other country I know. What is wanted in Brazil is a good, strong, stable Government, a sound financial policy, and a systematic and continued influx of immigrants. If I may venture to give an opinion, it is that Brazil offers to educated young men great chances, provided they are willing to work hard, learn the language, and accommodate themselves to the customs and manners prevailing in that rich and great country.

Our holding in the Brazil Plantations Syndicate is now fully paid up, and we have acquired a further 10,000 shares at par, likewise fully paid up.

This syndicate possesses three seed farms, two ginneries, and about 77,000 acres of first-rate land. I was much impressed by the cotton grown on these three stations, and the syndicate is to be congratulated on having a good and competent staff there. I am not exaggerating when I say that the cotton grown by the Brazil Plantations Syndicate looked better than any other I had seen in Brazil.

During the last few days we have decided to take a considerable interest in a new Brazilian undertaking to be formed and to be called the Parana Plantations, Limited.

The company has a capital of £750,000, of which £700,000 has been subscribed and £50,000 is held in reserve. It is essentially a land company which owns something like 3,000,000 acres of first-class land and has an option on a further 1,000,000 acres at a low figure. Both Lord Lovat and I visited these areas and we were struck with their potential value. It is more than likely that it will take some time to develop these areas, and before we attempt to effect sales to any extent.

We have also taken a small interest in the Cambuhy Coffee and Cotton Company. It is essentially a coffee proposition, and as such does not interest us, but it has also great possibilities for cotton growing which interest us greatly.

This is not the place nor the time to discuss in detail the prospects of this company, but having spent two days on the property and having had the advantage of being shown over it by their managing director, Mr. Davy, I would just like to say that this concern, with its 140,000 acres and 3,000,000 coffee trees, has impressed me much, and the more so as they also had some 2,500 acres under cotton which looked quite good.

Much more in this respect can be done, and we should not be averse to take a hand in this should the board of the Cambuhy Coffee and Cotton Company desire us to do so.

The Year's Profit.

To return to the balance-sheet, our financial position continues to be good, as the figures before you show.

Now please turn to the profit and loss account, from which you will see that our total gross profits amount to £304,000, against £250,000 last year, while our expenses are about the same.

As usual, we have again provided for a bonus to our very numerous staff, which I know you will approve of.

The net profit, therefore, for the year, after the customary writing off, is £163,000, against £113,000 last year.

Against this we paid you in June an interim dividend of £60,000, and now propose to pay you a final dividend of £90,000—in all, £150,000.

The amount carried forward is £189,450, representing a very considerable and useful reserve.

Current Season's Prospects.

Having dealt with the financial side of our syndicate, you will wish to hear something of the work done in the past year and of our prospects in the future.

As already said, our Zeidab Station has done well. We shipped in all from there 2,814 bales, which were sold at satisfactory prices.

For the coming year we have practically the same area under cotton—viz., 5,000 feddans—and the prospects are about the same as last year. We have already picked about 8,500 kantars of the new crop and shipped 500 bales.

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"BALKAN FIRE AND MARINE"
(ESTABLISHED IN 1895)
"BALKAN LIFE AND ACCIDENT" and
General Re-Insurance Company, "BALKAN."
Capital - Leva 5,000,000 each.
Total Guarantee: Leva 100,045,000.
HEAD OFFICE:—SOFIA, BULGARIA

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In the Gezira the crop, as already mentioned, was the poorest we have ever had, but luckily compensated by high cotton prices. We had about 20,000 feddans under cotton and shipped 10,870 bales, against 14,591 bales the previous year.

In July the Makwar Dam was completed and began to furnish us with gravitation water.

As in every big undertaking, little mishaps occurred, and canals had to be repaired, etc., but as far as I can see we have accomplished what we set out to do, viz., to increase our cotton area this season from 20,000 feddans to 80,000 feddans, which will be further increased in the 1926-27 season.

I think you will agree that this large step forward from 20,000 to 80,000 acres in a single season is no small achievement and one of which we may be proud. (Cheers.)

We had no difficulty in finding tenants for this area, which is a healthy sign. There was one thing which struck me much during my last visit to the Gezira, and that was that I found the native population taking a keener and, if I may say so, a more intelligent interest in the cultivation of cotton and all the work connected with it.

All this augurs well and our prospects for a prosperous future look bright. (Cheers.)

Our reports concerning the present growing crop are so far quite satisfactory, the young cotton plants looking well, but it is too early to form a definite opinion as to yield, etc. In addition to the cotton we have also planted 33,900 acres of Dhura and 8,690 acres of Lubia, which crops we hand over entirely to our tenants.

Tribute to Staff.

Before concluding my remarks I wish to express the board's, and I feel sure also your, high appreciation of the wonderful work done during the past year by our staff, both in the Sudan and at home. (Hear, hear.)

I feel it to be my duty to mention specially the eminent services rendered by our managing director, Mr. Alexander MacIntyre, our manager, Mr. H. Poyntz-Wright, and our senior inspector, Mr. W. P. Archdale. (Cheers.) But for their devoted, loyal, and efficient labours and also the exceptional zeal and energy shown by practically every individual working under them, the great progress we have made during the past year could not have been realised, neither would I have been able to put before you such a satisfactory statement as it has been my privilege to do to-day. (Cheers.)

This finishes my review of the past year and I will now move:—

"That the report of the directors and statement of accounts to June 30, 1925, now laid before the meeting, be and that the same hereby are received and adopted."

I will ask Lord Lovat to second the motion.

Lord Lovat revisited at the beginning of the year all the fields of our operations in the Sudan, and I am sure you will be glad to hear from him the impressions he has gained of our work and the opinion he has formed of our future prospects. (Cheers.)

Lord Lovat's Speech.

Lord Lovat, K.T.—Gentlemen, in rising to second this motion I should like just to remind you for a moment that you are not only owners of a great agricultural enterprise, but you are also associated with probably one of the greatest Colonial development schemes going on at the present time. (Hear, hear.) This is not only a scheme, or series of schemes, which will be materially advantageous to Great Britain and the cotton industry, but one also which is adding very largely to the welfare of the natives in the areas with which it deals. It is quite unnecessary to develop the point of the importance of increased cotton cultivation inside the Empire, and also outside it, by British enterprise; but I would like to say just a word or two on the subject of the advantages which are accruing to the natives themselves through this development in the Sudan. Your Chairman has told you that we have 10,000 tenants and some 50,000 individuals who are directly partners with us in this concern. If you include all the transport men and the traders and those engaged in ancillary enterprises which come into connexion with it, I am quite sure I shall be safe in saying that some 100,000 natives, including children, share in the advantages derived from this great enterprise. (Cheers.) When I visited Wad Medani—which is the centre of our operations—for the first time, it was just at the end of the Mahdi Campaign, and there were still armed bands of natives through that country. Wad Medani itself was a wretched little village, in which the people lived in fear of their lives, raided by the Mahdi on the one hand and, just down the country by the Blue Nile, by the Abyssinians on the other. Upon this wonderful three-million-acre plain only barely enough grain was scratched up to supply food for the natives, and there was nothing else.

Magnitude of the Enterprise.

To-day this plain, to the extent of 300,000 acres, is already canalised and ready for cultivation, and we are growing, as the Chairman has told you, 80,000 acres of cotton, not to mention other crops. Only a few years ago, when this development was proceeding, we used to ride out on a camel in the morning and see the whole of our cultivation. To-day you go out in a motor-car, and it takes you the whole of the day to inspect a single one of the 20 divisions into which the area is divided. We are ploughing to-day in a single day four times as much as the big farmer in this country ploughs in the whole of the year. The ginneries, of which you have a picture in the directors' report, are situated 400 yards apart, and we hope that by February or March of this year, although they are 400 yards apart, the whole space between these ginneries will be covered with sacks of cotton which people will be busy sorting and classifying, and then carrying for ginning into the ginnery. The magnitude of this enterprise is really almost impossible to conceive unless you have actually visited it. I may say that when I was last in America I went to see a cotton farm of 15,000 acres, which I was informed was the largest enterprise of the sort under one management in that country. As the Chairman has told you, we shall very shortly be farming in the Sudan alone something like 120,000 acres of cotton, which speaks well for organisation, management, and British enterprise. (Cheers.)

Your Chairman has referred to our operations in Brazil, and I may say that the Chairman and myself have great confidence in the future of the cotton possibilities of that country. We have seen land there with cotton possibilities second, I believe, to none in the world. You can grow in that country, in those parts where we have selected land, certainly double the average crop that you can grow in North America, and at about two-thirds of the price. I do not think I can add more to show that the possibilities are very great. I trust that we shall go forward, overcoming the various obstacles which occur as we go along.

In all agricultural enterprise there are troubles arising from pests, parasites, bad seasons, absence of water, and all kinds of things; but, as you know, we have fought these now for something like 21 years, and on the whole we have been successful, and now that we have so thoroughly established ourselves in the Sudan and know so much about the various pests that we are likely to be up against, I think we can look forward with reasonable confidence to the future of this great enterprise. I have great pleasure in seconding the resolution. (Cheers.)

The Chairman, having replied to questions, the resolution was put and carried unanimously.

The Chairman next moved:—"That a final dividend of 15 per cent. (equal to 3s. per share), less income-tax, be declared for the year ended June 30, 1925, upon the issued shares of the company, payable to all shareholders registered at the close of business on October 20, 1925."

The Hon. Arthur M. Asquith, D.S.O., seconded the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

The Chairman further moved the re-election of Lieutenant-Colonel S. H. Pollen, C.M.G., as a director of the company, which was seconded by Mr. D. M. Hannay, and agreed to; and on the proposition of the Chairman, seconded by Captain Bernard Eckstein, Sir Frederic Wise, M.P., was also re-elected to the board.

The Chairman's Services.

Mr. J. A. Hutton moved the re-election of Mr. F. Eckstein as a director of the company. In doing so he remarked that when they were entertaining the Governor-General and the Director of Agriculture of the Sudan in Manchester the other day, he (the speaker) had the opportunity of saying what they thought of Mr. Eckstein in that city, and he had very great pleasure in repeating it on the present occasion. He did not think anyone in that meeting could recognise how very much they owed to him. Mr. Eckstein had given up his time ungrudgingly to the cause they all had at heart—to the welfare of the company—and he had exercised all the ability he had at his disposal for the good of the company. He would like shareholders to recognise, however, that Mr. Eckstein was doing rather more than ably conducting commercial enterprises; he was really one of the builders of the Empire. (Cheers.) He was carrying on a work which was doing an immensity of good not only for the Sudan, but also for "us poor devils up in Lancashire"—(laughter)—and if he got all his deserts there would one of these days be a statue put up in his memory in the Central Square of Manchester. (Renewed laughter and cheers.) It was quite impossible for anyone either in that meeting or in Lancashire ever to thank Mr. Eckstein sufficiently for the wonderful work he had done. (Cheers.)

Mr. Hannay seconded the motion, which was carried with acclamation.

On the proposition of Mr. H. P. Peach, seconded by Mr. G. W. Schroeder, Messrs. Cooper Brothers and Co. were reappointed auditors.

The Chairman then moved the following resolution:—"That the capital of the company be increased to £2,500,000 by the creation of 1,750,000 shares of £1 each."

Lord Lovat seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. E. Brooke Sewell proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman and his colleagues on the board for the excellent way in which they had carried out this great enterprise.

Mr. Grant Hooper seconded the proposition, and said he hoped the mover would allow him to add the shareholders' appreciation of the services of the staff. (Hear, hear.)

The vote was unanimously accorded, and, the Chairman having briefly acknowledged the compliment, the proceedings terminated.

GEORGE J. KAYAT

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

EMPIRE COTTON GROWING CORPORATION.

A meeting of the administrative council of the Corporation was held in London on October 28. In the unavoidable absence of the President, Lord Derby, the chair was taken by Mr. R. H. Jackson.

Mr. J. W. Dyson was appointed a member of council on the nomination of the Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association in place of Mr. Thornber, resigned. Mr. H. P. M. Rae, a former member of the Indian Central Cotton Committee, was co-opted a member, and it was reported that he had been appointed by the executive committee as a member of the Corporation's India sub-committee.

The Chairman reported that the Secretary of State for the Colonies had received a joint deputation from the Corporation and from the British Cotton Growing Association in July last, which had urged upon him the importance attached by both bodies to the recommendations of the East Africa Commission with regard to increased transport facilities in East Africa. He expressed the opinion that the council had every reason to be gratified at the statement which the Secretary of State for the Colonies had recently made, to the effect that the Cabinet had decided to ask Parliament to guarantee the loans of ten million pounds for transport facilities in East Africa, and at the fact that a certain percentage of that sum would be earmarked for scientific research.

The Director gave an account of the activities of the Corporation during the past three months, as summarised in the executive committee's quarterly report. Referring to the allocation of a percentage of the sum of ten million pounds to scientific research, he drew attention to the need for research, not only in relation to agriculture, but also to public health. He considered that this aspect of the matter was vital to the objects of the Corporation, and he was extremely hopeful of the possibilities that were opened up in consequence of the step that had been taken.

The report of the executive Committee was received and adopted. We give the following extracts from it:—

In the report on the organisation of agricultural research in the Sudan, by Sir John Russell and Dr. Leake, stress was laid on the importance of soil problems. The Committee are now gratified to be able to report that Sir John Russell has given permission for Dr. E. M. Crowther, a member of the Soil Physics Department at Rothamsted, to pay a visit of about five months' duration to the Sudan in order to collaborate with Dr. Joseph, the Government Soil Chemist, in the co-ordination of research work on soil problems.

Last year certain spinning tests were carried out on single bales of cotton from India, submitted by the Indian Central Cotton Committee. That committee have now expressed a desire that further and more comprehensive tests should be carried out on seven specified varieties of Indian cotton. Arrangements have accordingly been made for five bales each of the seven varieties to be tested by members of the Oldham Master Cotton Spinners' Association. The mills have agreed to undertake the tests without charge if one bale of each variety is presented to them, while the remaining four bales are purchased by them at an agreed price.

It is gratifying to report that all the holders of the Corporation's Senior studentships last year have already been appointed to suitable posts, with the exception of one man who had had an illness and has only quite recently been passed as fit for residence in the tropics. Of the men now at work, two have received appointments under the Corporation, one in Natal and the other in Southern Rhodesia. Three have received appointments in the Sudan, one as an entomologist and two as inspectors of agriculture. One has been appointed to Ceylon as an inspector of plant diseases, while two others have taken posts as agricultural officers in Sierra Leone and Nigeria respectively. Finally, an entomological student who has spent his studentship year in Nigeria has been temporarily attached as an entomologist to the Agricultural Department there until April next.

TEXTILES.

IF you wish to obtain your Textile goods from England at the lowest possible prices, communicate with K. JEBARA, 25, Princess Street, Manchester. (Established 1887).

MANCHESTER COTTON MARKET.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Ottoman Bank, for the week ended October 31, states:—

The American Agricultural Bureau sprang another surprise on the market last Monday. Its estimate of the indicated yield of the crop, based on the condition at the 17th instant, was 15,226,000 bales, an increase of nearly 500,000 on the estimate of a fortnight before and of a million and a half bales within the last six weeks. The consequence was a sharp fall in prices to the extent of about ½d. per lb. Naturally all yarn and cloth quotations given previous to that date had to be revised, and the result has been a distinct pause in operations. Nevertheless a feeling of optimism prevails. It can hardly be doubted that when prices have stabilised on the lower levels which the assurance of a big crop necessitates there should be a considerably larger sale of yarn and cloth. For the reasons given above, business has been slow. Quotations naturally display considerable irregularity. Neither in the American or Egyptian qualities can the trade be described as anything but hand to mouth.

Cloth.—There has been much activity in giving out new quotations necessitated by the lower range of values, but actual business has been disappointing. Nevertheless the demand from India for "dhooties" has persisted and it is said that there is difficulty in arranging delivery earlier than February or March. There is nothing to report with regard to China and recent disturbances in Syria have adversely affected Near Eastern inquiry. A fair business has been done for South America, but that for the Continent and Home Trade has not been so good as recently.

Raw cotton.—As already mentioned, there was a sharp fall in prices on Monday last. For the next day or two changes were of no importance, but towards the end of the week there was again a substantial fall, which, since the weather reports have not been favourable, is probably due to the heavy movement of the crop.

Although there is now the certainty of an abundance of cotton it seems to be thought in some quarters that it consists mainly of low or only average quality and that for the finer descriptions a comparatively high price will have to be paid.

In the Egyptian section there is considerable uncertainty owing to the reported intention of the Government to purchase with a view to sustaining prices. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows:—American Middling 10.35, Egyptian Fully Good Fair 22.75.

THE EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company in their report for the week ended October 22 state:—

Since our last report the futures market has been very active, and although prices have again lost ground the undertone may be characterised as having been somewhat firmer; the net changes on the week as as follows:—

Sakellaridis 0.50 dollars down for November, 1 dollar down for Jaunary, 1.20 dollars down for March; Ashmouni 0.61 dollars up for October, 0.10 dollars up for December, unchanged for February.

This week the feature has been the strength of the near months; the November premium over January has widened to 83 points and October closed at 51 points over December. The strength may be attributed to the very

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high premiums paid on the spot market for cotton round about Fully Good Fair Sakel and Ashmouni, and to the fact that the heavy decline in the premiums of the high grade cotton has made the receiving of dockets an interesting proposition. The demand from abroad, although still of moderate size for this period of the season, has been somewhat larger than last week. It has come from almost all consuming centres and has covered more or less all quantities. Nothing fresh to be reported about the projected intervention of the Government in the market. It is understood that the Ministry of Finance has decided to postpone the sale of the State Domains cotton for the time being.

The position judged on present indications may still be considered as bearish. However, should the next American Bureau report alter the present ideas of a record production, a reaction is probable. The week's receipts amount to 353,162 crs. against exports 150,341 crs.; the stock now stands at 1,476,880 crs.

Spot: A good business has been done at Minet-el-Bassal this week and sales amount to about 30,600 bales, of which we estimate 11,800 Sakel, 14,600 Uppers, 3,500 Zagora, 600 Pilion, and 100 various growths. Holders are not so ready to sell as they were last week.

Sakellaridis: A good business has been done. Good grades have been in good request and a persistent demand has sprung up for Good Fair and Fully Good Fair, which are well paid. Spot differences are without change except for Fully Good, which is a little easier.

Ashmouni and Zagora: have been in good request for all qualities. Spot differences are steady and unchanged but the higher grades are inclined to stiffen.

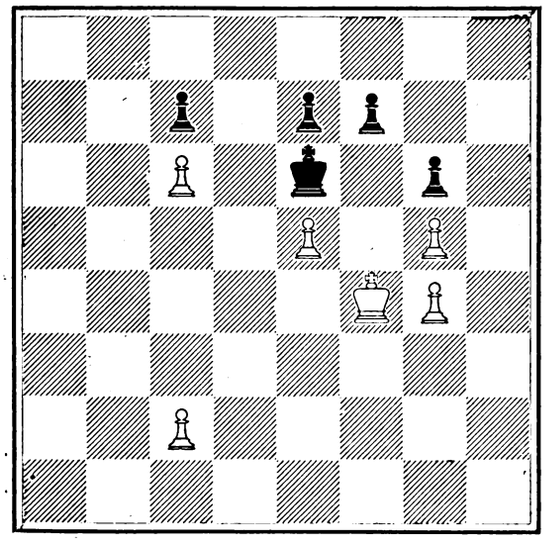
Pilion: has been in good request principally for the better grades. Spot differences are generally a little easier.

Other Varieties: White has been in very limited request, and spot differences are generally easier. Brown is neglected and quotations are easier. A few bales of a new growth called "Fouadi" have also changed hands. This variety is not sufficiently plentiful to be quoted.

Crop 1925: The weather was warm up to a day or two ago and the second picking must have benefited. The movement of the crop in the interior is not so heavy as at the corresponding time last year; as a result of the recent decline in prices farmers and merchants are not in a hurry to gin their cotton and send it down to Alexandria.

CHESS.

By "CARO-KANN."



PROBLEM No. 20

White to play and win.

Solution to Problem No. 19:—I . . . , K—B3; 2, P—B5, KxP; 3, P—Q3, P—K5; 4, P—B4, K—Kt5; 5, KxP, K—B6; 6, K—Kt5, KxP and wins.

NEAR EAST MARKETS

SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended October 17:—

Sultanas.—The arrivals since the opening of the season are estimated at 15,300 tons and the sales to date are put at 14,000 tons.

Closing prices, Smyrna, per cwt. c.i.f. London-Liverpool: Type 12, 57s.; type 13, 59s.; type 14, 62s. type 15, 65s.: type 16, 68s.; type 17, 73s.

The market is dull with a downward tendency. Prices have declined about 2s. per cwt. on balance over the week. The increased import duty into Germany which has been raised from 8 gold marks to 24 now becomes operative, and, it is estimated will interfere with the demand from that market unless Smyrna prices rise to compensate the increased cost.

Figs.—The arrivals since the opening of the season are estimated at 158,026 bags, and the sales to date are put at 150,682 bags.

Prices during the week have advanced by 10 per cent. on last week's level. The demand continues active, while supplies are decreasing.

DRIED FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., of Liverpool, in their report dated November 2, state:—

Currants.—The course of the market has been entirely dominated by the weakness of the Greek exchange, and with prices continually on the decline traders have taken a very bearish view of the situation. This, coupled with the lack of support from the consuming public, has caused the demand to continue during the month on a very limited scale, buyers being loth to operate and only purchasing when absolutely obliged to cover immediate requirements. The most severe drop in values has undoubtedly been experienced in the finest qualities of shade dried Vostizza, the fall representing a decline of 10s. per cwt. Other grades have also suffered, but not to the same extent.

S.s. Phrygia brought the first Vostizza, and these were actively competed for, a considerable portion having been previously disposed of on overland samples, prices realised being 52s. to 60s. for bold fruit, 52s. to 56s. for smalls. On the arrival of further supplies prices declined, and week by week values have receded, the closing range being 41s. to 43s. for good, and 46s. to 52s. for fine qualities. The response from the country to the attractive and coloury Gulf has been a disappointment. This grade opened at 42s. to 44s., and prices sagged to 36s. At this last-named figure fair sales were possible.

Quotations:—Pyrgos and Amalias, 31s .to 32s.; Patras, 34s. to 35s.; Zante, 32s. to 35s.; Gulf and Panariti, 34s. 6d. to 38s.; Vostizza, 41s. to 52s.

Australian.—The advertising campaign has focussed the attention of the consumer on this fruit, and with holders reducing their price in order to meet buyers, a fair trade has resulted at 29s. to 30s., a few special lots making 32s. to 34s.

Sultanas.—The high range of prices has certainly checked consumption, and buyers have displayed no inclination to operate on a free scale. With a decided falling off in the actual amount of business done, the attitude of the trade in the closing days of the month was one of extreme caution, and this has had the effect of reducing values. Closing quotations are:—Smyrna, fair to good, 68s. to 75s.; Smyrna, fine, 80s. to 92s. 6d.; Cretans, 75s. to 90s.

Greeks opened 80s. to 83s., Fine bleached 100s., but holders were unable to maintain these values, in face of pressure, and in order to make progress concessions had to be made. Final sales were:—Medium qualities, 70s. to 75s.; best bleached, 95s. to 97s. 6d.

Figs.—Large boxes have sold fairly well at 75s. to 97s. 6d., Small boxes 85s. to 105, Locoums 115s. to 130s. Bags Naturals are in short supply, selling at 38s. to 40s. for good average, Genuine 43s. to 45s.

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Capital Paid up - - - £485,580
Reserve Fund - - - - £190,000
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Reserve - - - Rs. 4.77.50.000

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Paid up Capital - - £1,000,000
Reserve Fund - - £360,000

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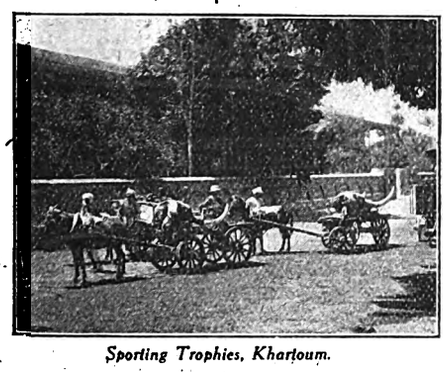

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THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

No. 757.—VOL. XXVIII. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1925.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	Page
NOTES OF THE WEEK	579
SPECIAL LETTERS—	
Egypt	582
Bulgaria	583
Cyprus	584
LEADING ARTICLE—	
Armistice Day in the Balkans ..	581
SPECIAL ARTICLE –	
Some Macedonian Memories ...	588
PERSONAL AND GENERAL ...	589
THE WEEK AT HOME	586
BOOK REVIEWS	590
INDIAN AFFAIRS—	
Hatred, Malice, and All Uncharitableness	592
Current Topics	592
Special Letters : Calcutta ...	594
Simla... ...	595
A Clearing in the Jungle ...	595
Bengal-Nagpur Railway Extension	596
The Indian Mail	597
Indian Exchange	598
COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
Notes and News	599
Near East Markets	601
Shipping Intelligence	602
Motors & Motoring. By G. B. B.	603
Greece's Mineral Resources ...	604
Engineering Topics	605
Cotton and Cotton Goods ...	606
Company Notes and Reports ...	607
Chess	607

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

The Syrian Revolt.

The official report of the disorders in Damascus on October 18, 19 and 20, which the French Government received just a fortnight later and issued last week, must be read in connexion with Mr. Baldwin's Rectorial Address at Edinburgh University on truth and politics. The British Prime Minister was not thinking of Syria when he emphasized the need of truthfulness in politics and described a half-truth as worse than many lies; but his explanation of the politician's difficulties in the way of telling the whole truth and nothing but the truth will, no doubt, be cordially endorsed by General Sarrail, until he is reminded of Pierre Béranger's utterance: "Frenchmen like things to be clear. What is not clear is not French." General Sarrail states that the measures taken to repress the revolt were comparatively moderate in view of the strength of the movement. He challenges the evidence of photographs by declaring that material destruction was confined to the native quarters in which no Arab building of architectural or historical interest was injured. The Azm Palace is intact with the exception of a wing recently constructed to serve as offices, which was damaged. Some roofs of bazaars fell in. What may not seem clear enough to the French from this report is how it came about that insurgents after entering Damascus without hindrance and being subjected in the city to a "comparatively moderate" bombardment elected to make their surrender the following day by means of a delegation to the French command rather than to withdraw to the place from which they had come. These and other matters connected with this unfortunate episode will presumably be cleared up later. The speedy return of Damascus to a normal existence in part supports the attitude of General Sarrail in belittling the incident; at the same time it may be used by his opponents in France as evidence that the rioting in one quarter of the city supplied no justification for the withdrawal of French troops and an artillery bombardment from a distance.

France and the Mandate.

The New High Commissioner for Syria is M. Henri de Jouvenel, who held the portfolio of Public Instruction in M. Poincaré's Cabinet last year and was one of the French delegates to the League of Nations. At a meeting of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber both the Prime Minister and M. Briand dwelt on the duty imposed on France of keeping the Syrian mandate entrusted to her. Their insistence that France must pursue her civilising and educative work in the interest of the inhabitants themselves, and must lead the Syrians to self-government by a wide spirit of tolerance, holds out the prospect of the adoption of wiser methods in Syria itself. The demand of the Syrians for complete independence, the withdrawal of French troops and the scrapping of the Mandate does not take into consideration the question of the future territorial integrity of Syria. Discussions that are reported to have taken place between the notables of Damascus and the insurgent Bedouin suggest that there might possibly be some difficulty in the maintenance of internal order. In the course of a long appeal addressed to the League of Nations at the last session of the Council Emir Shekib Arslan dwelt upon French shortcomings and the unwillingness of the people to accept France as Mandatory Power, and declared that the Syrian people, as the Iraqis, were capable of governing themselves. He made no attempt, however, to show how the Syrians proposed to protect themselves from aggression if the French troops were withdrawn, and his whole appeal was stultified by the fact that the Iraqis have wisely recognised their limitations in this respect and have stipulated for a Treaty of Alliance with Great Britain. France, on the other hand, will realise in time that, whether she likes it or not, there can be no glaring distinction between the degree of independence enjoyed by the Syrians and that of Iraq. If M. Jouvenel can give early effect to this principle, it should not be long before Syria experiences a more peaceful order of existence than she has known since the handing over of her territory to the French by the British Army that liberated her from Turkish rule.

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A Balkan Pact.

There is a tendency to interpret Mr. Austen Chamberlain's remarks at the recent Paris meeting of the Council of the League of Nations when he declared that it was the League's duty to take action with a view to remove causes of frontier friction in the Balkans, as a definite invitation to the Balkan States to subscribe to a Security Pact on the lines of the Locarno Treaty. The Greek Government, indeed, appears to have notified formally its anxiety to adhere to such a Pact, and criticism on the possible incongruity between this attitude and the refusal of any joint inquiry before the invasion of Bulgarian territory is anticipated by the remark that Greece is in a position to defend herself, if need be, as she has proved recently, but exactly because she wants to avoid in the future incidents like the last Græco-Bulgarian one she accepts wholeheartedly "the British proposition." It is obvious, however, that at the present moment there can be no precise British proposition. The mission sent to investigate the Græco-Bulgarian frontier incident has been charged to inquire into the possibility of introducing measures for eliminating these incidents in the future, and in due course its recommendations on the subject will be considered by the Council of the League of Nations. It would, however, be unduly optimistic to suppose that, if the members of the Mission are to keep Christmas in the bosom of their own families, they will be able to produce a cut-and-dried scheme for the consideration of the Council. Permanent pacification of the Balkans cannot be reached overnight. We should be sorry to see any proposal put forward with the weight of the League's authority which had not taken into consideration all the various ramifications of the problem. The final settlement, if it is to have any real value, must be one that satisfies a considerable body of Macedonian opinion. The Mission, therefore, should be able to place itself in communication with Macedonian leaders of all schools of thought, in addition to obtaining the views of the several Governments. If it should do this, it would not be surprising, if the members were to decide that a more thorough examination of the problem than they were able to give is to be recommended with a view to evolving a Balkan settlement with some prospect of permanency.

Political Parties in Egypt.

The telegraphic summaries of the new law on political associations promulgated by the Egyptian Government seem to challenge opinion as to whether the measure is justified by the situation that it is designed to meet. All associations of a political character, including Labour syndicates, are obliged to furnish to the authorities full details of their constitution; only those associations the statutes of which are approved by Royal decree will be recognised, and dissolution can follow by simple Ministerial decree, if the associations can be shown to have encouraged crime, propagated subversive ideas to change fundamental institutions by violence or other illegal means; if they have exercised activity tending to usurp parliamentary public authority; or if they have provoked in any other manner disturbances of the peace. Little wonder that the Wafd has taken this particular cap and fitted it firmly on to its own head. It is also in keeping with the practice of that organisation that an attempt should have made to identify the British Residency, and in particular the new High Commissioner, with this law of political associations. A litttle more knowledge of the world and a little commonsense, in both of which the Zaghloulists are lacking, would have convinced them that Great Britain has as much to do with a domestic concern of Egypt's of this nature as she has with a *communiqué* issued in Arabic on the work at Tutankhamen's Tomb. Egypt is now mistress in her own house, except in regard to four subjects which have nothing to do with everyday politics, and the constitution of the Wafd is not one of them. Some sympathy must be felt with the present Egyptian Government; the great majority of the people of Egypt are indifferent to politics and want only good government, and the Zaghloulist organisation, by being first on the scene, has roped in under its banner the larger section of the politically minded who refuse to look facts in the face and have shown themselves so far capable only of mob rule. An intimate mistake was made in breaking up the coalition and antagonising the Liberal Constitutionalists, at a time when it was not possible to gauge with any degree of accuracy the real extent of permanent defections from the Wafd. The main object of the Government must now be self-preservation, and if it has not the confidence that comes from the knowledge that the Egyptian people as a whole support it, it will feel obliged to resort to methods designed to consolidate its power. In dealing with political associations it will encounter many pitfalls; it can, for instance, hardly have been its intention to consolidate the opposition, as this measure seems likely to do.

The Position in Persia.

The position in Persia appears to depend very largely on the angle of vision of the observer. An American correspondent refers to Riza Khan as King Pahlavi, possibly in the expectation that his accession to the Persian throne will have taken place before his message can be published. More cautious and accurate chroniclers speak of a provisional régime, of which Riza Khan is naturally head, until such time as a Constituent Assembly can meet and determine the new status of the country. The use of the expression His Imperial Highness with reference to Riza Khan in the official communications announcing the depositions of the Kajar Dynasty indicates the lines on which the Constituent Assembly will be expected to work. An attempt will be made to revive the proposal for a republic; but, unless the veto of the Shiah divines has been removed and Riza Khan decides that His Excellency sounds better than His Majesty, Persia seems likely to adhere to a monarchy. During the lifetime of the present Head of the State the form of government will make no difference. His work of reform has probably been handicapped by the existence of a dynasty, with the reigning Sovereign absent from the country and with a Regent who could hardly fail to offer a rallying point for intrigue. If he has now obtained a free hand, it is to be hoped that Riza Khan will set himself not only to launch great undertakings for the material advancement of Persia, but also to eradicate corruption and inefficiency from the bureaucracy. He has already started to deal with the inefficiency in the public service and has himself set a useful example of energy. It is not apparent, however, whether his subordinates have received an equally explicit lead in regard to bribery and corruption. The ex-Shah has registered a protest from Paris against the happenings in Teheran. He explains that he has kept out of Persia, in order to avoid internal agitation and to show his disapproval of illegal acts, and that he is awaiting the moment for returning to his country in order to continue to serve his people. There are no doubt many of his subjects who sincerely regret that he has allowed himself to adopt a singularly ineffective way of showing his interest in Persia and its people.

(*Continued on page 587.*)

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1925.

ARMISTICE DAY IN THE BALKANS.

Wednesday of this week was the seventh anniversary of Armistice Day, and it is not without interest to take stock of the position in which the Balkan Peninsula finds itself after seven years of peace. The word, peace, it is to be feared, must in this connexion be used only relatively. Up to the last moment alarms and excursions have been numerous. In 1919 the Roumanian Army undertook an expedition against Hungary, and for three months was in occupation of that country; the Fiume controversy kept Yugoslavia under the necessity of contemplating the possibility of war, until on January 27, 1924, a treaty signed at Rome provided for the incorporation of Fiume in Italy and confirmed Yugoslav sovereignty over Port Barrosh and the Delta; in 1921 uncertainty regarding Albania's frontiers led to friction between her and Yugoslavia, and hostilities were stopped by the firm action of the League of Nations; the war between Greece and Turkey, it is true, was fought out in Asia Minor, but its repercussions have been felt in the Balkan Peninsula during this period, both in regard to the internal situation in Greece and in the readjustment of populations in Greek Macedonia which the influx of refugees necessitated; *komitaji* activities have repeatedly aggravated the relations between Yugoslavia and Bulgaria; there have been civil war and communist outbreaks in Bulgaria; finally, within the last few weeks a frontier incident of an insignificant character has led to an invasion of Bulgarian territory by Greek forces, which must have had even more serious consequences, if it had not been for the prompt action of the Council of the League of Nations. Officially, however, it has been a period of peace, following upon the seven years of war that between 1911 and 1918 brought about such notable territorial changes in South-Eastern Europe.

In spite of the alarms and excursions that have characterised this period, there is abundant evidence that some definite progress has been made in the Peninsula towards a better state of affairs. It is impossible not to believe that the real eruption is over; the volcano is settling down to a spell of quiescence, although every now and then in one part or another sudden spurts of the troubled mass prove that the process is not yet complete. In each country an increasing number of people deplore the old antagonisms, recognising that, whichever side may seem to gain a momentary advantage, material harm is done to both. For the most part, however, it is the old school of politicians who still hold the reins of power; they are so imbued with the traditional spirit of the Balkans that they do not easily remember that there are other ways of attaining national well-being than by intrigue and war. The recent Greek invasion of Bulgaria was undoubtedly the result of the spontaneous working of the primitive Balkan instinct; immediately after the Greek forces had received orders to advance, wiser counsels asserted themselves in Athens, although there may have been delay in giving effect to them on the frontier. Almost the first that Europe has heard of the capture of a Yugoslav prefect and priest by Albanian brigands is that, after ten days, the Albanian Government has secured their release, acting in correct co-operation with the Yugoslav Government, unhampered by the paralysing effect of an ultimatum and excessive demands. There may be some who will read into this satisfactory incident, after the frontier agreement recently arrived at by the two Governments, another proof that Ahmed Bey Zogu has delivered his country over as a vassal to Yugoslavia, but those with more vision will be less concerned with the methods by which peaceful solutions are reached than with the fact that increasing attention is being given on all sides to the wisdom of peaceful solutions when friction has arisen. That the cooling of all passions is not yet complete is shown by the course of the negotiations between Yugoslavia and Greece for a settlement of the question of the Salonika Free Zone. Yet in their prolongation it is possible to find evidence of the desire of both parties to explore all avenues for a peaceful settlement rather than to allow the disagreement to bring about a rupture of friendly relations. For an explanation of this improved state of affairs it is hardly necessary to look beyond the League of Nations. The existence of a tribunal which has authority to demand a cold statement of facts and reasons must exercise an increasingly depressing effect on any tendency to bully and to filibuster. Although the League, in the eyes of Western nations, may not yet have attained its full stature, it means much to minor Powers, and will mean still more, if the Council can act fairly and fearlessly in the two disputes now awaiting its judgment. In the meantime, while Governments are appreciating the necessity of keeping one eye on the League of Nations, the different peoples in the process of evolution are discovering that political controversy at best is but a hindrance to material prosperity and are beginning to require at the hands of their rulers a larger share of peace in their own time.

The Balkan equilibrium must continue for some time to come to be very sensitive. Its basis is more hopeful than solid. Greater effect will always be produced in the Peninsula by example than by precept. For this reason any tendency in the West to emphasise the importance of all that Armistice Day celebrations stand for is to be welcomed. Hitherto the last day of the Great War has meant little more to the Balkan peoples than the beginning of another chapter of ills. The peace that the West has learned to value has been associated in the Near East with too many ever-present drawbacks to be the object of much enthusiasm. With an improvement of economic conditions, however, and with a respite, born of sheer weariness, from political feuds, the Balkans will begin to understand that what has proved a blessing to the rest of the world need not necessarily be without its advantages to them. Even the West is tempted to dwell more on its Armistice Day obligations after the Locarno Pact than it was before. If it has required seven years to place the day in its true perspective, we need not despair of the Balkan States, because they take a longer time to reach a similar stage. There too a Security Pact may provide the means to the desired end. A chilly silence greeted the first proposal from within, and, as if disheartened by her ill-success, Greece proceeded to show by her invasion of Bulgaria what could still happen if things were left as they now are. There is no reason, however, why a Security Pact imposed from without by the authority of the League of Nations should not be accepted as readily or at least as completely as its decision in any specific dispute. It will remain, at best, a means to an end: for the only permanent solution of the Balkan question is a Balkan federation.

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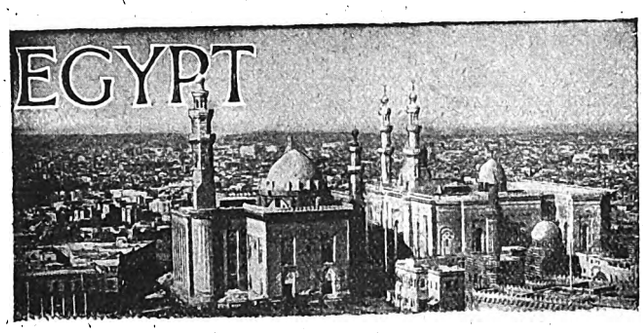
The Near and Middle East*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, November 1.

Opposition United.

Not often has the Opposition been able to sink its differences so completely as during the past week, when Liberal Constitutionals, Wafdists and Nationalists have had but one voice with which to attack the Government. The cause of the onslaught has been the new law regulating the formation of political associations, which, promulgated on Wednesday, has been described as the most reactionary and tyrannical measure since the days of the Khedive Ismail. And the criticism is not unjustified, for although several articles of the new ordinance are so vaguely worded as to leave great doubt regarding their real intention, this vagueness serves, in the light of past experience, as a cause for added apprehension on the part of the anti-Government parties. From that part of the law which can be comprehended it is clear that the intention, in suddenly producing this astonishing piece of legislation, has been to deal a final, and, it had been hoped, a fatal blow, at the power and prestige with the masses of the people of Zaghloul Pasha, who, despite such measures as surrounding his house with troops, loses nothing in popularity. Indeed, since the rupture of the Coalition, Zaghloul Pasha has probably gained considerably in his hold upon the masses. The Government is not unnaturally alarmed at the failure of its efforts to dethrone the popular idol from his place in popular affection, and has produced this new law as a master-stroke. If put into operation it would probably achieve, on the surface, its framer's intentions, for, designed as it has been to give the Government legal authority for dissolving the Wafd and breaking up the Zaghloulist organisation throughout the country, with a penalty of six months' imprisonment for anyone who dared henceforth describe himself as a Zaghloulist, the law, rigorously applied, could certainly bring about the apparent disappearance of Zaghloulism in a comparatively short time. But the result would certainly be to drive to far more dangerous underground activities the politicians who now openly profess and apply their Zaghloulist faith. Within a few months of such a law's becoming operative the country would be honeycombed with secret societies, in defiance of the law, and in such an atmosphere it would be astonishing if there were not in a very short time a renewal of political crime. However dispassionately this Political Associations' Law is regarded and however much allowance is made for the inexperience of its framers and the desperate straits in which they find themselves, with the certain Nemesis of an election in which they and their party will be swamped, even if they do not disappear altogether, approaching daily nearer, it is impossible to consider it as anything but a piece of preposterous and dangerous folly. Fortunately, there is little prospect of the country's having to face the very serious crisis which would almost certainly result from attempts to apply the law, for its authors are beginning to realise already that they have committed a blunder of the first order and that an early retreat from an untenable position is the only way to avoid disaster.

Government and Cotton.

The Government has come into the cotton market this week and purchased small quantities, without, however, having had an appreciable effect on price levels. The decision to speculate once more in cotton came as no surprise after the good fortune which has attended previous ventures of the same kind, for, if the avowed object of the purchases, the bolstering-up of prices, has not been attained, the Government has none the less made a handsome profit on its transactions. But this year, with Egyptian crop prospects excellent and reports from America of a record yield, conditions are very different, and it looks as though the Government may burn its fingers rather badly when it has to dispose of the cotton which it is now acquiring so light-heartedly.

Police and Crowds.

The Tantah disaster has provided the Government's critics with fresh ammunition. The mudir and commandant of police of Gharbia Province are bitterly attacked for allowing the crowd to be stampeded by the police merely because a Minister's car wished to force its way over a bridge packed with foot passengers. In this case the police are scarcely to be blamed so much as pitied, for convention in this country demands that when a Minister or senior Government official moves abroad he shall be preceded by police who force a passage, and very roughly too, if need be, for the great man. If not expressly encouraged in their brutality, the police must naturally assume, from the tacit approval it receives, that their behaviour is approved by those whose importance it is supposed to emphasise. The manner in which crowds are handled is often abominable, for the excited policemen, urged on by no less excited officers, ply their sticks on young and old, male and female alike, with unnecessary and usually ineffective brutality. In this matter conditions have become much worse during the last year or two, and it may almost be said of Egypt, as Hajji Baba remarked of Persia a hundred years ago, that the importance of a public man may be gauged from the zeal with which the *ferashes* hammer and beat the persons who chance to get in his path.

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Sofia, November 4.

The Greek Invasion.

A fortnight after the Greek invasion of Bulgaria it is possible to take a dispassionate view of the events which nearly culminated in another Balkan war. Greek and Bulgarian versions of what actually happened at Demir-Kapu are so totally contradictory that it is better to disregard the rival points of view. It can, however, be definitely stated that frontier guards stationed on the top of a mountain became involved in a shooting affray which is no uncommon occurrence in the Balkans. Greece addressed a Note, practically amounting to an ultimatum, to Bulgaria wherein she claimed reparation for lives lost and other sanctions. Bulgaria suggested an impartial inquiry, but received no reply. The incident took place at Demir-Kapu on October 19, and a Greek division advanced into Bulgaria on October 22. The Greek troops occupied approximately 200 square kilometres of territory stretching eastwards from Petritch and including several villages. They aimed at occupying Petritch itself, but did not succeed, partly because of Bulgarian resistance during the night of October 22-23, and partly because the Greek command seems to have hesitated in pushing forward its advance. On the 22nd, Bulgaria appealed to the League of Nations who, anxious to repair the prestige lost over the Corfu affair two years ago, immediately convened a special meeting of the Council. Meanwhile the League requested Bulgaria and Greece to refrain from further hostilities. The Bulgarian Government sent stringent orders to its frontier troops forbidding them to fire except in legitimate self-defence. The Greeks continued to fire with artillery and other weapons.

For three or four days the situation remained stationary and danger of war was imminent. Fortunately the Greeks did not persist in their advance and the Bulgarians showed praiseworthy coolness under most trying conditions. On October 26 the Council of the League met in Paris and despatched the Allied Military Attachés at Belgrade to the scene of the conflict with instructions to supervise the Greek evacuation of occupied territory. Meanwhile the Council telegraphed to Sofia and Athens again reminding them that as members of the League they must keep the peace. In Paris a heated discussion took place between the Greek and Bulgarian delegates, the former alleging that Greece could not evacuate Bulgarian territory until Bulgarians had evacuated Greece. It transpired that according to Greece, Bulgarian troops were only a few hundred yards in Greek territory, while according to Bulgaria they never crossed over the frontier at all. Owing to the prompt and firm manner in which the League acted, the conflict was stopped and between the 28th and 30th the Greeks retired and the Bulgarians re-occupied their original frontier posts.

The League's Commission.

The League then appointed a Commission of five to proceed to the scene of the conflict, to investigate fully into the causes thereof, to assign responsibility, and to recommend how such matters could best be avoided in the future. Sir Horace Rumbold, British Ambassador to Spain, will be President of this Commission, and he will be assisted by one French and one Italian officer, as well as by a Dutch and a Swedish civilian. The Commission will meet in Geneva on November 6, and is expected to arrive at Petritch about the middle of November, as its report must be completed by the end of the month.

Propaganda.

There has been a mass of tendencious and misleading information published regarding this latest Balkan affray. The Athens Press Bureau has on more than one occasion found itself contradicted by its own organs notably in so far as the friendly intervention by Roumania is concerned. M. Langa Rascano, the Roumanian Minister in Greece, was wrongly reported in his statements and it is believed that the denial never reached the ears of the Council. M. Rascano was reported as having said that the whole incident was Bulgaria's fault because of the activities of Macedonian *komitajis*. In reality he said nothing of the sort. It is, however, evident, that a violent press campaign will now be conducted by both Greece and Bulgaria with the object of obtaining sympathy in Western Europe. Truth will not play a very important part in such a campaign, and public opinion abroad should be on its guard against any wild stories. So far Bulgaria has maintained a very correct attitude in this respect, but the stories of atrocities committed by Greeks and sensationally narrated by so-called foreign newspaper correspondents should be taken with a pinch of salt. Propaganda is and will be rife, and it is extremely difficult to know the actual facts.

For this reason it is satisfactory that such an influential Commission will carry out the investigation, but it is worth while mentioning that some surprise is felt at the Great Powers' being represented on this Commission. Rightly or wrongly, Greece is regarded as the *protégé* of Great Britain, while France and Italy are not thought to be altogether impartial. But the League should be able to rise above such suspicions, and in view of its rapidly growing authority should be able to render an entirely just decision.

Reparation.

An aspect of the situation which concerns Bulgaria is the reparation which Greece may be called upon to pay for the damage that she is alleged to have inflicted on the occupied territory. Some 8,000 to 10,000 Bulgarians fled from the Greeks and have suffered hardships. The Allied Military Attachés, who are still at Petritch pursuing an inquiry, were not allowed to report on this matter, but a Bulgarian Commission has stated that the material damage is very great. Besides the loss of livestock, the harvest is said to have been seized. It will be difficult to establish the truth of this, as when Sir Horace Rumbold's Commission arrives they will find that the inhabitants of the area in question have returned to their homes. It is perhaps, unfortunate that League officials were not able to visit the occupied territory during the period between the Greek evacuation and the Bulgarian re-occupation. However, the conflict has ended more quickly than was ever thought possible, and the League has certainly enhanced its prestige in Balkan eyes.

The Sobranye.

Last week King Boris re-opened the Sobranye, which immediately adjourned until to-day. There are no out-

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standing matters of importance due to be discussed, but there is still a good deal of talk regarding Cabinet reconstruction. The Greek invasion had the effect of adjourning these discussions, but this week they are being resumed, and it is probable that some changes may yet take place.

News in Brief.

The Honourable W. A. F. Erskine, British Minister to Bulgaria, returned from leave on November 1.

Municipal elections were held in Bulgaria last Sunday, and the majority of the results were in favour of the Government.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, October 27.

The New Legislative Council.

Now that the Members of the enlarged Council have been elected, they are faced with a new situation, and have to consider what line they will adopt in the Assembly. An entirely new era is opening, and there is a decided revolt against the old methods, when the party for "union" pulled all the wires. Country opinion has been educated to see things for itself, and there is a large body of village electors who are determined that henceforward there shall be some solid work by their representatives for agricultural and general progress. They recognise that hitherto little has been done for their interests in comparison with what might have been done, and disapprove of their subordination to a campaign of politics which has no results. They have contributed large sums towards deputations and missions to London, from which there has been no resulting benefit whatever. The new Council has to reckon with this newly aroused feeling.

The twelve new Greek members held a meeting on October 23, when a preliminary discussion took place. It was decided that there should be co-operation with the Government in a close examination of the estimates and other matters: that before assembling in Council they should submit a protest to the Government regarding the new Constitution of the Colony, and ask for further privileges or liberties; and that the estimates should be submitted to the Council before being despatched to London. It was also decided to claim that the Councillors should be *ex-officio* Members of the Educational Board. Also, that co-operation with the Ottoman members should be aimed at on all local questions. A proposal that mention should be made of the national aims was negatived in favour of postponed consideration; but outside the Council the struggle is to be vigorously continued, since union with Hellas "is the alpha and omega of national aspirations." The Greeks, however, may be spared that co-operation with the Turkish element which depends upon the attitude which they themselves may adopt. Hitherto that attitude has not commended itself to loyal persons. Now that Cyprus is a British Colony there must be a change. In the speeches of Greek members in late years, remarks have too often bordered on disloyalty. The patience of High Commissioners, when Cyprus was administered for Turkey, and not a British possession, has tolerated many observations which might well have been ruled out of order, and there should be an end to liberties or licence, which is not compatible with the oath of loyalty that members take.

Harbours of Cyprus.

Rumours are afloat that improvements are to be carried out in the island "harbours," and that a loan of £70,000 will be sanctioned for the purpose. The island possesses one harbour of insufficient size, at Famagusta, and a very small one on the northern (Kyrenia) coast, which is practically of little or no use. At the other three coast towns of Larnaca, Limassol, and Papho there are only open roadsteads.

General News.

A reported discovery of copper a few miles from a village called Aigialousé may lead to valuable results. A ton of ore has been sent for examination.

The Governor has been able again to suspend collection for another year from next March of the locust tax.

Carobs are being exported in considerable quantities. A Spanish steamer has taken 1,900 tons of the new crop to England. Glasgow is importing largely.

Mr. Charles E. Cox has been appointed Judge of the District Court at Famagusta.

THE ARAB HORSE SOCIETY.

A Council Meeting of the Arab Horse Society was held on October 28, at the Grosvenor Hotel, London, Brig.-Gen. F. F. Lance (Vice-President) being in the chair.

There were also present Mr. T. C. Armitage, Lt.-Col. T. R. Badger, Messrs. H. V. Clark, C. W. Hough, Edward Hurtley, Capt. the Hon. George Savile, Mr. R. S. Summerhays, Major C. B. Toms, Major-General Sir Hugh Tudor, and the Secretary, the Rev. D. B. Montefiore.

The following new members were elected:—Miss A. Disney-Roebuck, Hoo Meavy House, near Yelverton, S. Devon; the National Horse Breeding and Show Society, Simla, India.

The Council decided to have the same number of classes and prizes at the London Show, 1926, as were offered at this year's show, namely, Arab Stallions, Brood Mares, Colts and Fillies, and Arab-bred Colts, Stallions, Mares and Geldings, with a Riding Class for Arab Stallions, Mares and Geldings and one for Arab-bred Stallions, Mares and Geldings. Besides the prizes there will be two champion gold medals and three silver cups.

The Bath and West Society are giving Classes for Arab Stallions, Mares, and Young Stock at their Watford Show in 1926.

Three photographs for illustrations were submitted and accepted for the Arab-bred Register now shortly to be issued.

THE LATE PATRIARCH PHOTIOS.

A special service was held at St. Stephen's, Gloucester Road, S.W., under the auspices of the Anglican and Eastern Churches Association last Saturday. It was a Requiem for his Beatitude Photios, late Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria, and the preacher was Bishop Gore. The music was arranged by Captain Burgess.

Dr. Gore referred to the importance of the Alexandrian Church in past history, and to the events in connection with the Nicene commemoration of a few months ago. He also referred to the personal character of the late Patriarch, who had expressed himself as very friendly to the Anglican Church.

The Greek Church and the Russian Church were represented at the service.

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THE EVACUATION OF MOSUL.

(From a Correspondent.)

I have often wondered how much the scare over the resolve on the part of the British Government to support the claim of Iraq to possession of the vilayet of Mosul really counted with the British public. One knew, of course, that certain interested newspaper proprietors were rolling their eyes in horror and abjurgation before their millions of readers, but one still wondered how their strange parade of fear really appealed to the British public, which, however great its admiration for Nationalist Turkey, has not yet forgotten that the Ottoman Empire was one of the institutions which crumbled owing to the Allied triumph in the late War.

It was in a mood of some doubt, therefore, that I went last Friday evening to the Essex Hall, Strand, where the Anglo-Turkish Society had arranged a meeting the subject of which (as might be gleaned from the handbills announcing the gathering, if not from the speakers themselves) was "Clear out of Mosul!" In fear lest the hall might be crowded by "Rotherbrook fans" I betook myself early to this scene of the British Government's condemnation. My anxiety for a seat was, however, early set at rest, for I found the most exiguous of assemblies. A handful of Indians—mostly of the student type, it appeared—a pacifist or two, and a sprinkling of ladies, these were the sum total who could be moved on a winter's night to oppose Iraq's claim to Mosul. I was told, after the meeting, that there were fifty-eight persons present in all, of whom thirty were ladies. And admittance was free.

Commander J. M. Kenworthy was in the chair. The paucity of the gathering and the absence of enthusiasm seemed to strike chill into the breast of the gallant Member for Hull. However, he tried his utmost to warm to his task. Even before the War—for the last thirteen years, in fact—he had, he said, denounced the policy of the British Government towards Turkey. He denounced the Treaty of Sèvres, had declared it unjust, unworkable, inevitably bringing retribution. He was right then: and in denouncing the present policy of the British Government towards Turkey, he was right now. To hold the frontier claimed by Mr. Amery for Iraq was impossible, for only in Canada and in India could a frontier hundreds of miles from the sea be successfully held. Mr. Bonar Law wished we had never gone to Mesopotamia, and in 1921 the late Sir Henry Wilson declared the mountain frontier to be an impossible strategic frontier. Coming to more immediate problems, the Chairman suggested, on the lines of the Græco-Turkish exchange of populations, an exchange of a people, to me I confess unknown, whom he called "Ottomans," south of the Brussels line, for Christians north of the Brussels line. It is true that the information was subsequently extracted from him, by means of a very pertinent question, that he referred to the 1,000 Turks and the 10,000 Kurds living south of the Brussels line. Another illuminative ray thrown upon the subject was the description of the possibility of an invasion of Iraq by Mustapha Kemal, by Ibn Saoud, and by Riza Khan! But perhaps the passage in Commander Kenworthy's speech which was least open to criticism was that in which he read to the meeting an extraordinarily verbose resolution, too long for me to reproduce here, which as far as one could see recommended nothing very precisely but generally that whatever the Turks were demanding in Iraq should be granted by the British Government, on the grounds that such a surrender was in the best national and international interests.

Upon the Chairman's resuming of his seat, the very slight emotion that had been politely indulged by a section of the audience disappeared altogether. Both heckler and supporter were restrained, not to say taciturn. After his effort, speaker after speaker pursued an uninterrupted and mostly an irrelevant course. For the greater part, they based their words upon either anti-Christian, or anti-imperialistic, or pacifist, or frankly pro-Turkish sentiment. Only one speaker appeared to have any close knowledge or actual experience of the Iraq problem.

Mr. Arnold Lupton spoke of the respective populations of Iraq and of Britain, the ruined cities of Mesopotamia, the bombing of Iraq's tax-payers, and, possibly, of other certain and uncertain things.

Mr. Arthur Field did not believe in the atrocities on Assyrian Christians. These massacres were, he said, always being attributed to Moslems whenever an important decision had to be made. The frontier which Turkey had proposed—the line of the Jebel Sinjar and of the Jebel Hamrin—was a perfectly good frontier. The British Foreign Office had once made a mistake in its allocation of Tekrit and of Kifri. The whole of the territory north of a point 60 miles south of Mosul city had been filched from the Turks in violation of the terms of the Armistice (one expected many errors, but this particular lie—for it is a lie, as may be seen by a reference to the terms of the Treaty of Mudros, under which indeed, the advance northwards of General Marshall's forces was made—one had thought long dead), and there was no reason, if these mad military advisers had their way, why the British should not be ordered to advance right into Anatolia, to occupy the sources of the Tigris.

Mr. Philips Price spoke of the Turkish-Kurdish-Christian relations. He stated that the feeling between the Assyrians and the Turks was in the first few months of the War perfectly good—the Patriarch Mar Shimun had assured him so: it was only upon the instigation of the Russians that the Christians became rebels against their rightful overlords. It seemed to him that this question of Mosul was all part of that vast imperialistic dream which Great Britain, with her armies in the Caucasus and Persia, and her schemes in Central Asia, had in the months following the War for the erection of a vast Middle Eastern empire between the Mediterranean and India. But such an empire merely meant to thrash the "niggers" under one's particular charge. This mordant speech was at any rate original: for Mr. Price appeared to regard the Bedouin of Iraq as part of the great fraternity of the international workers of the world.

Mr. Summers also spoke.

The resolution was then put to the meeting, and was carried by a majority which the Chairman declared to be "large." From the angle of relative values, no doubt he was quite accurate in his description.

After this a few questions were asked, which elicited from the Chairman his conception of his proposed exchanging of 11,000 Moslems for 100,000 Christians as "a good bargain," and, more strangely still, his assertion that such a proposal was officially made by the Turks at the recent Geneva Assembly, and, on the part of Mr. Field, the manifestation of a curious haziness on the difference between the Chaldean and Nestorian Assyrians.

To this meeting I went, as I have said, in a mood of some doubt; and from it I came still deeper in doubt. One wondered whether this was all the enthusiasm that those who support Turkey as against the British Government could raise, though, in justice to the Society under whose auspices the meeting was arranged, I ought to say that messages of regret at inability to attend were received from men who were described as "Professor" St. John Philby, Mr. Bernard Shaw, Mr. Ameer Ali, and others. But most of all one wondered of Commander Kenworthy *que diable allait-il faire dans cette galère?*

According to reliable information from Bahrein Island, says Reuter's Baghdad correspondent, the number of pearl fishers drowned during the recent cyclone in the Persian Gulf does not exceed 450. In addition, 160 persons are reported to have been killed near Katif by falling date trees.

THE PERSIA SOCIETY.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

Armistice Week.

In the most splendid and gratifying way the nation has reasserted the emotion which the arrival of each Armistice Day should bring to it. It seems to be felt very widely that our observances of Armistice Day have in the past done us little credit, and there is an obvious desire this year to change all that. Armistice Week started last Sunday, Remembrance Day, when a mood which is perhaps higher than, and is certainly to the majority of Englishmen the nearest approach to, a purely religious sentiment, was created, and which will endure long after to-morrow, Armistice Day.

The Premier and Truth.

The solid reputation that Mr. Baldwin has made for occasional speeches is now manifest to all, but it is doubtful whether he has ever surpassed the quality of the two speeches which he last week delivered in Aberdeen and Edinburgh. Thre is a poise about his utterances, whether they be on national or foreign affairs, that immediately strikes one: he never overstates a case, and, if he errs at all, it is on the unusual side of generosity.

The Prime Minister has in his keeping, as he has just proved to Scottish students, the greatest need of our age—the secret of being a genuine Tory Democrat. There are Tories in this country who have a fine flavour of reactionaryism; there are Democrats who diffuse the most glowing and pertinent notions of democracy: but there is no one who combines in quite the same degree as the Prime Minister an awareness of the necessity for conserving what is good of the old and of scrapping what is bad of it for future improvements. He lives in restrained hopefulness: he is hopeful because he knows too much about the past of England to despair of the future, and restrained because he knows too well the frailities of human nature. Of whom else could a Liberal organ write these words (they appeared in the *Manchester Guardian* on Saturday):—"The violent attacks made upon Mr. Baldwin by some of his party's journals amount to this—that they find him too decent to be endured; that he refuses to commit acts of class-war; that he holds himself bound after an election by promises given before it, and so forth." It almost seems as if the Premier is more revered by his opponents than by many of his so-called supporters!

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The Trade Union Alliance.

Those who had hoped that the great Trade Unions of this country would bind themselves together in perfect unanimity against the capitalists' wars that are said to be in preparation on them were rudely disappointed last week, when the National Union of Railwaymen refused to join, or at least postponed joining, the Industrial Alliance. The miners, naturally, are among the keenest to complete the alliance before the coal truce expires, but since the whole matter has been adjourned until next March or April, it would seem improbable that the Industrial Alliance will be able in time to usurp the functions of the General Trade Union Council.

The whole difficulty is, of course, that Trade Unionists are, in sentiment at least, much more syndicalist than socialist. The various unionists are as keen as any Oriental Nationalist upon "self-determination," and are not too ready to surrender their hard-won privileges in favour of a heterogeneous body. This is probably the oldest trouble of all in industrial organisation, and one which is by no means yet at an end. Undoubtedly, however, there is a definite trend towards a larger unity among Trade Unionists than exists at present, and the movement is engaging the closest attention of students of domestic politics.

Conservatives' Thirst.

Many hard things are said about the mentality and the outlook upon life of clubmen, but nothing could so have damaged whatever reputation for sanity they possess as the demand which a deputation under Sir Herbert Nield made last week before the Home Secretary for a modification of the hard conditions now attaching to the purchase and the quaffing of drinks in Clubs. So strongly do these thirsty souls feel about the matter, it seems, that they are ready to withhold their support from any Tory candidate who will not pledge himself to satisfy this demand of the Unionist Clubs. A positively amazing situation!

Now I am all on the side of liberty, and far be it from me to suggest that those who wish more often to assuage a decent thirst should not be allowed to do so. But obviously in this affair what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander; in other words, what a Scotch-and-soda is to the Club a pint of mild or bitter is to the Public House. What these Unionist clubmen, who in other matters, such as the allocation of the Trade Unions' levies, are so anxious for the liberty of working-men, should do is to concentrate upon the wholesale removal of the war-time restrictions in regard to drink. For as things are, they merely stultify themselves as democrats, and exhibit themselves as civic impotents. One feels, however, that many hundreds of Club members will resent the imputation that their politics are determined by such considerations as Sir Herbert suggested.

It was, therefore, good to see that the Home Secretary, who, if one may say so, is not usually shocked by indiscreet language, recoiled in teetotal horror before this Tory threat. Sir William Joynson-Hicks certainly gave the deputation food for thought; but it was their thirst, not hunger, which required satisfaction.

Already it is being said that the attempt on the part of ecclesiastical and temperance organisations to preserve the war-time restrictions upon drink has, through the inept action of these Clubmen, half achieved success.

The Bogey of Over-Population.

I have often referred in these columns to that fear of over-population in Great Britain which is entertained by many thinkers of different schools. Admittedly, there is a considerable amount of opposition to the pessimistic utterances of some of our leading sociologists, but not until I read yesterday an article by Professor A. L. Bowley did I realise that there is another approach to the problem than that made from the moral or expedient angle.

This eminent statistician points out that, in considering the future movements of population, not only must the actual birth-rate, death-rate, and net emigration be taken into account, but the age and composition of the population must also be reckoned with. And here he makes a

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capital statement. Owing to the diminution of the birth-rate throughout this country, he says, the population of young people and children is diminishing and must continue to diminish, while the population of the adult and old is increasing and will increase. His conclusion is that "the present number of births (and the present death-rates) would ultimately result in a stationary population in Great Britain not far off 50,000,000."

That prospect seems to me intensely interesting, for, as far as is known, England has never enjoyed the advantages that a stationary State undoubtedly possesses. Whatever the population in the Middle Ages was—and it is now generally held to have been considerably higher than our Victorian historians used to reckon it—it is fairly certain that since the Black Death it has steadily increased, or at least, with but temporary interruptions. Now it need not be supposed that a stationary State implies a stagnant State—the experience of Continental countries, such as France, disproves that; and it would certainly make the enacting of domestic legislation much easier to our own sorely puzzled politicians.

The Lord Mayor's Show.

In more than one way we are getting back to the old pre-War habits: the fact was plainly manifest in the huge crowds which assembled for the Lord Mayor's Show yesterday. It had been thought that the War had killed the love of pageantry and the glamour of traditional events which were always distinguishing marks of civic functions, but, although those who in the years 1914-1918 saw sterner pageants may never recapture their first and innocent enthusiasms, English crowds do now undoubtedly love a show.

This year's Show was one of the longest on record, but was quite as coloured and various as usual. Its original feature was a miniature Wembley on wheels, displaying a "pageant of Empire Trade." Whether these things have any considerable effect I do not know, but it was pleasant to see once again, without the journey to Wembley, the resources of Australia, New Zealand, India, British West Indies, and British Guiana. The children at any rate were vastly impressed: and there were watching the Show thousands of children whose age was really past that of discretion.

Philistia.

Whether or not the public taste in artistic and intellectual matters is improving or degenerating is one of the most debatable questions. There are those who would have it that we are going downhill in every way: others assert that popular education has produced beneficent results. Mr. Israel Zangwill, who is known as possessing many other qualifications to speak on this subject than those of a comparatively unsuccessful playwright, has just depicted in most gloomy colours to the British Confederation of Arts the Philistines' occupation of England.

But this, one suspects, has been true ever since the Industrial Revolution befell England. In the progressive industrialism that has for the last hundred years been the dominant feature of our history, there has been little time for art, and it is not altogether a coincidence that those quarters which, speaking generally, are quickest to appreciate Art are either the remote agricultural districts of England in which the hand of Capitalism is less hardly felt or the "rebel" quarters of industrial cities.

Rugby Clubs' Quarrel.

Everyone will remember the famous quarrel that broke out between Middlesex and Yorkshire, owing to the unsportsmanlike attitude of some of the Yorkshire eleven. It was a disgrace to cricket, and, happily the matter was rapidly settled. Now, however, a similar thing has happened in Rugby circles. The Harlequins have determined, as a consequence of a match against Newport last Saturday, not to play the Welsh club after this season. Newport's forwards are accused of continually disregarding the rules, and certainly the referee was very severe on them.

Whether the Harlequins have acted in the wisest manner it is impossible for one who did not actually see the gravity of Newport's offence to say. Often enough in these cases—e.g., the last All-Blacks versus England match—there is blame to be attached to both sides. In the present instance this may not be so. But in any case it is extremely bad for the good name which Rugby has proudly and rightly held as the cleaner type of football that there should be this falling out between two of the most famous British clubs.

Oil Paintings.

Apart from an Orpen or two, and a few Olssons and Wilkinsons, the main interest of the annual exhibition of the Royal Institute of Oil Painters lies, unfortunately in the work of the Hon. John Collier, who recently gained (why does one say "gained"?) notoriety for his public attack on Epstein's "Rima." His ideal of feminine beauty is here to be seen in the most Victorian of pictures: it is called, after Tennyson, "Pallas Athene." Literally it must be seen to be believed. Were you to parody the literary decorators of last century you could achieve nothing so deadly as this.

But there is, happily, outside this academic institution an abundance of good, original English work being done in oils. Even here, at this exhibition, you can discover individuality poking out its unaccustomed nose. But for the majority of the exhibits—one's fountain pen dries up before the task of describing them. ALTER EGO.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

(Continued from page 580.)

Assyrian Refugees.

Somewhere or other there is a frontier between Turkey and Iraq; the League of Nations is shortly to say where it is. Inseparably bound up with the question is the fact that its decision must affect for weal or woe the Assyrian people whose habitat is in that region. Now, the League of Nations was called into existence for the better ordering of the world, "by the prescription of open, just, and honourable relations between nations" and to achieve international peace and security. In arriving, therefore, at a decision regarding the frontier, the League of Nations may feel tempted to consider how its judgment is likely to affect the purpose for which it was itself called into being. In this connexion it will note the attitude of the two peoples to the care of one or other of whom the Assyrians will have to be assigned. Within recent years they have found themselves both under Turkish and under British jurisdiction. Their recent experience of the former has been that they have been turned out of their villages, subjected to terrible hardships or worse and left to a fate which they may or may not survive. Those who have escaped have taken refuge in Iraq under British protection, and an organisation has been formed in England under the auspices of the Archbishop of Canterbury to provide relief for these refugees. If the League Council decides that the Assyrians will be better off under Turkish rule, it has many lines to choose from for the Turkish-Iraqi frontier; if it considers that it would stultify in some measure the purpose for which the League of Nations was created to leave the Assyrians under the Turks, there is only one demarcation possible for the frontier, the one claimed by the British Government. In the meantime it is to be hoped that the Assyrian Relief Fund (Hon. Secretaries, 3 and 4, Memorial Hall, London, E.C.4.) will receive generous support, in order that Great Britain may discharge her obligation to these people who helped her to the limit of their capacity in the Great War.

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SOME MACEDONIAN MEMORIES.

By W. F. S.

The recent assassination of Todor Panitza, almost the last of the good old pre-War *komitajis*, broke yet another link with the Macedonia of the past, and the advent of modern armies and instruments of destruction has, while not lessening the tale of murder, rape and arson indigenous to the Balkans, deprived these proceedings of much of the glamour with which they were invested of yore.

The travellers who ensconces himself in the direct Athens carriage of the Orient express at the Gare de Lyon might be surprised were he informed that, but twelve years ago, not only did no communication by rail exist between Salonika and Athens, but that it was the rule, rather than the exception, for the daily *conventionnel* from Nish to Uskub and Salonika to be delayed or actually held up by the only *force majeure* that the Balkans recognise—*komitajis*.

Bastardini's restaurant at Salonika, like many other once humble institutions, attained through the Great War fame and fortune beyond its proprietor's wildest dreams: but, to the old-timer, the chief call it makes on the memory will always be the fact that, when at the height of his notoriety, Sandansky, the Balkans' boldest and baddest brigand, was one of its most regular customers. The little, pale-faced, bearded man struggling with the intricacies of macaroni in a corner of the modest dining-room might well have been taken for an underpaid Armenian teacher in some Turkish school or a Jewish merchant from the bazaar, but never for the man who left a longer trail of blood and crime behind him than any other one person, even in Macedonia.

That Balkan landmark, the White Tower at Salonika, saw many a strange sight during the Allied occupation, but surely none stranger than the spectacle, some years before the holocaust, of the stage stormed by a mob of maddened Montenegrins, incensed at the ignoble caricature of Danilo in "The Merry Widow."

The first and second Balkan wars held their humours, not the least of which was the famous bottle of whisky presented to Abdulla Pasha, the Turkish commander-in-chief and a martinet of the old school, by a famous war correspondent, which was responsible for one of the most sensational pre-War journalistic "scoops." This correspondent was wiser in his methods than a now ultra-successful colleague who inaugurated what no one could have foreseen would be a brilliantly successful career by the rather tactless experiment of trying to drive a motor-car through a battalion of Turkish *Redif* on the march. Had it not been for the presence of a few fellow-countrymen (it happened in the streets of Galata) well versed in the intricacies of the Turkish tongue, one of the world's "largest circulation" dailies would have had to look elsewhere for its "stunt" articles.

In the average Macedonian winter the absence of sun is extremely wearisome. During the first three months of the first Balkan war, it rained solidly all day and every day: the streets of Salonika, never exactly a testimony to municipal efficiency, become one vast slough of semi-liquid filth, churned by the lumbering and rudimentary transport of the Balkan armies into an amalgam which had but one merit consistency. No wonder the long-suffering proprietor of the Olympus Palace Hotel caused notices to be posted up in every bedroom, of which the tenour, in half-a-dozen tongues, was: "Gentlemen are requested to remove their boots before getting between the sheets."

The urbanity of the late King George of Greece was proverbial, but, now and again, he let drop an apparently innocent remark well calculated to make the victim squirm. After the occupation of Salonika by the Greeks and Bulgarians in 1922, a camp for refugees was set up just outside the town, under the management of an International Committee, the Secretary of which was the leading local dentist, a Roumanian Jew who had once paid a visit to the United States. The King, who was being shown round the camp by this gentleman, had occasion to ask him what was his nationality. "American, your Majesty," came the prompt answer. After a slight hesitation, "Oh, I see, *German*-American," said the King. "No, your Majesty, just American," replied the unfortunate Jew. It is true that "one hundred per cent." had not been invented in those days!

The torpedoeing of the Austrian battleship Viribus Unitis in Pola harbour during the War was an exploit of remarkable audacity and organisation, but it is questionable whether it is entitled to take rank, as a daring feat, before that accomplished by the Greek torpedo-boat which sank the Turkish coast-defence vessel Feth-i-Bulend at Salonika during the first Balkan war. When it is considered that the Turkish ship was moored within fifty yards of the White Tower, and that Greek craft actually remained inside the Kara-Burun straits for seven or eight hours after discharging her torpedoes, this must rank, even taking into account the quality of Turkish artillery in those days, as a Homeric deed.

An exploit of a different character was realised by the Austrians when, in 1912, in an attempt to discredit Turkish handling of the Macedonian muddle, they deliberately placed a powerful bomb in their own Austrian post-office at Salonika. The engine of destruction duly exploded, but, marvellous to relate, apart from blowing the official inkpot through the ceiling, little damage was done. Another example of how innocuous the most ferocious of bombs can be is afforded by the attempt made by the afore-mentioned Panitza to blow the afore-mentioned Sandansky into smithereens by heaving a neat parcel of high-explosive into a café where the latter was sitting. It is even said that Sandansky finished his drink. These practical jokers, however, went rather far when they placed a large bomb under a seat in a tramcar running along the sea-front at Salonika. Yet something went agley again, and the car actually made two trips from the Olympus Palace terminus to the depot and was garaged for the night before the bomb eventually exploded, with a maximum of noise and a minimum of effect. Those were the days when Consulates had to handle carefully anything arriving by parcel post, and careful cavasses kept buckets of water handy.

The most immediate result of the Balkan wars, so far as the town of Salonika was concerned, was the influx of countless hordes of refugees, with which inadequate attempts to cope were made by the International Committee previously referred to, and by the Egyptian Red Crescent organisation, which dispatched the hospital ship Bahr-i-Ahmar to Macedonian waters. A certain repast partaken of on board that stout ship lingers in the writer's memory. As the only Giaour at the groaning board, he made a noble attempt to wrestle with the seventeen courses, ranging from pilaff to yaghourt through the nice gradations of *kadin bourdou* and *imam bayildi* and thence back again to the point of departure via *baklava*, green peppers, sweet boiled rice, roast lamb, and *taouk geuksi*. Seeing, however, that he was making very heavy weather of it all, a kindly Egyptian medico proposed an adjournment to the dispensary, reached by a deck-long promenade over the recumbent and odoriferous bodies of half the nationalities of Asia Minor. Incipient nausea was radically dealt with by a noble draught of crême-de-menthe, poured from a glass jar labelled *Nux Vomica* and partaken of in a medicine-glass duly graded in minims. So the American did not, after all, invent all the strategems for combating Prohibition.

The four French army aeroplanes, under the command of Major Dagneau, which are to attempt the flight from Paris to Teheran, left Villacoublay last Thursday.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY

November 12, 1925 (New Style).
October 30, 1925 (Old Style).
Rabia II., 25, 1344 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Cheshvan 25, 5686, of the Jewish Calendar.

Prince and Princess Andrew of Greece visited the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace on November 4.

The Bulgarian Minister and Mlle. Haji-Mischeff have returned to London from Paris.

Lady de Courcey Wheeler sailed from London last Friday, in the P. and O. s.s. Chitral for Port Said.

Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby and Viscountess Allenby will leave on Nov 16 for a tour round the world.

Sir Hugh Clifford, Governor-designate of Ceylon, and Lady Clifford sailed from Liverpool last Friday for Colombo.

Prince Christopher, of Greece, who had been spending a few days in London last week, left the Berkeley Hotel for Wareham, Dorset.

Mr. Amery has appointed Mr. M. E. Antrobus of the Colonial Office to be his Assistant Private Secretary, *vice* Mr. W. C. Hankinson, M.C., promoted.

The Right Hon. Edward Wood (Viceroy and Governor-General Designate of India) had an audience of the King at Buckingham Palace last Thursday morning.

Mr. N. M. Samarth, of the India Council, who is proceeding on leave to India, left London last week, embarking at Marseilles in the P. and O. steamer Ranpura.

Viscount Inchcape left London for Paris last Thursday, to attend the Suez Canal meeting. He was accompanied by Viscountess Inchcape and the Hon. Elsie Mackay.

Mr. N. McLean, of Christ's College, Cambridge, has been elected by the Special Board for Oriental Studies as their representative on the General Board of Studies for four years.

The Hon. Harold Nicolson left London on November 4 to take up his duties as Counsellor of the British Legation at Teheran. The Hon. Mrs. Nicolson will remain for some weeks at Long Barn, near Sevenoaks.

The Foreign Naval Attachés in London gave a farewell dinner at Claridge's Hotel last Thursday evening to Captain G. Panas, the former Greek Naval Attaché, and Madame Panas, who are returning to Greece.

H. E. Dr. Georges Jouritch, the Minister of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, who returned to London on November 4 from Switzerland, had the honour of an audience of the King at Buckingham Palace last Saturday, when he presented his Letters of Credence as Envoy Plenipotentiary of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

Major-General H. J. Huddleston (General Officer Commanding British Troops in the Sudan) had the honour of being received by his Majesty at Buckingham Palace on November 4, when the King invested him with the insignia of a Companion of the most Honourable Order of the Bath (Military Division).

Major-General Sir Hayward Reader Whitehead, K.C.B., F.R.C.S., of Whinfield, Cobham, Surrey, Colonel Commandant of R.A.M.C. since 1922, who saw service on the North-West Frontier of India and in the Great War, during which he was Director of Medical Services in the early part of the Salonika Expedition, who died on September 28, aged 70, left estate of the gross value of £11,235, with net personalty £9,102.

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Book Reviews and Notes.

ISLAM AND CHRISTIANITY.

"THE LAW OF APOSTASY IN ISLAM." By Samuel M. Zwemer, D.D., F.R.G.S. (London: Marshal Brothers.)

Missionary endeavour among Moslems has had small visible result in comparison with the effort made. It is true that there are converts from Islam, the majority of them being found in the Dutch East Indies and in India; but in Persia there are fewer than 300, in Arabia barely thirty, and in the whole of North Africa, including Egypt, under five hundred. As the reason for this state of affairs in contrast to missionary successes in other fields, Dr. Zwemer adduces the formidable Islamic law of apostasy; a Moslem who abjures his religion courts death. The extent to which this penalty is based on the Koran or on the Traditions or on both is examined, and another chapter shows how the law has worked in practice through the centuries. The author enumerates many instances of the fate that has overtaken converts from Islam, and recognises that there are at least two sides to the question of the advisability of public baptism in Moslem countries. He is not prepared to advocate any relaxation of missionary effort with a view to sparing the converts from persecution and worse; but he considers that any restrictions placed on the activities of missionaries among Moslems in lands under British control ought to be removed. A student of psychology might be interested to analyse the motives behind revenge on apostates in Moslem countries of recent years, with a view to deciding how far it is prompted by a conscious obedience to the injunctions of Islam, and how far by more primitive instincts. In Christian America a crowd will lynch a man for certain crimes, and it is arguable that a Moslem may have in him, apart from any actual knowledge of the letter of the law, an instinct that prompts him to avenge what he regards as an insult to his religion. Dr. Zwemer, however, is able to end up on a happier note. Tolerance towards converts from Islam seems often to be in direct proportion to the proximity of foreign Governments and their influence, and the import of Western civilisation in breaking down fanaticism. Not only in Turkey and in Persia, but in Mecca itself, voices have been pleading for religious liberty. In these circumstances it may not be too much to hope that missionaries will see to it that no additions are made by their personal efforts to the long list of convert martyrs.

"TRADE LYES A-BLEEDING."

"THE ENGLISH FACTORIES IN INDIA, 1665-1667." By Sir William Foster. (Oxford University Press. 18s. net.)

For professed students of Indian History it would be sufficient to record the appearance of a new volume of Sir William Foster's monumental work: they know what to expect, and they will not be disappointed. But we are now definitely past the period when the Whitehall records could be described as of interest only to professed students, and the latest instalment can be recommended with confidence to a much wider circle. It is cast in the narrative form first adopted in the tenth volume, and it reads so easily that one is tempted to overlook the writer's remarkable skill. The basis of the book is the letters that passed between England and India, or between the various Indian factories. The letters constantly crossed, and they sometimes stopped short of their destination, for the overland route was by no means safe, and the Dutch did not scruple to intercept English correspondence when they got the chance, but Sir William goes steadily on, clearing up the tangle, and presenting a connected and readable narrative, with sufficient extracts from the original documents to whet the appetite for more. In itself, the period covers much of interest. At home, the Directors had to carry on through the Plague of 1665, the Great Fire that followed, and such incidents of the second Dutch War as the raid on the Medway. In India, the commercial operations of the factors were dominated by fear of the Dutch, who, as usual, were far superior in strength in Asiatic waters, and, with little doing in the way of business, the Englishmen might have had rather a dull time, if it had not been for the events in Madras and Bombay. For most of the period Madras was in the hands of rebels, for that very bad bargain, Sir Edward Winter, had imprisoned the Company's Agent, and was busily engaged in feathering his own nest, while the factors at Musulipatam further north were working gallantly but without success to promote a counter-revolution. Bombay was a royal possession, and the meagre garrison, unsupported from England, was trying to live on the country with the aid of some rather questionable expedients, while the island was inevitably a thorn in the side of the Company's regular establishment at Surat, "the receptacle of all those that abuse you and your servants," as it was described by Sir George Oxenden, much the most satisfactory figure in the book. The background of Indian politics stands out clearly in incidental references—the fanatical futilities of Aurangzeb, the squalid intrigues of the Deccan Courts, the systematic extortion practised by Shaista Khan in Bengal, and the meteoric figure of Sivaji, "a rebell and perfidious thiefe," as he appeared to the commercial community on the West Coast. There is thus plenty of human interest in the book, and there is, too, a delicate flavour in the letters of the period, carrying us back to the spacious times of Elizabeth. Here, for instance, is a sketch of the chaplain at Madras.. "The minister is to this deponents owne knowlidg and observation a very debached person, and druncke very frequently, topling with the meanest and worst of the souldiers, with whome he will play at tables and at nine pinns and will tipp for a bottle of sacke or a pagothy at a time: which is a great scandall to our nation and religion." Exactly.

"THE BLUE PETER."

That extremely well produced magazine, *The Blue Peter*, continues to illustrate the attractions and character of distant voyages. To the ordinary civilised sea-traveller it has, in fact, become indispensable. The issue for November contains, among many good things, a charmingly written article on "Unchanging Fez," by Mr. Richard Curle, an interesting exposition of Marco Polo's travels, by Mr. J. A. Brendon, and a slight Red Sea sketch, "Silence Afloat," by Mr. S. Hetherington. Altogether it is a number quite equal to its predecessors; and with that, enough is said.

According to Reuter's Sofia correspondent, as the result of a daring robbery at the Ethnographical Museum in Sofia a number of valuable objects have been carried off, including gold coins and a gold statuette of Alexander the Great, which dates from the fourth century B.C. The total value of the stolen objects is estimated at nearly £100,000. Some of the museum attendants and about 30 other persons have been arrested.

A pamphlet from Khartoum sets out the need of a stone British Church at Port Sudan in place of the present wooden Church, which is very inadequate. Subscriptions may be sent to the Treasurer, Port Sudan Fund, care of National Bank of Egypt, Port Sudan, or to the Rev. F. H. Durnford, Clergy House, Khartoum.

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BALFOUR DECLARATION ANNIVERSARY.

A mass meeting to welcome back to England Sir Herbert Samuel, was held at Kingsway Hall on November 2, the eight anniversary of the Balfour Declaration. Mr. Philip Guedalla, President of the English Zionist Federation, presided, and other speakers included the Very Rev. the Chief Rabbi, Dr. J. Hertz, Dr. Chaim Weizmann, Mr. H. S. Q. Henriques, President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, Sir Robert Waley Cohen, and Mr. Nahum Sokolow.

In the course of his remarks Mr. Philip Guedalla said that Sir Herbert Samuel had left behind him in Palestine a record of almost unbroken peace and increasing prosperity. The Jews in this country meant to raise £25,000 as their contribution to Palestine during the coming year, as, unless another effort was made in this country, all the work of Sir Herbert in this movement would be wasted. Out of a total sum of over £1,900,000 so far raised, England's contribution had been only about £50,000.

The following message from the Rt. Hon. L. S. Amery, M.P., was read: "I am much interested to hear that a special meeting of welcome to Sir Herbert Samuel is being organised by the English Zionist Federation, and I take this opportunity of bearing testimony to the admirable work accomplished during his tenure of High Commissionership. Palestine has been fortunate to have as its first High Commissioner a man of Sir Herbert Samuel's high character, impartiality, and constructive statesmanship, to lay on sound lines the foundation of its future progress." A message of welcome was also sent from Mr. Lloyd George, who was prevented from being present at the meeting.

Sir Herbert Samuel, who was accompanied by Lady Samuel, said that the Balfour Declaration had received the assent in Great Britain of five successive British Governments, and was now permanently established as part of the public law of the world. In describing the wonderful progress which had been made in the different towns, he paid special tribute to Tel Aviv, which he said would probably become in no distant future one of the most important industrial towns of the Middle East. For over three years Palestine had had no disturbances in the country. It was not too much to say that Palestine had been the most peaceful country in the Middle East. This was due to three causes in particular. First, he placed the firm and prudent policy of the British Government itself. Eight years ago that day that policy was stated. It had been adhered to since. All parties in Palestine knew exactly where they stood. The second cause he attributed to the vast resources which had flowed into the country from outside. The Jews alone had spent in Palestine since the war £7,000,000. The third cause which had specially contributed had been the policy towards the Arab population of goodwill and helpfulness. He pointed out that if he were to look at the matter purely in the Jewish interest alone, he could have rendered the Jews no greater service than in promoting a policy of goodwill and helpfulness to the Arabs. Without trust a people could not stand. The people of Palestine were becoming year by year more self reliant. He emphasised the importance of the formation of a Jewish agency, which the Mandate Commission had in contemplation.

The following resolution, moved by Mr. Sokolow, seconded by the Chief Rabbi and supported by Mr. Henriques, was passed by the meeting: "This mass meeting cordially welcomes Sir Herbert Samuel on his return to England, and records its deep and grateful appreciation of his devoted services as High Commissioner in Palestine, and is determined to support by every effort the great work he has done for the upbuilding of the Jewish National Home."

It is stated by the Armenian (Lord Mayor's) Fund that the work of the League Commission for Armenian Settlement has only recently been begun by sending representatives to make inquiries in Armenia. If the report of the representatives be favourable, the Commission will take the necessary steps to raise a loan.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Ex-King Ferdinand of Bulgaria was received in audience by the Pope on November 3.

The Maharaja of Patiala, who represented India at the League Assembly, arrived at Bombay on November 3.

General and Madame Sarrail left Syria last Sunday, embarking in the s.s. Sphinx, on their return to France.

M. Henri de Jouvenel, the new High Commissioner of Syria, will leave Paris for Beyrout, after having seen General Sarrail, whose return he awaits.

According to the Athens newspapers, the well-known Bulgarian *komitaji*, Anton Ivanoff, has been arrested at Harmankeuy, near Salonika.

King Faisal, who left Paris on November 4 for Trieste on the Orient Express on his journey to Baghdad, has reached Egypt.

The Rev. P. B. Clayton (founder of Toc H), arrived in Calcutta on a ten days' visit in connexion with the Toc H movement, which already boasts a Lodge in Calcutta.

The chief dignitaries of the Orthodox Church met on November 3 at Bucharest in order to arrange for a conference of all branches of the Church at Mount Athos.

Among new flags notified for Turkey in the Admiralty Flag Book, is that of the Minister of Marine—a square red flag, having in the centre a foul anchor in white, and in each corner a white star.

Sir John Foster Stevens, of Lansdown Place West, Bath, a former Judge of the High Court of Calcutta, who died on September 19, aged 80. left estate of the gross value of £8,219, with net personalty £8,045.

Sir Horace Rumbold left Madrid on November 3 for Geneva on his way to take up his duties as president of the Commission appointed by the Council of the League to inquire into the Græco-Bulgarian frontier conflict.

General Pangalos, the Greek Prime Minister, has taken charge of the Ministry of Finance *vice* M. Kophinas, who resigned last Friday. M. Lucas Rouphos has been transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs *vice* Admiral Hajikyriakos, Minister of Marine, who has been temporarily in charge of it since the resignation of M. Rentis; and Professor Richardo Livanthinopoulos has become Minister of Education, in succession to M. Rouphos.

Sir Percy Loraine, British Minister in Teheran, has informed Riza Khan that the British Government provisionally recognises the *régime* which has been set up in place of the Kajar Dynasty, provided always that the new Persian Government recognises and complies with the obligations of its predecessor towards Great Britain.

Admiral Hajikyriakos, the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, last Thursday morning received simultaneously the British and French Minister in Athens and informed them, as he had already informed Sir Eric Drummond, the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, that Greece was desirous of securing a permanent Balkan Pact and was in agreement with Mr. Chamberlain's suggestion to the League for the negotiation of an agreement providing for compulsory arbitration among the Balkan States.

Reports of the burning of American Mission schools and churches in the region south of Damascus, where the Druse tribesmen have driven out the Armenian and Syrian Christians, were received in New York at the end of last week. The Near East Relief Committee reports add that the British authorities have closed Palestine to refugees from Syria, many of whom are now massed on the border. Preparations have been made to evacuate at short notice 10,000 children in orphanages in Syria under the American Commission for Relief in the Near East.

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Indian Affairs.

HATRED, MALICE, AND ALL UNCHARITABLENESS.

In a leading article that appeared in THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA about two months ago, it was regretfully noted that, among the many unpalatable facts to be found in the anti-British campaign carried on by extremist vernacular and Anglo-vernacular newspapers in India, the most unpalatable is their constant suggestion of bad faith against Englishmen and the British Government: and a recent note referred, also with regret, to their insistence that Great Britain's desire for the incorporation of Mosul in Iraq is solely due to her belief that oil is to be found there. The last mail brings a painful reminder of both these facts, in the shape of an article in which the *Bombay Chronicle* condemns the appeal of the Archbishop of Canterbury on behalf of the Assyrian Christians in the north of the Mosul vilayet, and the support thus given to the proposal that Britain's mandate in Iraq should be extended to 25 years, in the terms of the recommendation of the League of Nations' Commission.

The article is headed "Let us Prey": and declares that, though there is no mention of oil in the episcopal deliverance, what the Archbishop has really done is to recommend the acquisition of oil from the religious angle, and to recognise the appropriateness of the imperial formula "let us prey." The paper goes on to assert that, in the Mosul issue, the Conservative Government is "attempting a series of diplomatic jugglery to get oil on the cheap": and that "His Grace brings piety in line with the oil front and proclaims to the world the pro-English capitalism of the Almighty. To true Christians, the declaration must be a matter of utter shame. It is an attempt to infuse vulgar chauvinism with the animus of a crusade, and Mr. Amery's demands are given a sanctimonious hue by the Archbishop." That "the hallooballoo" about Christian deportations only started when the British had "lost their case before the League of Nations' Commission": and that the appearance of Archbishops on the scene marks the despair of the Cabinet of securing "the sanctions needed for the Mosul gamble." To protect Assyrian Christians by taking over their homesteads is poor missionary enterprise, although the Archbishop of Canterbury would "compel them to come in." There are in Iraq three Indian battalions, one white battalion, and eight air squadrons; the latter are good for destroying non-combatants; but, though Indian troops are, of course, available, yet "there is a limit to their cordial serviceableness and a real land expedition is unthinkable for Britain. The Dominions will not lift a finger, and Britain has a million and a quarter of unemployed people to feed, while the Amerys and the Bishops utter war-cries. Britain is trying to form "native" battalions, especially from the so-called Assyrian Christians. The process is in an imperfect stage, but 25 years may develop it into hitting efficiency. The Archbishop, whose heart bleeds for the Christians, is probably ignorant of these details of holy penetration." In his peroration, the writer says that, during the great War, British statesmen averred "there shall be no more Alsace-Lorraines to fester the world": and asks, "what is the Mosul wrangle of Britain but a repetition of the national crime that concerted the last war?"

It has, in these pages, been several times emphasised that the newspapers that write this sort of stuff are not obscure rags, but important organs that count their subscribers by thousands. It is worth reiterating that statement, even *ad nauseam*: for this is the pabulum upon which the rising generation of the Indian intelligentsia is being fed, to the exclusion of any other. And what is the remedy? There are those who would treat the matter lightly: who argue that political India is suffering from growing pains, that this sort of writing no more than reflects the attitude of the schoolboy who wins the applause of his comrades by making faces at his master behind his back, that the ebullition of youth will pass as the boy grows to maturity. There are those who cry for Government propagandist activity: oblivious of the fact that official *communiqués* meet with indifference or ridicule: that sober newspapers command no sale: that it is only the inflammatory orator who collects an audience, and that the moderate politician, unless he confines his address to a carefully selected audience, will infallibly be shouted down and insulted, perhaps even assaulted. There are those who point to the obvious fact that, if the politicians of to-day should really prove able to raise the whirlwind, they would infallibly be the first to be swept away by it: ignoring the constitutional conceit, ingrained in the average Oriental, that leads him to the facile belief that he will be equal to any emergency. All these attitudes are mistaken—the remedy must come from Indians themselves: from those political leaders who are, at present, passing through so acute a phase of insanity that they cannot even visualise the danger, not only to India but to themselves, that stares them in the face: the wholesale perversion of the rising generation, of the young men of to-day who will take their places to-morrow. Signs of the beginning of a return to sanity among the "leaders" are not wanting: is it too much to hope that, before it is too late, they will bestir themselves to destroy the rank and poisonous crop of journalistic weeds which is all that the Indian youth of to-day has to feed on? The harm that they do grows daily: before long, it may prove impossible to eradicate it. Let them set their faces against this deliberate campaign of malevolence: insist on the purging of the staff of the few newspapers that really count: and see that the apostles of hate, whom their own short-sighted policy—for it is they and their political followers who find the money—has raised from the gutter, return to it forthwith. Here is a great opportunity for Mr. Gandhi. As a politician he has abdicated; but his moral influence remains, still perhaps the greatest potential asset of India to-day. His preaching has always been of non-violence and love: let him set himself manfully to eradicate malevolence and hatred from Indian journalism, and he will achieve a greater work for the good of India—one, besides, the fruits of which he should himself live to see—that will far transcend any that could have resulted from his now discredited campaign of non-co-operation.

CURRENT TOPICS.

Swarajists' Dissensions.

A cable from Bombay represents Pandit Motilal Nehru, the Swarajist leader, as "vigorously repudiating the notion of co-operation with the Government." He is reported to have declared that, if there was no response from the Government to the Nationalists' terms laid down in their amendment to the Government resolution on the Reforms and passed by the Legislative Assembly (though afterwards rejected by the Council of State) the Swarajists would proceed on lines which would not be those of co-operation demanded by the Secretary of State and the Viceroy: and that, in anticipation of such a proceeding, the Swarajists "were organising to make formidable the expression of discontent with the present system." He added that the proposal for wholesale resignations by Nationalist members of the Assembly, who would stand for re-election on that issue, had not been abandoned, but was still under the consideration of those who had combined to form the Nationaist majority in favour of the amendment.

This announcement is presumably intended as a public declaration of the continued solidarity of the Swaraj Party, and to counteract the signs of dissension that have recently manifested themselves in it. There is no doubt that the Swarajists are becoming seriously alarmed at the tendency to revolt that is being increasingly shown by

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some of their most prominent members: a tendency which has not only not been checked by appeals or denunciation on the part of the leaders, but has proved impervious to attack, on the familiar lines of Indian journalistic controversy, by the extremist newspapers. Two prominent backsliders have recently incurred the wrath of the extremist politicians, and the full violence of extremist newspaper attack.

The Currency Commission.

One of these is Sir Purshottamdas Thakurdas, the representative in the Legislative Assembly of the Indian Merchants' Chamber of Bombay. His offence is that, having accepted a seat on the Indian Currency Commission, he now declines to resign it even after the extremists have discovered that the Commission is a "packed" one that has been "flung at their heads" by Sir Basil Blackett, and a "dodge played upon the Indian people in the interests of the British money-bags." A newspaper campaign was started in Bombay to prevail upon the Chamber to boycott the Commission and to call upon Sir Purshottamdas to resign his seat on it; to which end it was urged not to "barter away its great prestige for a mess of pottage to its representative." The organisers of the campaign evidently hoped to convert the Chamber, but were doubtful of the Chamber being able to convert Sir Purshottamdas; for they recognised that the latter might claim to have been appointed to the Commission in his personal and not in his representative capacity; but urged the Chamber to "disabuse him of this bumptious misconception"; and gave it as their opinion that the least he could do, if he refused to "sacrifice his chance of personal distinction," would be to resign his membership of the Assembly—and presumably to seek re-election—on this issue.

The President of the Chamber, however, refused to bow to the storm: and characterised the campaign as mischievous and pernicious. He expressed such confidence in the ability of Sir Purshottamdas to impress his views on the Commission, that he considered his resignation would amount to a dereliction of duty: and declared that a boycott of the Commission might give rise to the impression that the Indian commercial community had no case. This attitude caused so much annoyance to the organisers of the campaign, that they set about arranging for a requisition to be addressed to the Chamber for a public meeting of that body, to demand the boycott of the Commission and the resignation from it of the Chamber's representative in the Assembly, "as a protest against the transparent duplicity of Lord Reading's Finance Minister's achievement, and against the insult to the Assembly and to the Chamber implied in it." This arrangement so far succeeded that fifteen members of the Chamber were induced to sign the requisition: a fact which received wide and jubilant advertisement in the newspaper which had made the campaign its own. It was explained that the unsatisfactory constitution of the Commission was due to pressure from England: and that the Government of India, in yielding to this pressure, had added insult to injury. Had Government appointed an Indian chairman and conceded an Indian majority, even of the "johukmi bandas" (subservient slaves) who were always ready to their hand "in the backwaters of unemployed and disgruntled Liberalism," their action might have been "misunderstood and misinterpreted in Britain as endangering the sacrosanct interests of the British money-bags in India. We are unable to range ourselves among the most ardent admirers of Sir Basil Blackett and Lord Reading, but even we must acknowledge their unswerving loyalty to their true master—British moneyed interests." In these circumstances, the case for the Chamber's acceptance of the requisitionists' demands was irresistible: not merely on the general point of boycott of the Commission, but also on the personal note of Sir Purshottamdas' presence on it." It was, perhaps, unlikely that the latter would "bow to the popular demand of his constituency"; but, if he failed to adopt such a course, he would be deliberately casting away the self-respect of himself, the Chamber, the Assembly and "the Country." No one had ever denied that he was clever—"if a trifle too emphatic and slightly too conscious of his exalted position"; but, whatever his own and his admirers' opinion of his achievements and capacities, both he and they must remember that the Englishmen on the Commission, "who were presumably jockeyed into the programme to watch and safeguard British interests," are by no means the "boobies" that they are implied to be by those who suggest that they are likely to be brought over to the Indian view by Sir Purshottamdas' persuasiveness. "We shall not hint at the contrary danger, though it is at least as possible as the one that Sir Purshottamdas Thakurdas' supporters have been advertising to an unsophisticated world."

But, in spite of these brave and confident words, the campaign ended in failure. Of the fifteen signatories to the requisition, eight either repudiated or withdrew their signatures: and as, according to the rules of the Chamber, a requisition for a public meeting must bear ten signatures, this one, when presented with only seven, was ignored by the President, who merely announced its receipt, and the Chamber "passed on to the next business."

A Swarajist Executive Councillor.

The other backslider is Mr. Tambe, a Swarajist member of the Legislative Council of the Central Provinces, of which he was elected President by the votes of his brother Swarajists. He has now accepted appointment as an Executive Councillor in the Central Provinces Government: a "lapse" at which the rest of the Swaraj Party, and the newspapers that support their views, are furious.

One prominent extremist newspaper says that, among the blessings that the Reforms have brought in their train are "extravagance, nepotism, an unhallowed competition for the loaves and fishes, unrivalled opportunities for the picking up of unconsidered trifles. Not the least of them is the setting up of efficient machinery for the systematic corruption of our public men." Another suggests that Mr. Tambe will no doubt console himself with the theory that, after his election as Speaker of the Council, he had become a non-party man and was free to bargain for his individual advantage. But, as a member of the Swaraj Party, he "stole his way into the Council" by the declaration that he was opposed to the acceptance of office and was under the discipline of his party. He has therefore "violated the obligations of honour" and his acceptance of office will be held by Indians to be "a treacherous act of self-will, a renegade action, a most flagrant example of self-aggrandisement, an incident of monstrous selfishness." Such a proceeding is only to be expected from "sordid loyalists"; but, in Mr. Tambe's case, it is a "unique instance of a politician repudiating office in advance and, at the most convenient season, taking up the emoluments of bureaucratic favour. He is apparently eager to enjoy five years of affluent jobation, against his own pledge and the behests of his party. Where men make for themselves a ladder of outraged principles, they are bound to appear as the low minions of the bureaucracy." The paper ends by saying that, if his personal interests alone were involved, it would advise Mr. Tambe to "hang on to the job like a hero, and enjoy a fat salary for the next five years"; but, as things are, it appeals to his sense of honour and patriotism to reconsider his decision.

One remembers once being present in a Court of Law where a man, accused of a serious crime, announced his intention of conducting his own defence. After expressing an unflattering opinion of the judge and the prosecuting counsel, he sought to create a good impression on the jury by addressing them as "a set of ——old —— mongers." The above appeal seems to be founded on a similar belief in the value of an honest expression of opinion. and it will not, perhaps, be surprising if Mr. Tambe declines to respond to it: and registers—as did the jury in question—an adverse verdict. Apart from this rather touching faith in the efficacy of personal abuse as an appeal to its object's better feelings, there is another point that strikes the detached observer as curious. One of the most insistent demands of the extremists is for the appointment of Indians to positions of responsibility. Whenever such an appointment is made, it is the signal for violent denunciation, not only of the authority who makes it, but of the individual who accepts it.

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CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, October 22.

The Services and Lord Reading.

On the occasion of the departure of the Viceroy from Simla, prior to the expiry of his term of office, it is customary for him to be the guest of the United Services Club at a banquet given in his honour; this phase of the farewells took place this week. Whether the banquet is merely a matter of form or an expression of genuine appreciation depends on the impression the Viceroy has created in his official capacity, but there can be no doubt that the tributes paid to Lord Reading by General Sir Edwin Atkinson, who occupied the chair on this occasion, voiced the feelings of men who, in the words of His Excellency, were "a company of experts": and the sentiments are endorsed by the law-abiding people of India.

In his acceptance of the Viceroyalty, Lord Reading undertook a task which gave evidence of the strength which has characterised his every action as a representative of the Crown. He came at a time of which Sir Edwin well asked "Could anyone say politically in 1921 where to find firm ground in India?" To-day there are ample signs of a change of heart, to say nothing of a more placid outlook. India is awakening to her responsibilities and everything points to a better understanding between East and West, bringing into view the attainment of India's goal of self-government. To none other than the Viceroy can the improvement be attributed. With consummate skill, he has done the right thing at the right time. Silence, which has not always met with approval, has proved itself, in his case, to be an exercise of strength; his speeches have shown an appreciation of the other man's position and their keynote has been reasonableness reasonably expressed: and, lastly, when the need for action has arisen, it has been taken with strengtn tempered with restraint, a combination of wisdom and courage which it would be difficult to beat in the annals of India's Viceroys. Sir Edwin Atkinson, speaking of Lord Reading's qualities, said, "They have developed and perfected in the man the attributes which have made him in a marked degree a statesman, an administrator, a persuasive and eloquent platform speaker, a forensic debater with few rivals in his generation and a parliamentary figure of great charm and influence." In concluding his remarks, the Chairman made a reference to the indisposition of Lady Reading, who, it is reported, will undergo an operation in Calcutta this cold weather. Replying, the Viceroy was touched at the sympathy expressed and paid a tribute to the help he had received from this brave lady, who, in spite of frail health, had given him invaluable assistance in the Viceroyalty. Continuing, His Excellency dealt with the Civil and Military Services in eulogistic terms, his references to the District Officers being particularly gratifying. These men, he said, live scattered throughout India, often in isolation and discomfort, "bearing responsibilities, acquitting themselves not only honourably, but in such a manner as to be of valuable assistance to the Government of India."

Differences.

The internal affairs of the Swaraj Party are not altogether as happy as they might be. Centring round the acceptance of office under the Crown by Mr. Tambe, the denunciation of the Swaraj leaders does not appear to have met with the success they would have wished. While *Forward* lends its full weight of invective in support of the arguments of Motilal Nehru, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* asks in what way the actions of Mr. Tambe and Mr. Patel, the President of the Legislative Assembly, differ. With the exception that the latter accepted office with the knowledge of the party, his conduct appears to the paper to be the more reprehensible. In any case, the position is a curious one; those who were loudest in clamouring for the Indianisation of Government are now loudest in their condemnation of the men who have accepted office. Mr. Patel has defined his position; he states that the President of the Legislative Assembly is above the party conflicts which rage on the floor of the House, and that he should regard himself as neither an official nor as an out-and-out non-official. In other words, in following this policy, he is co-operating in the working of the Reforms. But he adds that it is only with a view to serve his country that he accepted the office: and that the moment he found that its retention would harm, instead of advance, the cause they all had at heart, he would vacate the chair. It is not hard to see which way the wind blows.

The Modus Operandi of Indian Elections.

Some of the tactics employed in election campaigns by the Swarajists have come to light, and for sheer ingenuity rival that of Kipling's Indian policeman, who levied toll from Indian passers-by on the strength of a label from a lemonade bottle stuck on the parapet of a bridge. Evidence of the misleading of the ignorant masses is given in the dispatches of the Provincial Governments which go with the Muddiman Committee's Report. Prior to an election, the electors are regaled with denunciations of Government, suitably coloured to give the greatest local effect. Space does not admit of detailing some of the wild reports which are circulated, although they would make interesting reading. On going to the poll even the colour of the ballot boxes is exploited to the full by the Swarajists. For instance, should the colour of their opponent's box be white, electors are warned that to touch it will infect the unwary with white leprosy; but, should the Swarajist candidate's box be green, what more natural than it should represent the colour of fruitful fields, a promise of rich harvests, and therefore be worthy their best attention? It is difficult for those who have not been in India to realise the simplicity of the villagers and even of a large proportion of the town dwellers. The latter are certainly more sophisticated, but readily succumb to the wiles of the election orator denouncing Government, for he appears in the guise of a patriot and a hero. The dispatches urge the necessity for a well-organised Publicity Department to combat these abuses of the franchise. The Reforms are in progress, the vote is a *fait accompli*, but if its use is not understood it is impossible to obtain a representative Government by its means. "The "Voice of India" so much vaunted by the Swarajists is exploded; it merely means the triumph of the party who will stoop to the lowest forms of electioneering tricks.

Markets.

The jute market opened very firm after the holidays: since then prices have been mounting and at the close have reached an abnormal level. The crop is now almost at an end and, with the obvious shortness, it is more than probable that even higher rates may be expected. Gunnies, after being somewhat dull, improved later, chiefly on account of a loss due to a fire on an outward-bound steamer. The piece-goods market has been featureless. The more healthy outlook for the tea market expressed lately shows further signs of maturing: at the sales here the demand was decidedly strong, in spite of the fact that the London Market reported the position there as only steady to firm.

With a short week also on the Stock Exchange, the turnover has been small, the chief interest centring round jute and rubber shares. After a steady decline, consequent upon the rise in the raw commodity, jute shares have shown a better tendency on the improvement in Hessians, the more speculative counters being most affected. Rubbers still continue to move in an upward direction; but, with sellers difficult to find, business has been limited in its extent. Coals and teas have attracted slightly more attention, but in other departments little or no interest has been apparent.

Money has been in good demand throughout the week. with Exchange steady.

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THE DEHRA DUN MILITARY COLLEGE.

(By Our Simla Correspondent).

Simla, October 22.

In India education of a sort can be had for a very small price: and the expenditure, which an Indian parent would ordinarily consider sufficient to enable his son to secure a university degree, would hardly carry an English boy through two terms at one of the less expensive public schools. The meaning of a public school education, as it is understood in England, is realised by comparatively few Indians: and, where attempts have in the past been made by private or semi-private enterprise to start institutions run as nearly as possible on public school lines, the experiments have been short-lived, chiefly because sufficient people could not be found who were willing to pay the full cost of such an education; even though, instead of filling up boys with a mass of undigested facts, it taught them to think for themselves and to take an intelligent interest in everything that was going on around them, and moulded their characters so that, when they grew up, they were able to hold their own in the world. In no walk of life perhaps are the benefits which an English public school training confers so valuable as in the Army; yet an Indian boy who, before he can obtain his commission, has to pass through Sandhurst side by side with British cadets who have enjoyed these benefits, had until recently no chance of obtaining in his own country an early education which really approximated to that of a public school.

The result was that only too frequently the Indian cadet at Sandhurst was found wanting in a greater or less degree by comparison with British standards, and particularly in those essential qualities of a soldier, strength of character and power of leadership. That in this respect there existed a defect in the normal system of Indian education was brought forcibly to the notice of the military authorities by the regrettable number of failures among the earlier batches of Indian lads sent to Sandhurst: and it was accordingly decided that an attempt must be made to remedy this state of affairs by giving Indian boys, who desired to adopt a military career, an opportunity of obtaining an education which would be as nearly as possible similar to that which British cadets were able to enjoy. The Indian boy is ordinarily handicapped by being brought up in his home in far from healthy environment, which makes it difficult for him to develop either in physique or character; while at school he is generally taught on narrow and unintelligent lines which give him little chance of developing his mind, his imagination, or his powers of observation. If then he was to be given the best chance of passing the entrance examination for Sandhurst and of competing both there and in after life with his British comrades, it was essential to catch him young, before the influences of his home had made too deep an impression on him: and to give him an education on special lines away from his home until such times as he was ready to sit for the entrance examination.

To fulfil these requirements there came into being in 1923 the Prince of Wales' Royal Indian Military College at Dehra Dun, where Indian boys are trained from about the age of twelve, with a view to their qualifying for Sandhurst at the end of the course. The system in force at the College is modelled, as far as Indian conditions permit, on that of an English public school: so that the boys, in addition to getting a sound education, develop in character and breadth of outlook in a manner rarely found in other Indian educational establishments. The College has now been in existence only two and a half years, and none of the boys who have passed out of it has done more than a fraction of what is intended to be the full length of course there; yet, in spite of this, the results already achieved have been sufficiently good to satisfy even the most critical. For the cadets who have entered for the Sandhurst examination have, despite their short training there, shown themselves definitely superior to the average boy trained at an ordinary Indian school or college: and, in the last few examinations, the great majority of the selected candidates have come from the Dehra Dun College. Moreover, the type of education given there has attracted a considerable amount of attention even among Indian gentlemen who are not specially anxious for their sons to enter the Army: and one hears of some who would gladly send their sons there for the benefit of the education given, regardless of whether in the end they qualify for Sandhurst. The College is at present a small one, catering only for seventy boys; or, in other words, turning out only ten boys a year after the full course of training. It is now announced, however, that it has been decided to increase the numbers to one hundred and twenty: and, to judge by the popularity the College has already won, it should not be a difficult matter to fill it, even were it expanded to several times that size. It must not be forgotten, however, that the fees charged to parents who, at present, send their boys there are far from representing the full cost of the education given: and that, in the case of each boy trained, the State pays somewhere in the region of half the cost. This is, of course, an advantage which the British parent who gives his son a public school education before he enters Sandhurst does not enjoy; but, until a larger number of Indian parents come to realise that to spend a considerable sum of money in order to secure their children a really good education is merely to make a profitable investment, it will probably be impossible to obtain for the Army sufficient Indian boys of suitable training and character by any other system.

A CLEARING IN THE JUNGLE.

BY JANUS.

The jungle, be is understood, is the rank growth of undigested, and indigestible, Committee-reports which has sprung up recently in India, fostered, as I suspect, by the rise in the political temperature acting on the natural fertility of the soil. In truth, many of these latter-day reports make rather sorry reading, produced, as they have been, by committees of questionable competence, inspired largely by prejudices which may fairly be described as puerile, and dominated by the fear of what is locally called public opinion, but which Burke would have stigmatised as the croaking of a few frogs. The Report of the External Capital Committee stands out pleasantly as a well-tilled clearing in this jungle, and I must confess that surprise mingled with my pleasure as I read it, for, to tell the truth, its antecedents were rather dubious. Its subject-matter is what is fashionably called exploitation, and the amount of prejudice adhering to that word in India is far beyond my powers of calculation. The Committee, again, was of the hybrid variety, the majority of members being elected by legislators too ignorant of finance to know who is competent and who is not: and few of us would have been surprised if the result had been a fiasco, whether it took the shape of a few meaningless "formulæ" or of a jumble of contradictory minutes. As a matter of fact, the slim pamphlet of twenty odd pages presents a creditable summary of first principles and elementary truths, stated clearly and concisely, with scarcely a trace of prejudice, and not even a hint of the shock which will be caused to active politicians. The traces of prejudice are to be found only in the notes contributed by two of the members. One of these has made the elementary blunder of adverting to a topic which was not discussed by the Committee, and for this he is properly trounced by Sir Basil Blackett: the other note is by Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, and the judicious reader will of course ignore it, remembering that, when the Pandit was made, finance and economics were accidentally left out.

The essence of the report itself can be stated in a very few words. Happy is the country which can finance itself and still spare money to lend to others; but, if a country can't, or won't, finance itself, then external capital is a boon, not a bogey. If you hedge its entry round with restrictions and disqualifications, the only result will be that you get less, and pay more for what you get: and

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the one case in which the imposition of special conditions can be justified is when a body of foreign capitalists seek a monopoly or privilege. That is the whole story, and a critic might be content to say Amen, and pass to some other topic; but there are a few suggestions in the Report which, I think, need a little further development. There is, for instance, the subject of "exploitation," on which so much poisonous nonsense is still being taught to young Indians by professors obsessed with politics. I know what is taught, because I occasionally examine Indian students, and my task is to some extent lightened by the *naïveté* with which they reproduce their teachers' eccentricities. It has long been the fashion to point to the Calcutta jute industry as the stock case of exploitation, with all the profits going to foreigners: and to contrast it with the Bombay cotton mills, where the profits, when there are any, stay in the country. Probably the professors believe this in an otiose sort of way, and they will be surprised to read the Committee's incidental observation that "it is well known that a majority of the shares in Indian jute mill companies are held by Indians," so that most of the profits stay at home. I rather wish, by the way, that the Committee had developed this statement a little further; the fact has, of course, long been notorious in business circles, but it has not yet penetrated into all the University class-rooms, and they might have spared a few lines to help it on its arduous way thither. The truth is, the professors mix up ownership with management. Bombay mills are managed by Indians, and the management is often very bad indeed. Calcutta mills are managed mainly by Scotsmen: and, if the Indian shareholders like that plan, they are quite right to stick to it.

Another subject on which I should have liked a little more from the Committee is that of "pioneering." The Report rightly stresses the gain to India from the foreign capital which has been employed, and often lost, in overcoming initial difficulties, and clearing a road for Indian capital to tread; but I should have welcomed some recognition of the fact that, in the pioneering stage, the Man counts for more than the money, and that much of India's industrial progress has been due to individuals, not great capitalists themselves, but men who have been sent to India to employ the capital contributed by others. The pioneering stage has not yet passed: there is still a vast amount of initial work to be done: and Indians have spent quite a lot of money lately in buying the knowedge that it is not work for amateurs. "Indianisation" is a popular god in the courts of legislatures and universities, but the market-place knows that the idol is not omnipotent, and one of the greatest advantages attendant on the employment of foreign capital is that it brings with it from abroad the men who can clear the road.

After all, however, home capital is best: and the Report affirms once again the well-known fact that "there is sufficient potential capital in India to meet the larger part of India's industrial requirements." Again, it shows that some of this potential capital is coming out, for the last ten years have seen the advent of 387 crores of rupees, say £300 millions, or nearly a pound per head of the population, in the form of new money invested in Government loans and joint-stock companies. That is a really satisfactory item; but, alongside of it, the Committee very properly put the damning fact that, in the same period, 482 crores were hoarded or spent on jewellery; added to which there are the accumulations of twenty centuries or so lying idle. How to set more of that potential capital to work is a question which the Committee found itself unable to tackle, but it suggested, first, a "co-ordinated survey," and then a set of "expert committees." Further inquiry is doubtless wanted on many points of detail; but, in a case like this, where the broad facts are already clearly on the record, I think that a popular lead is of far more immediate importance: and that the Government of India might set to work at once to hammer the broad facts into the heads of, at any rate, the literate classes. I have heard it whispered that, somewhere in Delhi, there is a Publicity Department, and that it can even, on occasion, draw parti-coloured diagrams: why not unchain the monster, put the diagrammatists on overtime, and give an expert cartoonist to help? Having tried them myself, I know how cartoons tell in India, and there is no lack of arresting subjects. India giving her bread for stones; India self-crucified on a cross of gold; a little boy murdered for his bracelets, with the silversmith, a sinister figure, in the background; India sleeping while vampires suck her life-blood; I can see these and many others, and I believe they would make a real impression on Indians, if they were properly done, and if the Government had the nerve for an intensive campaign. I fear, however, that this last condition is not likely to be fulfilled; but the fact remains that the most urgent matter just now is to convince India that the national poverty is the inevitable result of national vice, inveterate but not incurable. Banks, and stock-exchanges, and post-offices, and so on, can do much to help the sufferer along the road to recovery; but the will to recover is the thing that counts for most: and, until that will develops, the ancillary machinery is a minor matter.

BENGAL-NAGPUR RAILWAY EXTENSIONS.

The Bengal-Nagpur Railway is now engaged in opening up a large tract of country in the south of the Central Provinces and of Bihar and Orissa and the north of Madras which is, at present, singularly ill served in the matter of railways. The Bengal-Nagpur Railways joins on with the Great Indian Peninsula Railway at Nagpur, and with the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway at Waltair. Near the former place, there are good connections, served by both the railways that meet there, with the Wardha Valley, the most prosperous part of the Central Provinces, which contains a large coal field, about 285 miles in extent and estimated to contain 14 million tons of coal. There used to be a Government colliery at Warora, but this was closed nearly twenty years ago, as the seam had been worked out, and a new pit has since been opened at Ballalpur. At Chanda, where the G.I.P. line from Wardha meets the B.N. line from Nagpur, limestone is obtained and copper exists: and close by is the Lohara hill, 700 yards long, 200 yards broad and 120 feet high, which entirely consists of iron ore. The forests in the Chanda district contain excellent teak: and cotton is extensively grown throughout the whole of the Wardha Valley. A Government brick and tile factory also exists at Warora.

Along the main line eastward from Nagpur, manganese is found at Bhandara and there are extensive deposits between Tumsar and Balaghat. These latter were, until recently, served by a system of narrow-gauge steam tramways, the break of gauge necessitating reloading before the manganese could be put on the main line; but this drawback has now been removed, by the conversion of the whole of the system to broad gauge, to the great advantage of the industry. Copper and bauxite also exist at Balaghat. Further east, there are extensive forests of sal perhaps, next to teak, the most valuable Indian timber in and between Nandgaon and Bastar States: and bamboo covers the hillsides over large areas. At Raipur there is iron and plumbago: at and to the north of Raipur there is a coal field extending to about a thousand square miles, some of the seams in which are of surprising thickness one being of ninety feet and another of no less than 168 feet; but the field as a whole, though it includes much good coal, is in many places largely made up of carbonaceous shale, and the seams sometimes die out within extraordinarily short distances. At Rampur, close to where the existing railway takes off to Sambalpur, there is a good seam of steam coal: and iron exists at Sambalpur, where sal timber and bamboo are abundant, and rice is extensively grown.

It will be seen from the map that the large tract of country, between the main Bengal-Nagpur line through the Central Provinces and the line following the coast through the Madras Presidency, is almost entirely devoid of railway communication: there is also a wide gap on the west, between the railways in the Wardha Valley and the Nizam's State Railway in Hyderabad. Perhaps, in

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time to come, the latter gap may be bridged by establishing railway connection from Secunderabad with Chanda and Raipur; but the Bengal-Nagpur railway is now actively at work in bridging the former. The lines now being built are, first and most important, the extension of the existing railway from Vizianagram to Parvatipuram, to connect with the main line at Raipur, with a branch to Gunupur: second, and next in importance, connection of the existing rail head at Sambalpur with Khurda, on the coast line—the junction for the popular seaside resort and place of pilgrimage, Puri—through Sonpur in the Orissa Feudatory States. Besides these two important through connections, a line is being built from Berhampur, on the coast railway, to Russellkonda and Surada, and another to connect Talcher, in the Orissa States, with the coast.

The main object of the connection between Vizianagram and Raipur is to provide a fresh outlet for the products of the Central Provinces to the sea: which will be found in the new port of Vizagapatam, work on which is being rapidly pushed on. The most important product of the Provinces is raw cotton: and this, which is mostly produced in the Wardha Valley, goes almost entirely to Bombay, as it will doubtless continue to do; but the other staple products of the newly opened tracts, such as minerals, timber and rice, are likely to find Vizagapatam a more convenient port. The new line to Raipur will pass close to the Jeypore Hills, which produce both teak and sal, and to the plumbago deposits of Kalahandi: while the development of the port of Vizagapatam will tap the district of that name, the most populous in the whole of the Madras Presidency, where there is already an important manganese industry worked by a company with its headquarters at Vizianagram, and a large production of rice and other food grains. The line from Berhampur to Russellkonda and Surada will tap the Goomsur Forest, 570 square miles in extent, in which grows the best sal timber in the Presidency, besides bamboo in inexhaustible quantities, which latter is likely to be of special importance in the paper-making industry of the near future. The lines through Sonpur to Sambalpur, and to Talcher, will open up the Orissa Feudatory States, which produce rice and cotton, while their forests, which were at one time among the best timber producing tracts in India, though their value was largely destroyed by ruthless exploitation, are recovering their importance owing to the introduction of scientific control. There is coal, though not of particularly good quality, at Talcher: and the two separated tracts of country that form the British district of Angul produce rice, some coal and iron, and fine sal forests as well as a certain amount of teak.

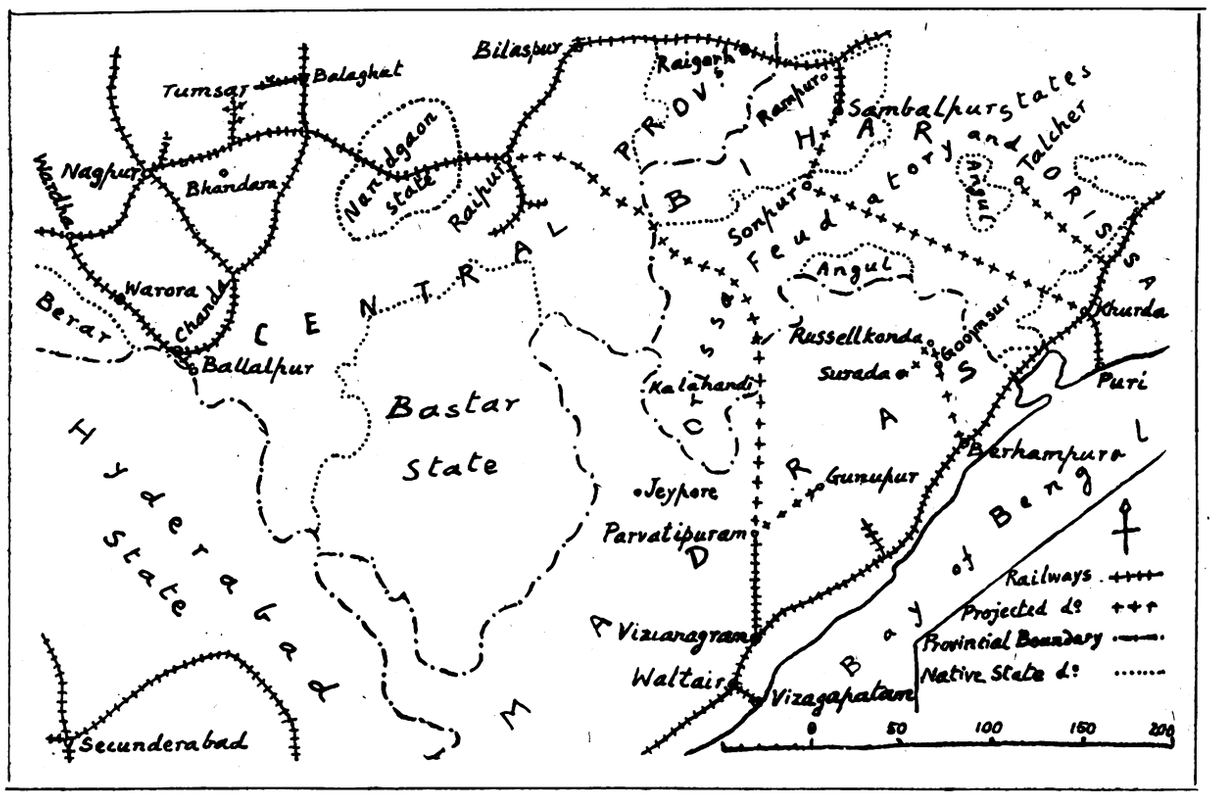
Finally, and perhaps most important of all, the extension of railway communication will be an additional safeguard against famine; the occurrence of which, in India, can be said never to be due to any scarcity of food, but to difficulty in carrying it from regions of plenty to the people in the afflicted areas. It was partly due to scanty communications that the Central Provinces suffered so severely in the great famines of 1897, 1899 and 1900; when, at the time of their greatest intensity, 2½ million people were on relief, the mortality rate rose to 57 per thousand, and the population, which, at the census of 1891, had been nearly thirteen millions, had declined to less than twelve millions at that of 1901.

THE INDIAN MAIL.

Sir Frederick Whyte's Report.

A letter to the *Times of India* from its Simla correspondent explains the actual facts about the invitation to Sir Frederick Whyte "to investigate and report to the Government of India on the relations between the Central and Local Governments in other parts of the world, with special reference to the relations that obtain between the Central and Provincial Governments in India." The original report appeared to imply that Sir Frederick's investigation was going to be undertaken on the spot—in the various countries through which his homeward itinerary was known to be mapped out: and, in our issue of September 17, we contradicted the report. In our issue of October 8, however, we quoted the exact words used by Sir Alexander Muddiman in announcing the fact of the invitation and its acceptance: and, as these appeared to bear the meaning implied in the original report, we withdrew our contradiction. It now appears that the implication that we read into the report did not, in fact, exist: and that our contradiction, in so far as it dealt with that implication, was justified.

Sir Frederick Whyte has been placed on special duty, in the Home Department of the Government of India, in order to compile a report on the relations between the Central and Local Governments of countries other than India: not from personal observations in the course of his homeward journey, but from a perusal of books of reference to be found in the library of the Indian Secretariat; a summary, in fact, of the scissors-and-paste variety, col-



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lected from existing authorities. The *Times of India* contradicts the report that, as it says, "some Indian newspapers have been kind enough to suggest," that the Government of India were providing Sir Frederick with a pleasant holiday, after his strenuous work as President of the Assembly, at their expense. It adds that the suggestion has always been made approvingly, since there has been no condemnation of the supposed plan. This is certainly the fact: even the *Bombay Chronicle*, which seldom finds anything pleasant to say about any British official, has been specially polite to Sir Frederick Whyte; though its approval seems to have been due less to his work than to his personal appearance—in its valedictory remarks it describes him as "the handsomest Englishman in India": and this to a Scot! But it seems hardly fair to say that the suggestion came from the Indian newspapers: any impartial listener to Sir Alexander Muddiman's words would—unless he had received prior intimation of what they were intended to convey—inevitably have arrived at the same conclusion.

As regards the report itself, the *Times of India* correspondent says that the duty of the compiler is confined to laying bare the facts, and that he has not been asked to make recommendations; but the form that it is likely to take will not so much be a brief official report as "a student's appreciative handbook": in which the correspondent foresees that the compiler is unlikely to find himself able to refrain from including an "exposition of the circumstances now prevailing in India and of the bearing of the practice in other countries upon them." The paper adds that the report is obviously intended for publication: and that it may be expected to appear about the middle of December. It appears, therefore, that the distinguished author will have an opportunity, before he leaves India, of adding yet another to the many-sided activities that his duties as President of the Assembly have left him leisure to indulge in: and will make his final bow in the capacity of what Mr. Squeers called "a instructor of youth."

India and Egypt.

A leading Anglo-vernacular newspaper of Bombay draws a trenchant parallel between British methods in India and Egypt: taking as its text the farewell speech made in England, before his departure to take up the office of High Commissioner, by Sir George Lloyd: "whose inglorious record in Bombay, whether in the matter of administrative high-handedness, development extravagance, or repression of national activities, should alone have made him unfit to hold high office in any part of the Empire."

The head and front of Sir George Lloyd's offence is that he declared his belief that the due reconciliation of the vital interests of England in Egypt with national and legitimate aspirations of wider self-government was possible only by making Egypt feel that England was her best friend. It is reserved for the Indian journalist to detect the true inwardness of this apparently friendly and encouraging utterance: and to explain that "it is hard to compress enormous self-complacence, racial arrogance and jingo fallacies in one sentence more effectively."

When one comes to analyse this verdict, it becomes evident that the existence of English interests in Egypt is a jingo fallacy: that a reference to Egyptian aspiration to wider self-government is racial arrogance: and that the suggestion of England being Egypt's best friend is enormous self-complacence. And the formula, when applied to India, is complete: Great Britain has no interests in India, no right to any say in her political development, no claim even to friendship. Among the signs of returning sanity in political India, perhaps not the least is the advancement of such views. It is only a losing cause whose protagonists find it necessary to shriek so loudly.

INDIAN EXCHANGE.

London, November 9.

We hasten to correct an error which crept into our report of last week, when we alluded to some inter-bank T.T. for delivery this month at 1s. 6 11-16d. This was palpably a mistake for 11-64ths.

Quietness has prevailed during the past week and rupee exchange in India shows an easier tendency, with quotations in Calcutta and Bombay at 1s. 6 5-32d. T.T. A certain amount of business was done at the rate for delivery this month, coupled with two or three months ahead.

These rates held until Saturday, when a break took place in Calcutta to 1s. 6⅛d. T.T., with better unobtainable for the day, and the Japanese Banks buyers for late November and December 1s. 6 5-32d. The quotation for three months' credits in both places has come down 1-32nd, and merchants have had no difficulty in placing their three months' bills at 1s. 6 13-32d. for delivery within one month.

Forward T.T. rates have also shown a sagging tendency, and latest cabled reports quote T.T. for delivery between now and the end of February 1s. 6 5-32d.; March, 1s. 6⅛d.; April-May, 1s. 6 3-32d., at which, however, there is no inquiry except to a trifling extent at 1-32nd higher.

Last week's return of the Imperial Bank of India shows a slightly increased money demand for trade purposes, and an expansion in the note circulation of 1 crore of rupees, against the deposit of securities in London for an equivalent amount. It may be noted that the note circulation is 11 crores higher than it was at this time last year.

One feature of the Indian markets which we commented upon last week was the weakening effect caused by Japanese Banks buying near T.T., and a continuance of this policy during the past week has been mainly responsible for the present temporary ease.

In the London market there is little change to report. Remitters to India have been able to pick up a little T.T. for cash at 1s. 6 3-16d., although 1s. 6 7-32d. was quoted for delivery within a month, until Saturday, when 1s. 6 3-16d. was general, but rates are firmer to-day and there is very little T.T. available under 1s. 6 7-32d.

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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

170, *Strand, London, W.C.2,*
Tuesday Morning,

Loan Embargo Ended.

The decision of the Government to remove the embargo on foreign loan issues has been received with general satisfaction. The embargo had long outlived its utility, and was now only acting as a handicap on enterprise, and it was urgently necessary that it should be ended as soon as financial conditions made it possible. There is no doubt whatever that the existence of the embargo has prejudicially affected trade, and that a free loan market will give further assistance to the improvement in trade of which there are now very evident signs. It is not in the least likely, however, that there will be an immediate flood of loans. The conditions are against any such development. Money at the moment is dear, and that fact of itself is quite enough to check loans. It is dear because there is not enough of it, and what there is is already employed, so that it was rather surperfluous for the Chancellor to say that he hoped the City would use its freedom wisely and soberly.

Turkish Finances.

Whatever can be said against Turkish methods since the end of the War, due credit must be given to the Angora authorities for the efforts they are making to put the finances of the country on a sound basis by making the revenue balance the expenditure. A number of new financial measures are now under consideration. One provides for an income tax ranging from 5 per cent. to 16 per cent. on salaries and business profits. A poll tax is also proposed, and a tax on all domestic animals, while further proposals are for the creation of oil and sugar monopolies and a tax of 2 per cent. on the sales of shops, offices, factories, quarries, and mines. A series of Bills incorporating these proposals is being submitted to the Assembly, and it is to be assumed that the majority of the measures, if not all of them, will be carried into effect. They may achieve the desired end with regard to the Budget, but there is no doubt that they will greatly increase the cost of living and make more difficult the revival of business centres such as Constantinople.

The Cotton Position.

The probability that cotton will be plentiful for the next year becomes more and more certain each week. The latest American Bureau Report is most encouraging, and it now seems probable that a yield of almost 16,000,000 bales is to be looked for from that quarter. With other crops also extremely satisfactory the outlook is very bright for Lancashire, for good crops spell cheap cotton, and that in turn means increased trade. It is a refreshing change to find the quotations for American and Egyptian so low as they are at present, though even now Egyptian at 21.90 is at too high a premium over American. The Egyptian Government, it is interesting to note, has at last entered the market, though its purchases have been on a very small scale, and have been without effect in arresting the decline. The fact is that developments have reached a point at which intervention of this kind can avail little, and while it appears to be the intention to restrict the acreage under cotton in Egypt for the coming season it has to be borne in mind that the position is now fundamentally different from what it was a year or so ago. There are other Egypts now in the offing as far as the production of cotton is concerned, and the probable effect of the reduction of the yield of cotton in Egypt will be to give an enhanced opportunity for the cotton fields of the Empire. That is, however, beside the point for the moment, and the important factor at the present juncture is that Lancashire is now in a position to obtain the cotton she requires at a reasonable price, and as this has been a year of good harvests the purchasing power of the Near East and other markets will be greater, and it is reasonable therefore to anticipate a great expansion of trade in cotton goods.

Trade Restrictions.

In his address to the Council of the International Chamber of Commerce last week, Mr. Walter Leaf, chairman of the Westminster Bank, spoke strongly, but not a whit too much so in regard to trade restrictions. As my readers are well aware the innumerable regulations and prohibitions have been one of the greatest obstacles to the revival of trade conditions in South-East Europe, and while the position is better than it was it would be futile to deny that it still leaves a great deal to be desired. There is still a tendency to impose more restrictions, and this is a factor which is in evidence in every country, whether it be in the form of new taxes such as those on so-called luxuries, the effect of which must be to restrict trade to some extent, or other measures. "We have passed beyond the question of mere tariffs," said Mr. Leaf, "and in various cases we have found that recourse has been had to actual prohibition of imports. Each country—and I regret to think that even Great Britain must now be included—has set itself to exclude trade with its neighbour, to a greater or less extent; the policy has had a great success, with one considerable drawback, that each country in hurting its neighbours has, of course, hurt itself still more."

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Roumanian Debt Settlement.

I am sure that I shall not be misrepresenting the general sentiment when I say that people are thoroughly weary of the subject of war debts, and the seemingly interminable negotiations concerning them. While Great Britain desired in the first place to have a universal cancellation of these obligations America, as we have excellent reasons for knowing each year, insisted on treating them on a commercial basis, and thus left no option for other countries but to do likewise. However they are dealt with it is obvious that the sooner a final settlement is reached in regard to all of them the better, and one therefore welcomes the news, as one more step forward on the road to normal conditions in international finance, that Roumania has made a provisional arrangement for the settlement of her war and relief debts to Great Britain. it is noteworthy that the initiative in this case comes from Roumania, and it may be hoped that this arrangement presages an early agreement in respect of the payment of the compensation to the oil companies for the damage incurred during the War.

America and the Near East.

I have often emphasised the point that British firms must be prepared to go out of their way to cater for the requirements of the Near East markets if they desire to make real headway in them. This is particularly the case in regard to motors. The kind of thing that America is prepared to do is illustrated in a recent issue of the *Christian Science Monitor*, which describes how a trade school of the most famous American motor firm is to train students from the Near East to be mechanics. It appears that the Turkish and Persian Governments asked the school to train mechanics to develop their agriculture, and the school is to give 25 students from each of these countries a two years' course. The effect of this development on the market for the car in question can well be imagined. This is just one instance of the initiative displayed by our commercial rivals, and it shows plainly what British firms must be prepared to do if they are to withstand successfully the growing competition in the Near East.

The Fur Trade.

The trend of the fur market is a matter of special concern to several Near Eastern countries. At the moment the outlook for this commodity is not too promising. At the recent London sales, a report of which will be found elsewhere, the movement of prices was generally downwards, and the declines ranged from 5 to 20 per cent. It appears that the demand for cheap and imitation furs is decreasing while that for the better products is on the up grade, and it is to be assumed that the substantial advances that took place in some directions was due to this development.

The Fair.

It is becoming very evident that the Government are basing very great hopes on next year's Fair, and that it has, in fact, come to occupy a very important place in their programme for the development of trade and the consequent relief of the unemployed problem. So far it must be admitted that the omens for the Fair are most favourable. Our firms are showing quite unusual enthusiasm over it, and it is evident already that both sections will be much larger and more representative than was the case last year. Up to the middle of last week 600 firms had applied for space, while the number of firms who desire to exhibit at the White City is already more than double what it was at the corresponding period of 1924. The Fair thus promises to be a very complete index of Great Britain's industrial capacity, and it only needs the presence of foreign buyers in adequate numbers coupled with improving trade to make it a supreme success.

The Future of Rubber.

So far as can be seen the future of rubber looks secure for the next few years, for while production from now onwards will tend to increase consumption is rising very rapidly, and at the present time is well in advance of production. As a matter of fact consumption overtook production in the year that the restriction scheme was introduced, and each year since then has seen a large balance on the consumption side. It has been suggested that owing to the great development of motoring and other uses for rubber there may be a real shortage in a few years, but prophesy with regard to rubber even a year ahead is unwise.

COMMENTATOR.

EGYPTIAN HONOURS.

The King has given the following authority to wear decorations conferred on them by the King of Egypt, in recognition of valuable services:—

ORDER OF ISMAIL.

Insignia of the Second Class.—Mr. James Ferguson Lees, C.B.E., M.D., lately director-General of Public Health, Ministry of the Interior.

Insignia of the Third Class.—Mr. Harold Edwin Hurst, M.A., D.Sc., Controller of the Physical Department of the Ministry of Public Works.

ORDER OF THE NILE.

Insignia of the Fourth Class.—Mr. Ernest George Griffin, Assistant Secretary-General, State Railways.

The King has given Squadron-Leader William Dickson Long, O.B.E., R.A.F., authority to wear the insigna of the Third Class of the Order of the Nile conferred on him by the King of Egypt for valuable services rendered by him as Aviation Consultant to the Egyptian Ministry of Communications.

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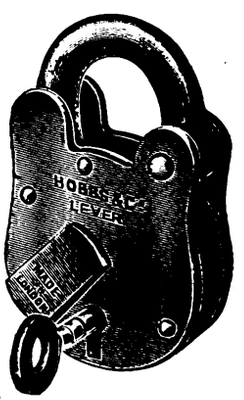

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Near East Markets.

SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., report as follows for the week ended October 24:—

Sultanas.—The arrivals since the opening of the season are estimated at 16,200 tons and the sales to date are put at 14,800 tons.

Closing prices Smyrna per cwt. c.i.f., London-Liverpool: type 12, 57s.; type 13, 60s.; type 14, 62s.; type 15, 65s.; type 16, 68s.; type 17, 73s.

The market is quiet. Business is restricted to a narrow compass considering the time of the year. Nevertheless dealers are holding up prices and at present show no disposition to make concessions. The general tone of the market, however, is heavy and a decline seems inevitable unless relief comes from consuming markets.

Figs.—The arrivals are estimated at 163,241 bags, and the sales to date are put at 161,436 bags.

We have to report a further advance in prices this week. The market closed very strong owing to the shortage in arrivals and the active demand for prompt shipments to U.K. and Continental markets. It is becoming increasingly evident that the crop is nearing exhaustion and that only limited supplies will henceforth be available from the interior. It is reported that shippers are to a large extent still uncovered for forward positions.

DECLINE IN FUR PRICES.

The report of the London Fur Trade Association (Inc.) on the October raw fur skin sales states that the sales attracted a large attendance of buyers, particularly from the home trade and the Continent, although representatives of the German and American trades were fewer than usual. Whilst business was quiet in England during the late summer and early autumn, France experienced a very good September trade, and it is satisfactory to record that purchases were freely made at these sales for both home and the French markets. Leipzig buyers were handicapped by the continued monetary stringency in Germany, and Americans were less active.

Although large quantities of cheap and imitation furs have again been consumed, the demand for these goods appears to be gradually diminishing and there is a decidedly better feeling for the medium and choicer furs. The offerings, particularly of staple goods, were moderate, and in view of the diminished support accorded by American buyers prices on the whole show remarkably little alteration. Despite the comparative weakness of American competition and the restricted support of Germany, the results of these auctions demonstrate the inherent soundness of the home and French markets, and good prospects for the coming winter's trade are thereby indicated.

TURKEY'S NUT CROP.

H. M. Consul at Trebizond reports that according to information received from a reliable source the nut crop of Ordu and district, proved exceptionally abundant this year. (The port of Ordu belonged until lately to the vilayet of Kiresun, but is now the capital of an independent vilayet). The total yield is estimated at double that of last year, namely 130,000 cantars (of 48 okes each) as compared with 65,000.

Owing, however, to the abnormal quantity, the kernels are somewhat under developed, and that applies to some extent also to the Kiresun and Trebizond crops. Thus, while each cantar (48 okes) of Ordu nuts gave last year 22 okes of kernels, this season's figures is 18 okes only.

The death took place last week at Peterborough of Sir Bache Cunard, grandson of the founder of the Cunard Line, Sir Samuel Cunard.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street. S.W.)

EGYPT.

Water Supply Works at Mellawi.—The Egyptian Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for the supply and installation of machinery required in connection with a water works scheme at Mellawi. The contract provides for the supply, delivery and installation of the following plant and accessories:—

Electrical motors and centrifugal pumps.—Two vertical three-phase induction motors of 45 h.p. direct coupled to centrifugal pumps of a maximum output of 30 litres per second, together with connections and all accessories. One horizontal three-phase motor of 15 h.p. with all accessories.

Control panels for above motors, low-tension armoured cable, wooden cable troughs, cable-end boxes, etc.

Steel piping and accessories, water meters, etc.

Machine tools and workshop equipment.—This includes a lathe, a drilling machine (American type), an emery grinder, a steel water tank, a coal bunker a transmission shaft, etc.; also a forge outfit, a turner's and fitter's outfit, a joiner's outfit and other workshop tools and equipment; belting; lubricating and cleaning apparatus. December 10. (D.O.T.)

Paper and Stationery.—The Ministry of Finance invites tenders for the supply of paper and stationery for the financial year 1926-27. In addition to paper and stationery the schedule includes filing cabinets, brushes, paints (water colours in cakes), palettes, string, etc. January 9. (D.O.T.)

Miscellaneous Stores.—The Prisons Department, Ministry of Interior, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of miscellaneous stores including white cotton yarn, khaki serge and drill cloth, tailors' marking chalk, harness backs, fire hose, packing and belting, helical pulley blocks, leg vices, twist drills, chuck plates for drilling machines and lathes, beading or swaging machine, injectors for boilers, etc. November 23. (D.O.T.)

ROUMANIA.

Steel Railway Crossings.—Tenders are invited by the Roumanian State Railways for steel railway crossings. December 4. (D.O.T.)

Railway Points.—Tenders are invited by the Roumanian State Railways for railway points. November 30. (D.O.T.)

TURKEY.

Telegraph Wire and Insulators.—Tenders are invited by the Purchasing Commission of the Direction Generale des Chemins de Fer, Angora, for the following:—1,000 kilometres of galvanised iron telegraph wire of 4 mm. diameter; 30,000 insulators. November 25. (D.O.T.)

INDIA.

Saws and Oil Tank Railway Wagons.—The Director-General, India Store Department in London, invites tenders for (1) duplex diamond saw, frame saws and rip saw for stone dressing; (2) oil tank railway wagons. November 20.

Sub-station Equipment for Jaipur.—The Indian Stores Department invites tenders for the supply of equipment:—pole brackets, shackle and pin type insulators, bare copper wire, trifurcating boxes, distribution pillars, anchor rods, underground low tension cable, cable boxes, leading-in tubes, house service watthour A.C. meters, current limiters, one 30 K.W. transformer, extra high tension feeder panel, medium tension A.C. switchgear, galvanised iron wire and pole clips. November 30. (D.O.T.)

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria	Piastre to £	97½	97½
Athens	Drachmæ to £	25.22½	360—364
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	273
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.35½
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.14
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 5/32—3/16
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	106.90
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	1,030
Budapest	Kronen to £	24 02	345-347,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 5/32—3/16
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	845—860
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.84⅞—11/16
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	121.90
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	163½
Rome	Lire to £	25 22½	121½
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	660—680
Teheran	Krans to £	50	42.75
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	34.39
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	29¼

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Shipping Intelligence.

RAILWAY TARIFFS TO ADRIATIC PORTS.

The following modifications of railway tariffs for traffic to and from the Adriatic ports are now in force as a result of a series of agreements reached by the various railway administrations at the recent conference at Budapest. As regards traffic between Hungary and the Adriatic ports, the Italian railways allow a reduction of 25 to 30 per cent. on Hungarian exports over the Italian section, the Yugoslav railways allow 15 to 35 per cent. reduction on transit from Hungary to the Adriatic ports, while the Hungarian railways allow 20 to 40 per cent. on transports entering Hungary via Yugoslavia in transit. The agreements are intended to provide a *modus vivendi* until a uniform Adriatic tariff can be negotiated.

NEW ANDREW WEIR MOTOR SHIP.

The launch took place recently from the Govan Shipyard of Messrs. Harland and Wolff, Ltd., of the twin screw motor vessel Myrtlebank, which the company has built for Messrs. Andrew Weir and Co., (Bank Line, Ltd.). The Myrtlebank, which is of about 5,200 tons, will be equipped with Harland B. and W. motors. The vessel, which is built to Lloyd's highest class, is of the sheltered deck type, and is divided by seven watertight bulkheads, and there are five cargo holds. The cargo hatches are worked by twelve of the builders' steel derricks, and in addition, a heavy derrick for handling lifts up to 25 tons is fitted at the after side of the foremast. The cargo winches and windlass are steam driven with control from the bridge by a telemeter.

THE TRADE OF MUSCAT, 1924-25.

The total volume of trade for the year 1924-25 amounted to £612,883, as compared with £559,855 in the previous year an increase of about 9 per cent. This advance is due (the Acting British Consul at Muscat reports) to the larger trade with India and the United States, whose shares increased by approximately £27,000 and £29,000 respectively.

The total imports for the year under review amounted to £393,374, as against £390,460 in the previous year, an increase of about .74 per cent. Sailing craft carried imports to the value of £66,033, an increase of £13,240, or about 20 per cent. more than in the previous year. Imports of rice by steamer declined to the extent of £54,788, and this is attributed to the fact that the Indian rice market ruled high while Muscat demands were few.

Exports for the year amounted to £219,509, as against £169,395 in the previous year, an increase of £50,114, or about 29 per cent. The share of the sailing craft in the year's exports totalled £39,834, while the previous year's figures were £47,604. The increase in the total exports is almost entirely due to larger exports carried by steam vessels. It may be stated that over one-half of the increased exports went to the United States. The date crop was better than for several years past, and exports of "Fard" dates to the United States showed a considerable increase.

ANCHOR LINE

LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.

KARACHI via Bombay, calling at Gibraltar and Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS UPPER DECK CABINS.
MODERATE FARES.
RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT
Indian Government Vouchers accepted.

Passenger sailing dates :—

*OLYMPIA, Nov. 13.	*OLYMPIA, Feb. 19.
*SCINDIA, Nov. 27.	*SCINDA, Mar. 4.
*MASSILIA, Dec. 11.	*BRITANNIA, Mar. 16.
*ELYSIA, Dec. 29.	*MASSILIA, Mar. 30.
*CIRCASSIA, Jany. 12, 1926.	*ELYSIA, April 13.
*CASTALIA, Feb. 2.	*CIRCASSIA, April 30.

*First class passengers only. Specially low fares.

ANCHOR LINE,
48, FENCHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

YUGOSLAV SHIPPING DEVELOPMENT.

A new Yugoslav Steamship Company "Illyria" has been established with Head Office in Zagreb with a capita. of four million dinars (£150,000).

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses :—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Scindia for Bombay (Liverpool, November 23). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Matheran for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, November 14).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Lancashire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, November 18).

British India Line.—S.s. Malda for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 21); s.s. Warfield for Bombay and Karachi (London, November 28).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Cypria for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, November 14).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Manchester for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 14).

Johnston Line.—M.v. Sycamore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, November 21); s.s. Kenmore, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 5).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. China for Bombay (London, November 13); s.s. Nellore for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 14).

Prince Line.—S.s. Sailor Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Famagusta, Jaffa, Haifa, and Beyrout (London, November 13).

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF.

Steaua Romana (British), Ltd., are advised that production of Steaua Romana, Bucharest, for October was 37,200 tons.

The production of Hamilton's Concessions (Roumania) for October was 150 tons (September, 1,220 tons). Note: Production has been affected owing to the accumulation of sand in No. 8 well not having been completely cleared.

The production of the Dacia Romano Petroleum Company for October was 1,150 tons; 4 wells are producing, 10 are in drilling and 6 are being fitted up.

The production of the Phœnix Oil and Transport Company for October was 23,390 tons gross (September, 16,303 tons); throughput, 20,231 tons (September, 23,064 tons).

The Cawnpore Electric Supply Corporation has declared an interim dividend of 3 per cent. on the ordinary shares, payable November 18.

The Madras Electric Supply Corporation announces an interim dividend of 2½ per cent., free of tax.

Following heavy rains throughout Iraq, the Basrah-Baghdad train was last week derailed 80 miles south of Baghdad. The passengers were unhurt.

A Jerusalem message reports the death there, at the age of 53, of Dr. Joseph Freud, for the past four years head of the Röntgen Department of the Hadassah Hospital, and a cousin of the psycho-analyst, Dr. Sigmund Freud.

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Motors and Motoring.

By G. B. B.

The Commercial Motor Show which has just been held has proved to be one of the most successful yet held, not only in regard to the general arrangements and the number of firms taking part, but also in regard to orders booked. There are very few firms in the industry, who were showing at Olympia, who have not done much more business than they anticipated. Of course, lorries are not so popular a product as the light car, and the general public are not nearly so interested in the commercial as in the passenger car, but even so there was an exceptionally large attendance on each of the days the Show was open, and those of the public who were sight-seers rather than buyers were able to realise something of the immense strides which the industry has made of late.

The exhibits ranged from the tiny yet amazing little Austin, with a 7 h.p. engine and a capacity to take 2½ cwt. of goods anywhere, up hill or down dale, in as short or shorter a time than any ordinary car with an engine of far greater power, up to the giant 12-ton Scammell lorry, which is a six-wheeled vehicle with a body measuring 23 feet in length by 7 feet in width—not the sort of vehicle one would like to meet in a narrow country lane where neither could turn. The Scammel is a very fine proposition, and takes a very high position amongst the heavier commercial vehicles.

The low frame construction, which was to be seen in simple form on the Dennis stand, is one of the innovations of the year, and this design is, I may say, the outcome of experiments which have been made in connection with the design of a motor omnibus, of the two-deck type, with a covered top.

Another innovation was the use of the Weyman construction for omnibus and closed coach bodies. The caterpillar track was also largely in evidence, and this is now being fitted to heavy motor lawn-mowers, turf rollers, and grass-cutting machines.

Why?

A leading motor journal has been going rather deeply into the reason or reasons underlying the recent attempts on the part of American motor interests to acquire a holding in or obtain control of various British motor manufacturing companies. As is well known there is now an American interest in the Vauxhall productions, but I cannot see any likelihood of the famous Vauxhall products falling off in quality as a result of the new money. The journal in question appears to see something sinister in the idea; it says, and quite rightly, that the British motor industry is a national asset, a vital factor in national defence, and adds that this was proved during the War. Certainly it was, but what has that to do with the matter? The British motor industry is and always will be a British industry, in that it will be an industry which cannot be removed from our shores in time of war. No matter who builds it up, extends it, or improves it; no matter how it grows, no matter who provides the fertiliser, it will be a British industry of incalculable value in war-time, and an industry, no matter how greatly any other country may assist in developing it, cannot be used in war-time for the benefit of any country other than our own. We should immediately take control of the works, thank the foreigner for having developed them to so high a pitch, and—get busy. There is no need for any motoring paper to become excited on the ground that American money is coming to our motor trade. There is no ulterior reason for it; the reason is merely that which is apparent on the surface and which should be quite obvious. It is just this: the British industry is beating the American hand over fist, and, realising this, the shrewd American wants to be on the right side financially.

The New Dennis.

I was able to make a close examination of the new 30-cwt. Dennis chassis, which incorporates a number of improvements and which is the latest addition to the company's already wide range of commercial vehicles. This now includes a 1½, 2½, 3½, 4, 5-6, and 6 ton model, and is, of course, additional to the range of models suitable for passenger service, and to that section of these productions which includes fire-engines, escapes, hose carts and trailers. The firm have lifted themselves by sheer merit into the forefront of British motor manufacturers and overseas buyers should make themselves acquainted with the various products of this firm.

I find I have not mentioned above the 30-40 h.p. Dennis chassis, made with three different lengths of wheelbase suitable for motor omnibus or char-a-banc work. The three sizes of wheelbase are for 20, 25, or 35 passenger vehicles respectively. There is also a 40-50 h.p. model suitable for a 48-54 seater double-deck omnibus, in which the driver's seat is beside the engine and in which, also, the frame level is so low that the centre of gravity is dropped to such a point that it would seem impossible for the vehicle to turn over in any accident whatever.

Wolseley Enterprise.

The Scottish Show passes almost unheeded here in the South of Britain, simply because we have just had our own exhibition at which we were able to see all there is to be seen. But the Scottish Show in its way is quite as fine an exhibition and all our big manufacturers make a point of showing there the finest productions of their works. Wolseley Motors send me a list of their exhibits on various stands, and the comprehensive nature of these may be judged when it is mentioned that on the stand of one agent the three examples to be shown include the following:—The 11-22 h.p. four-seater in the new blue colour, for those requiring an inexpensive car. This can be fitted with 4-wheel brakes if required. There was also the 16-35 h.p. coach-built saloon, an owner-driver's carriage of fine finish, fitted with a four-speed gear box and 4-wheel brakes; and the third exhibit was the Wolseley 6-cylinder 24-55 h.p. model, which was one of the finest in the whole show.

A new Sheffield-Simplex has been supplied with special Cunard body work. The engine is a 50 h.p., of the six-cylinder type; has Ricardo cross-head pistons, a gear box giving four forward speeds and a reverse, six brakes and a fully floating back axle.

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Regular Passenger and Freight Service from

RANGOON, CALCUTTA, and COLOMBO
To BEIRA, DELAGOA BAY, DURBAN, EAST LONDON, PORT ELIZABETH, MOSSEL BAY, and CAPE TOWN.

Excellent Passenger Accommodation.
Wireless Telegraphy.

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HONG KONG, BANGKOK, SINGAPORE & MAURITIUS
To SOUTH AFRICAN PORTS.

Excellent Passenger Accommodation.
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Information for Freight and Passage may be obtained from the following:—

RANGOON—J. & F. Graham & Co.
CALCUTTA—Andrew Weir & Co.
COLOMBO—Skrine & Co.
BEIRA—Beira Shipping Agency.
DELAGOA BAY—John T. Rennie & Sons.
DURBAN—Andrew Weir & Co.
EAST LONDON—Messrs. Dunn & Co.
PT. ELIZABETH—Mackie, Dunn & Co.
MOSSEL BAY—Messrs. E. Searle & Co.
CAPE TOWN—Thomson, Watson & Co.
HONG KONG—The Bank Line, Ltd.
BANGKOK—Siam Forest Co., Ltd.
SINGAPORE—Huttenbach Bros. & Co.
MAURITIUS—Adam & Co.

LONDON—ANDREW WEIR & CO., 21, Bury Street, E.C.3.

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Wheel Fenders.

I have often wondered why so many cars are to be seen on the road without a set of wheel fenders, which are really one of the most useful and valuable additions to its standard equipment that a car can have. The idea is not altogether new in this country, but it has been in use in America for some considerable time and now is almost a distinguishing feature of American cars. I shall probably be told that I am advocating an American idea, to which I shall reply that I do not care whose idea it is nor where it came from provided it is a really good sound notion, as this is. There is nothing more foolish than the prejudice which condemns something that is American, French, Italian, or German merely because of its origin. Everything should be judged, adopted or condemned on its merits, and for that reason I like to see a car fitted with bumpers. They are useful and effective, and now that traffic is becoming so congested will probably, during town driving, save their cost in the course of a very few weeks.

GREECE'S MINERAL RESOURCES.

The recently issued report on Greece by Mr. R. F. H. Duke, C.B.E., contains a survey of the country's mineral resources. The production of the mineral deposits of Greece in 1913, and from 1920 to 1924, is shown in the following table:—

—	Lead (refined).	Iron Ores.	Silver Ore.	Magnesite.	Emery.	Lignite.
1913 ...	18,309	310,078	30.717	98,517	5,560	20 002 (1914)
1920 ...	5,016	45,479	2,604	71,870	11,089	197,454
1922 ...	4,408	59,272	1,310	56 642	13,000	132.233
1923 ...	4,235	100 115	4,026	62 552	21,626	117.927
1924 ...	5,103	96.000	4,461	38,213	22,632	111,000

The production of iron pyrites amounted in 1923 and 1924 to 52,000 and 76,000 tons respectively.

A considerable stimulus was given to the production of emery during the War by the placing of the emery quarries under French control. The methods of production and distribution of this product, of which the United Kingdom is an important purchaser, are however still far from satisfactory, especially in view of the fact that the industry is seriously threatened not only by the Smyrna emery (which is softer in character and used chiefly for polishing), but by the increasing use of artificial abrasives in the manufacture of which many of the leading emery users are financially interested.

In December, 1923, provision was made to raise a loan of £50,000 for increasing the output and facilitating the transport from the mines by the installation of an aerial cable line from the mines to the Bay of Montsouna, together with Decauville railways connecting the outlying to the cable, and the construction of proper warehouses and other buildings at the shore end.

Of the 1923 production amounting to 21,626 tons the sales during the year were as follows (in tons):—Great Britain, 5,248.3; U.S.A., 4,381.0; France, 3,013.0; Germany, 866.0; Italy, 720.4; Belgium, 431.0; Greece, 401.0; Holland, 285.0; total, 15,345.7.

During 1924 very little progress was made with the proposed works (in spite of the fact that a levy of £1 per ton had been added to the price to cover the expenditure), while strikes and labour troubles were frequent. The production, however, amounted to over 22,000 tons, of which the following quantities were sold abroad (in tons):—France, 5,661; Great Britain, 5,400; Italy, 1,591; Germany, 1,421; U.S.A. 1.100; Holland, 916; Belgium, 450.

It was proposed at the beginning of 1925 to increase the price still further, but the proposal was dropped on the recommendation of the British and French emery buyers' representatives, who pointed out the danger of competition from Smyrna emery and artificial abrasives. The sales brought into the Treasury some Drs. 25,000,000, of which 16 million represented expenses, so that the exploitation cannot on the whole be considered of very great importance to Greece.

The exploitation of lignite on which high hopes have always been based in Greece even to the extent of anticipating that it would render Greece largely independent of fuel from abroad—has been disappointing. In 1924 the import of coal amounted to 668,573 tons, as compared with 463,000 in 1923 and 434,000 in 1922. The import of petroleum and benzine during the same periods was 39,600, 23,000, and 20,000 tons. On the other hand, the lignite production amounted to 111,000 tons only in 1924, compared with 117,000 tons in 1923. The chief obstacles in the way of development of this valuable product are difficulties of transport (which is actually twice the cost of production) and utilisation, the mines being in districts not suitable for the erection of power stations on the spot, for which, in other countries, it is principally utilised.

Raw magnesite is produced at Limni, Chalcis, Vathi-Canalia, Ghérakini, etc. The total production in 1924 is given at 56,642 tons, of which 22,919 tons were exported.

Chrome is produced in Pharsala, Alchani-Domokos, Ghérakini, Vathia, etc. The total production in 1924 was 9,289 tons (stocks, some 10,000 tons). The quantity exported amounted to 9,907 tons.

OPIUM PRODUCTION IN PERSIA.

The production of opium in Persia has steadily increased during the last five years from 324,396 lb. in 1919-1920 to 690,833 lb. in 1923-1924; but it is still below the 1913-1914 production (says a recent report). In value there is a very great difference between the figures for 1913-1914 (krs. 37,000,000) and those for the year under review (60,000,000 krans). Such is the apparent demand for this Persian product that the 1923-1924 crop increased in value by 20,000,000, or nearly 50 per cent., although the actual production was only 30,000 lbs. in excess of the production for the previous twelve months. A still greater sale is recorded for the nine months ending December 20, 1924, the total production being valued at krs. 85,000,000 (approximately £2,024,000 at the current rate of 42 krans to the pound sterling), this representing no less than 9 per cent. of the total exports for the same period. Further, opium is the only crop at present known to the Persian cultivator which is easily transported, is comparatively easy to produce, and yields a certain and large return in comparison with the area under cultivation. With soaring prices and a constantly increasing demand, it is not surprising that recent attempts on the part of the Persian Government to diminish cultivation and restrict production by compulsory registration of all areas under cultivation, assembly of all stocks in Government warehouses, and banderoling (i.e., affixing of an official tax-label) of all produce destined for local consumption, have met with a good deal of opposition.

Substitutes for Opium.

Persian soil is as far as can be ascertained without expert examination, suitable, for the following substitutes for opium in various districts: mulberry trees (for raw silk), wheat, cotton, tobacco, tea (in Gilan and north Persia), hemp, flax, and dried fruits (in districts where there is no opium cultivation).

All these substitutes however need larger supplies of water at times when the supply of the latter is getting scarce, and their yield per acre is smaller than that of opium, so that a larger area would need to be cultivated in order to obtain the same monetary results.

The Roumanian Debt Commission, headed by M. Titulescu, arrived in New York last Friday in the Aquitania and proceeded directly to Washington.

Numbers are announced of 397 bonds of the Kingdom of Roumania Four per Cent. External Loan of 1922, which have been drawn for repayment on November 16.

The Cunard Company announce the appointment of Captain L. Ward, R.D., retired commander R.N.R., as chief marine superintendent, in succession to Captain Lyon, R.D., R.N.R., who has just retired.

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Engineering Topics.

(By Our Engineering Representative.)

Transport and Cotton Development.

In March, 1924, the Executive Committee of the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation appointed a Mechanical Transport Sub-Committee to investigate and report as to the best and cheapest form of mechanical transport (other than railways) for conveying cotton and its rotational crops, and in June of that year the Sub-Committee submitted an interim report in which they described the transport problem in cotton-growing parts of the Empire generally, and in Africa in particular, as they visualised it, and the various types of vehicles which they had examined and considered in the course of their investigations. As a result of this report the Executive Comittee approved the suggestion of the Sub-Committee to purchase and dispatch to Northern Nigeria an experimental transport unit consisting of two "halt-track" lorries (subsequently increased by the addition of a third lorry and trailer), the unit to be in charge of a competent driver-mechanic who could give a full reliable, and unprejudiced report on the maintenance, comparative efficiency, and types of track. It also decided that, before dispatch to Nigeria, the lorries should undergo a trial lasting for about a month, or of 1,000 miles over a course which should resemble as far as possible an African earth road, and on which the gradients should be sufficiently severe to test the hill-climbing capacity of the vehicles. The preliminary trials have now been completed, and as the Committee deem it desirable to give wider publicity to the subject a memorandum by the Mechanical Transport Sub-Committee has now been issued describing the problem of cotton transport, and explaining why they advised the Corporation in the first instance to concentrate their attention on testing the efficiency or otherwise of the "half-track" vehicle.

The subject is one which looms ever larger on the horizon as progress is made in cotton cultivation, and it may be said quite definitely that the solution of the problem of transport will provide the solution of how to grow sufficient cotton overseas to render this country independent of America. It goes without saying that the railway is the ideal means of transport; and as far as possible use must and will be made of this medium. Thus in the Sudan projects are on foot for railway extensions, while a loan is shortly to be floated for the purpose *inter alia* of the construction of a railway in East Africa. But cost stands in the way of the unlimited use of the railway for development purposes. In Great Britain some lines have ceased to be paying undertakings, and there is nothing to induce the capitalist to come forward in support of vast railway schemes in undeveloped regions, for capital must have its adequate return, and except in the case of main lines there would be small hope of the railways yielding any return at all. That being so it is obvious that a solution must be found in the motor, and here we come to another difficulty. Just as it would not pay to lay down railway tracks so it would be quite out of the question, as the memorandum points out, to conceive any idea of covering Africa with a net-work of metalled all-weather roads. Road construction must be carried on, however, as much as possible, and the committee urge the need for a definite programme in this respect, and point out that in the construction of roads it would be desirable that one part should be provided for motor traffic and another for other traffic. But as the development of cotton cultivation cannot be made dependent on the construction of roads it is obvious that dependence must be placed on forms of motor transport which are independent of roads, and can act in any sort of conditions.

Transport it is pointed out, is required for cotton and many of its rotational crops during part of the year only, and, in districts in an early stage of development, the demand for transport during the remaining months may be small until the district concerned has developed sufficienty to require imports, or to produce exports, which are carried throughout the year, or at times other than during the months immediately succeeding the harvest. These conditions call for a low capital expenditure rather than low running costs, and it is where these conditions obtain that the need for transport is greatest, for the extent of cotton-growing areas and the distance from the railway at which cotton can be grown at a reasonable profit depend directly on transport facilities. The actual carrying of cotton can be placed under two headings, namely: 1. Carrying the seed cotton from the fields to the ginneries. 2. Carrying of lint and seed from the ginneries to the nearest port or railway station.

Assuming that for many years to come the roads of Africa will be, generally speaking, unmetalled, it is essential to consider, the Committee point out, what type of vehicle will inflict the least damage on these roads, and so keep down the cost of subsequent maintenance. In the first place, the weight on the axles or, in other words, the pressure per square inch on the road surface must be low. It would be impossible to run a regular service of 4-ton or 6-ton petrol or steam-driven lorries with solid rubber or even pneumatic tyres over African roads. This reduction of weight on the axles may be achieved by the following means:— 1. By using light vehicles. 2. By increasing the number of wheels. 3. By increasing the width of the wheel treads. 4. by enlarging the diameter of the wheels. 5. By substituting some system of caterpillar action or continuous track for wheels.

The most promising development up to the present, says the Sub-Committee, has been in the form of "half-track" vehicles, in which the front wheels are retained for steering purposes and the rear wheels are replaced by a flexible double-track system. These two tracks and their bogies carry most of the weight of the vehicle and the load.

"The Mermaid."

I have read with considerable interest the first issue of "The Mermaid," a quarterly journal issued by Spear and Jackson, Ltd., of Ætna Works, Sheffield. This periodical is primarily for those who are engaged in the saw milling and timber trades throughout the world, but its contents which are of a very varied description, are calculated to appeal as well to the general reader, and the maintenance of the standard reached in the first issue should ensure for it a long and useful voyage.

Among the features of special interest in "The Mermaid," is an illustrated article on "Forest Engineering in Northern Bengal," and other notable articles deal with "Crucible Steel Melting Process," and "Shingles and Red Cedar," while the journal contains the first instalment of "The Romance of a Great Business," the history of the development of Spear and Jackson. There are also "Topical Notes," in which I am glad to see several references to the vast field covered by "The Near East and India," and a variety of lighter matter not excluding verse. "The Mermaid" is illustrated with a large number of photographs, drawings, and cartoons, and has an attractive cover design by Alfred Leete, the well-known cartoonist.

Messrs. J. Henry Schroder and Co. announce that in accordance with an agreement of June 23, 1925, between the Bulgarian Government and the representatives of the British, French and Dutch bondholders, drawings of bonds of the Royal Bulgarian Government Four and a Half per Cent. Loan 1909 have been temporarily suspended for two years from April 1, 1925. The Bulgarian Government, with the object of removing the present uncertainty with regard to the status of the bonds now in circulation, has decided to issue new coupon sheets to holders of the bonds, who are requested to lodge with J. Henry Schroder and Co., 145, Leadenhall Street, E.C.3, all the unexpired coupons, commencing with the coupon due December 1, 1925 together with the talons.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

MANCHESTER COTTON MARKET.

The Manhester Cotton Trade Review of the Ottoman Bank, for the week ended November 7, states:—

Whilst during the past week manufacturers have been kept fairly busy in giving out quotations business has proceeded on very desultory lines. Buyers appear to have become thoroughly unsettled in their opinions by recent American cotton crop forecasts, and appear to have little confidence even in the present low level of values. In the meanwhile another of these reports is due on Monday next and the market lives in hopes that this will lead to some more certain idea as to the extent of the crop.

Yarn.—Although it is not possible to record any considerable improvement in the turnover in American yarns there have not been wanting indications pointing to better times and some fair orders have been booked. These have not been well distributed over the trade and in certain sections there is still a superabundance of supplies and sellers consequently can only obtain very poor prices. There is nothing to report with regard to Egyptian spinnings, the demand for which continues to be small.

Cloth.—The considerable fall which took place in raw cotton prices last week-end and the imminence of a further American Bureau Report appear jointly to have had the effect of reducing enterprise on the part of buyers to a minimum. For all markets operations have been of small dimensions. Business for India has diminished and nothing worth speaking about has transpired for China. Egypt and the Near East continue to buy very cautiously.

Raw cotton.—The decline in prices which took place towards the end of last week was continued until Monday of this week, and on that day the spot quotation was below 10d Since then, however, conditions in the market have altered and quotations have advanced daily. This appears to be based on fears that the recent unfavourable weather conditions have adversely affected the growth both in quantity and quality. Opinions as to the coming Bureau Report vary considerably.

Egyptian cotton, in spite of Governmen purchases (which, however, have been of small dimensions) in Alexandria, and in spite also of a Government decree (which is not taken very seriously) reducing the acreage for next season, has continued to fall. Reports regarding the crop continue to be good whilst spinners here maintain their indifferent attitude. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows: American Middling 10.49, Egyptian Fully Good Fair 21.90.

THE EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company in their report for the week ended October 29, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has again been rather active, but the tendency has been weaker: the net changes on the week are as follows: Sakellaridis 0.83 dollars down for November, 0.75 dollars down for January, 0.75 dollars down for March; Ashmouni 0.88 dollars down for December, 0.93 dollars down for February.

The most important events of this week have been the publication of another estimate of the American crop, the figures given being 15,226,000 bales without linters, against 14,759,000 a fortnight ago, and the publication by the Government of a notice on the 26th instant stating that they will enter in the market by effecting purchases at Minet-el-Bassal. Naturally these two events affected the market contradictorily. However, as the Government's projected action has not so far been put into operation, the bullish influence of this factor upon the market is vanishing. Furthermore the Government's declaration is very vague; it does not state the qualities that they intend to buy nor the prices that they will pay.

The demand from abroad has continued to run on rather moderate lines, especially for Sakel. Reports from consuming centres indicate that Sakel prices are still considered too high, and in many casese substitutes can be used on a rather cheaper basis. Ashmouni prices also are generally considered somewhat high compared with the competing American staple qualities. Local speculators have been very active, favouring the bear side. We think that the short interest accumulated is already fairly heavy.

On the third tender day (22nd) of October 3,250 kantars were delivered. No dockets at all were tendered at the first and second tender days of this month. The position judged on present indications appears to be still somewhat bearish, but in view of the recent drop in prices and of the fact that up to the present spinners have been only moderate buyers, it is quite possible that, with any improvement in the demand, considerable resistance may be shown to any further decline. The week's receipts amount to 366,800 crs. again exports 267,950 crs.: the stock now stands at 1,575,730 crs.

Spot: We have had a fairly active week at Minet-el-Bassal, and sales amount to about 26,200 bales, of which we estimate 13,600 Sakel, 9,400 Uppers 2,500 Zagora, 400 Pilion, 200 White 100 Fouady and a few bales of Brown. There has not been quite the same eagerness about the demand this week due probably to shippers having covered their requirements for October shipment, and as a consequence there has been a tendency for spot parities to ease. Offerings are also more plentiful than last week on the spot.

Sakellaridis: has been in good request and all styles have been dealt in. Spot differences are without much change with the exception of Fully Good Fair which has eased somewhat.

Ashmouni and Zagora: The demand has fallen away somewhat, though a fair business has been done. With the exception of Good and better, which are well held and maintain their parities, spot differences are generally a little easier.

Pilion: has been in fair request. Spot parities are generally rather easier.

Brown: Only a few bales have been done. Spot differences have eased a little.

White: A small business has been done. Spot differences have once again eased considerably.

Crop 1925: Picking has now been almost entirely completed. Interior merchants have already lost quite a lot of money, and in all probability the movement of the crop will be much slower than last year.

The Syrian Committee in Cairo has sent £1,000 for the relief of distress in Syria.

A contract for structural steelwork for the Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway Company has been placed with W. Bain and Co., Coatbridge.

Coupons due on the Imperial Government of Persia 5 per cent. sterling loan of 1911, on November 15, will be paid on and after Nov 16, at the Imperial Bank of Persia, 33 King William Street, E.C., or at their bankers, Messrs. Glyn Mills and Co., 67, Lombard Street, E.C., and must be left three clear days for verification.

The Maharaja of Kapurthala, with the Crown Prince of Kaparthala, the Gaekwar of Baroda, Sir Victor Sassoon, Lady Miller, Sir Logie Watson, the Right Hon. Mr. E. Hilton Young, M.P., Sir Reginald Mant, Sir Henry Strakosch, and Sir Thomas Catto were among those who left London last Thursday to join the Ranpura at Marseilles for Bombay.

National Insurance Companies.
"BALKAN FIRE AND MARINE"
(ESTABLISHED IN 1895)
"BALKAN LIFE AND ACCIDENT" and
General Re-Insurance Company, "BALKAN."
Capital - Leva 5,000,000 each.
Total Guarantee: Leva 100,045,000.
HEAD OFFICE:—SOFIA, BULGARIA

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COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at September 30, 1925, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes. Banking Department, Liabilities, Share Capital, £E2,925,000 (300,000 fully paid shares of £10 each). Reserve Fund: statutory reserve, £E1,462,500; special reserve, £E901,875; current, deposit and other accounts, £E13,365,351; Egyptian Government, £E20,441,667; Sudan Government, £E176,001; Mixed Tribunals, £E1,609,525; bankers accounts, £E634,715; cheques and bills payable, £E587,113; sundry other accounts, £1,004,651; £E43,108,398. Assets: Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government, £E25,382,575; sundry securities, £E317,548; advances on merchandise, £E1,425,893; advances on securities, £E3,402,944; advances otherwise secured; £E1,072,001; sundry other advances, £E1,631,015; bills of exchange, £E1,839,746; local bills discounted, £E420,058; buildings and furniture, £E231,673; money at call and at short notice, £E619,125; bankers accounts, £E4,201,584; sundry other accounts, £E358,878. Cash: Notes £E1,760,007; Gold, £E32,752; Silver, Nickel, etc., £E412,599; £E2,205,358 £E43,108,398. Issue Department: Notes Issued, £E36,800,000; £36,800,000. Gold, £E3,339,576; *British Treasury Bills £E15,060,424 £E18,400,000. Securities: Egyptian Government securities and securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government, £E420,105; British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds, £E17,979,895: £E18,400,000, £E36,800,000.

* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See *Journal Officiel* of October 30, 1916.)

AFRICAN AND EASTERN.

It is officially announced that the recent issue of "B" preference and ordinary shares by the African and Eastern Trade Corporation, Ltd., has been over-subscribed. Applicants for surplus shares will be allotted 44 per cent. of their applications and allotment letters for these will be posted at the end of the week.

TEA COMPANIES.

The directors of the Sephinjuri Bheel Tea Company have declared a dividend of 5 per cent., less tax, for the six months ending November 30, 1925.

The Derby Tea Company announces an interim dividend of 5 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary shares.

The Nedeem Tea Company announce an interim preference dividend of 2½ per cent., less tax, on account of the 1925 season.

The Chubwa Tea Company announces interim dividends of 3½ per cent. on the preference shares and 2s. per share on the ordinary shares, both less tax.

NEW COMPANY.

The Compagnie Generale de Finance pour la Yougoslavia has been registered in Guernsey with a capital of £10,000 in £1 shares, to enter into contracts with the Government of Yugoslavia.

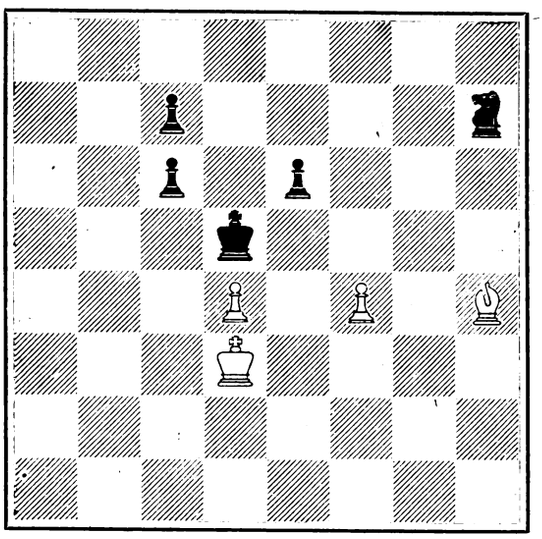
The output of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields for the week ended November 6, was Gemsah, 16 tons (previous week 39 tons); Hurghada, 3,231 tons (previous week 3,217 tons).

The P. and O. Company announces that its steamers would resume calls at Fremantle, commencing with the s.s. Moldavia, outward bound, due Fremantle November 10, and the Comorin, homeward bound, leaving Fremantle on November 16.

In the Corfu municipal elections the Theotokists (the irreconcilable Royalist party) defeated by a very narrow margin the new grouping of moderate Royalists and Venezelists, which wishes to separate municipal affairs from party politics.

CHESS.

By "CARO-KANN."



PROBLEM No. 21.

White to play. What result?

Solution to Problem No. 20:—1, K—K4, P—B3; 2, KPxP, PxP; 3, PxP, KxP; 4, K—Q5, K—Kt4; 5, K—K6, KxP; 6, K—Q7, KxB5; 7, KxP, P—Kt4; 8, K—Q6, P—Kt5; 9, P—B7, P—Kt6; 10, P—B8 (=Q) and wins.

The *Morning Post* Athens correspondent states that for a long time the Greek currency has consisted of paper, with the exception of the 10 and 20 *leptá* pieces. The Government now announces that it has signed a contract for the coinage of 60,000,000 million drachmæ of small money. This new metal currency will consist of pieces of 1 and 2 drachmæ and of 20 and 50 *leptá*. The first of these new coins will come into circulation on April 1 next.

OVERSEAS AGENTS FOR THE SALE OF "THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA."

EGYPT.
Alexandria: M. Nacamulli and Co., 12, Rue Sesostris.
Cairo: M. Avatis, 1, Faggala.
Express Book and Stationery Store, P.O. Box 1113.
Port Said: English Agency, P.O. Box 240.

SUDAN.
Khartoum: Victoria Book and Stationery Store, P.O. Box 51

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem: B. Y. and W. A. Said, 23-24, Jaffa Road.

SYRIA.
Beyrout: Sarrafian Bros.

IRAQ.
Baghdad: Government Bookshop, Serai.
Basrah: Utam Jashan and Co., Bridge Street, Ashar.

INDIA.
Calcutta: A. N. Wheeler and Co., 117-119 Park Street.
Bombay: A. N. Wheeler and Co., Hornby Road.
Karachi: Standard Bookstall, Elphinstone Street, Karachi.

BULGARIA.
Sofia: Librairie Francaise et Etrangere, 4a, Bvd. Tsa Ostvoboditel.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia: George and Sons, P.O. Box 6.

GREECE.
Athens: Th. Vafiadis, 24, Rue du Stade.
Eleftheroudakis and Barth, Place de la Constitution.

ROUMANIA.
Bucharest: Librairie Universala, 37, Calea Victoriei.

TURKEY.
Constantinople: H. D. Marianopoulos, Librairie Mondaine, 280, Grande Rue de Pera.

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THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889.)

CAPITAL (fully paid) - £650,000 | RESERVE - - - £420,000

Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

Branches in Persia :— Chief Office, TEHERAN.
Ahwaz, Barfrush, Bunder Abbas, Bushire, Dizdah, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Maidan-i-Naftun, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad (Seistan), Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz, Yezd

Branches in Iraq (Mesopotamia) :—Bagdad, Basra.
Branch in India :—Bombay.
The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia ; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

London Office : 33-36, KING WILLIAM ST., E.C.4 ; Chief Office in Persia, TEHERAN

IONIAN BANK, Ltd.

Established 1839.

Capital Authorised - - - £600,000
Capital Paid up - - - £485,580
Reserve Fund - - - - £190,000
Total Assets- - - - £6,536,314

HEAD OFFICE :
Basildon House Moorgate, LONDON.

GREECE. *Central Office :* ATHENS. 14 Branches.

EGYPT. *Central Office :* ALEXANDRIA. 8 Sub-Branches.

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Incorporated and constituted in India under the Imperial Bank of India Act, 1920, for the purpose of taking over the undertakings and business of the Bank of Bengal, the Bank of Bombay and the Bank of Madras.

Local Head Offices:—

CALCUTTA, BOMBAY, MADRAS

Managing Governors in India:—
Sir NORCOT WARREN, K.C.I.E
N. M. MURRAY, Esq.
Manager in London:—
Sir S. A. H. SITWELL.

Authorised Capital **Rs. 11.25.00.000**
Paid-up Capital - **Rs. 5.62.50.000**
Reserve - - - **Rs. 4.77.50.000**

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Branches in all Principal Towns in India.
London Branch - - 5 Whittington Avenue, E.C.3.

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Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866.
Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN KENYA COLONY AND UGANDA.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL ... £4,000,000 | **Paid-up Capital** ... £2,000,000
Subscribed Capital ... £4,000,000 | **Reserve Fund** ... £2,800,000

HEAD OFFICE : 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2

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Aden, Aden, Steamer Point, Amritsar, Bombay | Calcutta, Cawnpore, Chittagong, Cochin (S. India) | Colombo, Delhi, Kandy, Karachi | Lahore, Madras, Mandalay, Newera Eliya | Rangoon, Tuticorin, Zanzibar | Kisumu, Mombasa, Nairobi, Nakuru (Kenya Colony (Brit. E. Africa)) | Entebbe, Jinia, Kampala (Uganda)

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY—Dar-es-Salaam, Tanga

The Bank purchases, grants advances against or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms.
The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa and elsewhere and also sells Telegraphic Transfer on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.
The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon.
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The Bank receives Deposits for fixed periods not exceeding one year at rates to be obtained on application.

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Reserves 1,705,000 Leva.

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Telegraphic Address :
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CAPITAL PAID UP - Drs. 36,000,000
RESERVE FUNDS - Drs. 38,150,045.40

The Assets include securities worth £1,000,000, which are valued at Drs. 25,000,000: that is at the rate of Drs. 25 per £1 only.

Head Office: ATHENS,

Branches: Piraeus, Argos, Pyrgos, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Nauplia, Vostizza (Aegion), Calamata, Syra, Chio, Candia, Volo, Salonica, Larrissa, Triccala, Mitylene, Canea, Zante, Plomari, Tripolitza. Associated Bank in London:

The Commercial Bank of the Near East, Ltd., with branches at Alexandria and Constantinople.

AGENTS IN ALL PARTS OF GREECE, THE LEVANT, AND ABROAD.

The Bank conducts every kind of Banking and Stock Exchange business, and extends special facilities to merchants and traders interested in business with Greece. It acts as Agent for many Foreign Banks. It is especially organised for Exchange transactions, the execution of mail and cable transfers throughout Greece, and for the collection of clean and documentary Drafts and Bills.

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The Bank undertakes the warehousing and sale of goods consigned.

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Head Office: ATHENS.

ESTABLISHED 1893.

BRANCHES IN GREECE, TURKEY, EGYPT, CYPRUS, LONDON AND NEW YORK.

Telegraphic Address: BANCATHEN.

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA & CHINA.

38, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.

CAPITAL £3,000,000. RESERVE FUND, £4,000,000.

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HENRY BATESON, ESQ.
COLIN FREDERICK CAMPBELL, ESQ.
THOMAS CUTHBERTSON, ESQ.
SIR WILLIAM HENRY NEVILLE GOSCHEN, K.B.E.
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WILLIAM FOOT MITCHELL, ESQ., M.P.
LEWIS ALEXANDER WALLACE, ESQ.

Chief Manager—W. E. PRESTON.
Managers—J. S. BRUCE and G. MILLER

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AMRITSAR	HAIPHONG	MADRAS	SINGAPORE
BANGTOK	HAMBURG	MANILA	SOURABAYA
BATAVIA	HANKOW	MEDAN	TAPING (F.M.S.)
BOMBAY	HONGKONG	NEW YORK	TAVOY (Lower Burma)
CALCUTTA	ILOILO	PEKING	TIENTSIN
CANTON	IPOH	PENANG	TOKYO
CAWNPORE	KARACHI	PUKET	TSINGTAU
CEBU	KLANG	RANGOON	YOKOHAMA
COLOMBO	KOBE	SAIGON	ZAMBOANGA (Phillipine Islands)
	KUALA LUMPUR	SEMARANG (Java)	PHILLIPPINE
		SEREHBAN	

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THE BANK OF ENGLAND.
MIDLAND BANK, LIMITED.
WESTMINSTER BANK, LIMITED.
NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK, LIMITED.
THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

The Corporation buy and receive for collection Bills of Exchange grant Drafts and transact general business connected with the East.
DEPOSITS OF MONEY are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application. Interest payable half-yearly, 30th June and 31st December.
The Bank is prepared to undertake Trusteeships and Executorships.

THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED

Head Office: 2 & 3, CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Authorised Capital (200,000 Shares of £10 each) - £2,000,000 **Paid up Capital - - £1,000,000**
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - - - - - £1,000,000 **Reserve Fund - - £360,000**

Branches: BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, KARACHI, MADRAS, COLOMBO, BAGDAD, BASRA, AMARA, MOSUL, BAHREIN.

Board of Directors:

J. S. HASKELL, Esq (*Chairman*).
SIR JAMES LEIGH-WOOD, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G. (*Deputy Chairman*).
G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq.
J. H. BATTY, Esq. EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq.
SIR PERCY WILSON NEWSON, Bt.
Captain R. E. SASSOON, M.C.

The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, purchases, grants advances against or collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency Business in connection with the East.

Deposits are received for one year and for shorter periods at rates which can be ascertained on application, and Current Accounts are opened by the Bank in London and at its Branches.

F. H. SUTTON, *Manager.*

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED

Head Office: LONDON.

(Affiliated with Barclays Bank, Ltd.)

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SUDAN.—Makwar, Omdurman, Khartoum, Port Sudan. Wad Medani. **PALESTINE.**—Haifa, Jaffa. Jerusalem, Nazareth
MEDITERRANEAN. Malta, Gibraltar.

Subscribed Capital - - - - £1,800,000 **Paid-up Capital - - - - £600,000**
Reserve - - - - - £720,000

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

FULLY PAID CAPITAL - - - - - - - - £3,000,000
RESERVE FUND - - - - - - - - - - £2,425,000

London Agency:
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EGYPT and the SUDAN.

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TELEPHONE—626

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MAIL PASSENGER AND CARGO SERVICES.

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(Under Contract with His Majesty's Government).

Steamer.	Tons.	London.	M'rse'ls.	Destination.
¶*MACEDONIA	11,000	——	Nov. 13	Straits, China, Japan
CHINA	8,000	Nov. 13	Nov. 20	Bombay and Karachi
†§NELLORE	7,000	Nov. 14	——	Colombo and Calcutta
*MOOLTAN	21,000	Nov. 20	Nov. 27	Colombo and Australia
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The NEAR EAST AND INDIA

A Weekly Review of the Politics and Commerce of the Balkan Peninsula, Turkey, Egypt, and the Sudan, Syria, Palestine, Arabia, Iraq, Persia and India.

No. 758.—Vol. XXVIII.
Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.

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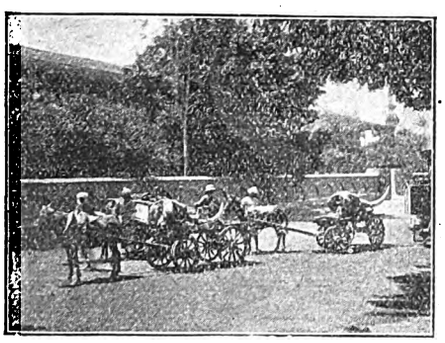

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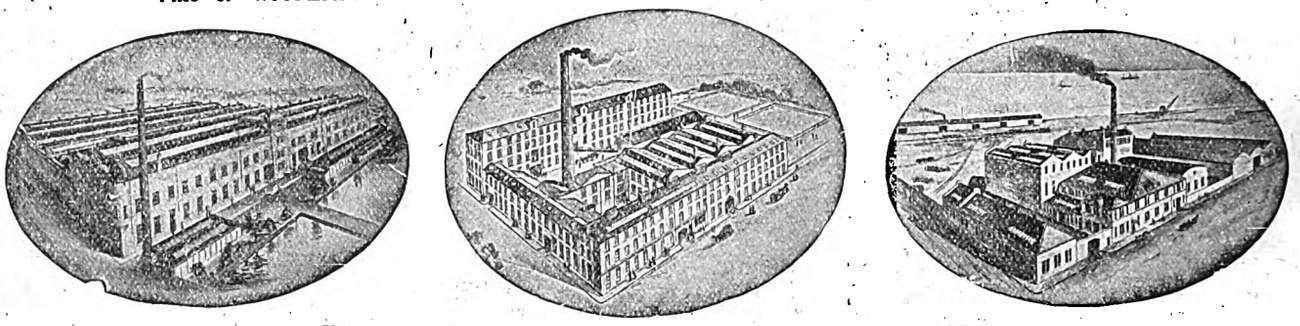

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THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

No. 758.—VOL. XXVIII. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1925.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	Page
NOTES OF THE WEEK	609
SPECIAL LETTERS—	
Egypt	612
Turkey	612
Persia	613
LEADING ARTICLE—	
The Political Tangle in Greece...	611
SPECIAL ARTICLE—	
The Qadi	614
PERSONAL AND GENERAL ...	619
BOOK REVIEWS	616
THE WEEK AT HOME	617
INDIAN AFFAIRS—	
Indian Railway Policy ...	620
Current Topics	621
Special Letters: Calcutta ...	622
Simla... ...	623
The Indian Mail	624
Commercial Notes	626
Indian Exchange	626
COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
Notes and News	627
Near East Markets	630
Shipping Intelligence	640
Motors & Motoring. By G. B. B.	631
Company Meetings—	
1. Anglo-Persian Oil ...	632
2. Bengal Dooars Railway ...	634
3. Assam Railways & Trading	635
4. Bengal-Nagpur Railway ...	635
Chess	637
Cotton and Cotton Goods ...	636

NOTES OF THE WEEK

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

The Syrian Revolt.

Reinforcements continue to arrive in Syria, but hardly in adequate numbers to bring the rebellion to an early end. The course of the fighting suggests that the climax has been passed. Isolated bands are still capable of doing material damage, and the rounding up of each mobile force must cause the French considerable trouble, if peace is to depend on the surrender of the last rifle. Other methods, we imagine, will be adopted for settlement. The French will not want the campaign to be prolonged into the rainy season, the Druses will have had enough of fighting, if they can be persuaded that new methods of administration are likely to be adopted. Both sides have an interest in the restoration of peace in time for winter sowings to be taken in hand. It has been a happy inspiration on the part of the British Government to invite M. Jouvenel, the new High Commissioner for Syria, to visit London before he sails for Beyrout. Both countries stand to benefit by cordial co-operation in the Near and Middle East; but so far there has been little of it. Mr. Chamberlain was able to win over M. Herriot to his way of thinking, and for a time there was a prospect of a better spirit permeating French representation in the Near and Middle East. Political changes in France, however, intervened before the seed sown could bear fruit. As far as Syria and Palestine are concerned, the need for a close understanding on the spot between the French and British is obvious. The preliminary talks in London should go a long way towards oiling the wheels of Anglo-French co-operation in that part of the world.

Italy and Yugoslavia.

The past week has shown that the correct relations recently established between Yugoslavia and Italy have to be regarded as being propped up by good intentions on both sides rather than as resting on a particularly secure foundation. As an aftermath of the plot to kill Signor Mussolini a Fascist crowd in Trieste started to riot and, while doing damage in various directions, appears to have directed most of their attention to the offices of the *Edinost*, a Slovene newspaper. Furniture and documents were destroyed, and attempts were made to break up the printing machinery. On the same day the monument of the Slovene poet Vilhar at Postumia was defaced. These two anti-Slovene demonstrations in Italy immediately aroused intense indignation in Yugoslavia. In Belgrade the police had time to prevent any untoward incident, by prohibiting meetings of protest and by dispersing crowds. In some towns, however, the authorities were not successful in anticipating the hotheads among the population. In Zagreb students burned an Italian flag, and windows at the Italian Consulate were broken; attacks were also made on the Italian Consulates at Split and Shibenik. At Liubliana a strong detachment of police kept watch and ward for several days round the Italian Consulate, which is in the main street of the city, and the demonstrators were unable to do more than cause inconvenience to the traffic. In due course the trouble died down, but the Yugoslav Government has had to put itself right with Italy. Formal apologies have been conveyed to the Italian Government; the Mayor of Zagreb has been retired; the students implicated in the burning of the flag have been sentenced to fourteen days' imprisonment, and an indemnity will be paid as reparation for the damage done to the Consulates.

The Treatment of Minorities.

As in the case of the recent frontier trouble between Greece and Bulgaria, the liquidation of the actual incident is not sufficient, if the desire exists in any quarter to see similar trouble avoided in future. Italy has included within her borders between five and six hundred thousand inhabitants of Yugoslav origin. As a Great Power, she is not bound by any Minorities Convention, and she adopts the view that she cannot admit any distinction between citizens of Italian origin and those who may have formerly

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regarded themselves as Southern Slavs. The stirrings of Southern Slav race consciousness are of too recent a date to allow this policy to be a practical success, particularly when relations between Italy and Yugoslavia have been strained until a year ago. It is not to be expected that those of Yugoslav origin in Italy should always be able to avoid emphasising points of difference between themselves and their fellow-subjects of purely Italian extraction, if only for the reason that they wish to keep alive their Yugoslav traditions. Under the Fascist régime, accordingly, a certain amount of prominence has been given to the differences between the two sections of the population. Yugoslav National Clubs, it is complained, have been burnt, schools have been closed, and the Yugoslav organs in the Press have been suppressed or muzzled. The last rallying point, as it were, of Slovene social and economic life along this northern coast of the Adriatic was the *Edinost*, and now this has been the object of an attack. It is evident, as the Yugoslav Foreign Minister was careful to point out, that the Yugoslav Government cannot interfere with or even discuss the internal affairs of Italy; but it is not to be supposed that the Yugoslav subjects of Italy will consider themselves equally debarred from pressing their claims. Fortunately, their leader in the Italian Parliament appears to be a level-headed man, who preaches to his followers loyalty to their political home. He does, however, press for cultural autonomy for the Slovenes, the right to use their own language in church, school and court, on the lines that have proved successful with French minorities in Canada. Ultimately, perhaps, the wisdom of such a policy will commend itself to Italy, when her domestic situation has acquired greater stability. Nothing is better calculated to weld Yugoslavia into a compact whole, and to make of her for that reason a more formidable proposition for Italy than the belief that Yugoslav subjects in Italy are being oppressed or exposed to objectionable discrimination. This last trouble in Trieste has undoubtedly quickened interest in the Yugoslav population in Italy among the Serbians, who before were inclined to regard it as the particular concern of the Croats and Slovenes.

Faction in Egypt.

Independent Egypt has not had long to wait before hearing in her midst the slogan "Things were better under the British." The lesson that the Egyptians have not yet learned is that the successful working of a Constitution entails much give-and-take on all sides. If the Zaghloulists are not prepared to shape their policy on this axiom, but are bent on making things unworkable in independent Egypt, they can hardly expect to meet with the same philosophic tolerance as they experienced when British officials had more voice in the administration of the country. Ziwar Pasha's Government must be credited with a desire to "get on with their work"; Zaghloul Pasha—so it seems to the ordinary observer—does not mind what happens to the country, provided that it does not get on without him. In the circumstances there is no reason for anyone, certainly not for the Zaghloulists, to be surprised if Ziwar Pasha marshals all the battalions under his command to secure victory. One of these battalions was a hurriedly enacted Law of Associations, but the value of its assistance has yet to be determined. The Government is indisposed to allow Zaghloul Pasha as much rope as the British found it politic to give him, and consequently the police are told off to prevent or disperse Zaghloulist demonstrations. These incidents are unedifying and derogatory to Egypt, for they mean that, while the great bulk of the Egyptian people wants nothing as much as to be allowed to proceed peaceably with its work, the sole object of one section of its political leaders is to prevent the work with which they are primarily concerned—that of the political or administrative machine—from being accomplished.

Komitajis.

The Commission appointed by the Council of the League of Nations to investigate the recent trouble on the Græco-Bulgarian frontier is credited with the intention of accepting the evidence supplied to it by the Allied Military Attachés who were able to be on the spot at an earlier date, and will devote some of its time to considering the *komitaji* question. If the statement that the League of Nations is considering a plan for assisting the Bulgarian Government to "stamp out" the *komitajis* is meant to imply that a campaign of extermination is to be countenanced by the League of Nations, it may be dismissed at once as absurd. That way peace in the Balkans does not lie. The *komitaji*, as the name implies, is not an ordinary brigand, although the latter may mask himself in a Peninsula where the retention of political grievances in a Peninsula where the retention of polical grievances has been reduced to a science, if not to a fine art. If all the *komitajis* were stamped out one day, there would be a plentiful crop to take their place within a year, unless a radical change is effected in dealing with minorities in the Balkans. The trouble is not so much the official policy of any Government as the treatment meted out on the spot by subordinate local officials. If each Government could exercise special care in the selection of officials for Macedonian territory and hold them responsible for local dissatisfaction, a new spirit might begin to pervade the Balkans; but these measures would not make peaceable citizens of those who belong to the Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation.

Frontiers in Arabia.

Sir Gilbert Clayton, who left England on September 24, on a mission to the Hejaz in order to discuss with Sultan Ibn Saoud the boundaries of Nejd and Transjordan, has concluded his negotiations and has returned to Egypt. A previous agreement had settled the frontiers between Nejd and Iraq, but differences had arisen on the subjects of raids of Nejd territory alleged to have originated in Iraq. As was to be expected, the Baghdad Government has declared its readiness to deal with any offenders for whose good behaviour it is morally responsible. The problem of a Nejd-Transjordan frontier is complicated by the custom of certain tribes owning allegiance to Sultan Ibn Saoud in moving to Syria during the summer months and trading with Damascus. To avoid the inconvenience of having to pass through Transjordan territory in order to reach Syria, the Sultan of Nejd has claimed that his territory should march with Syria. The effect of this would be to cut off Transjordan from Iraq, and the question arises whether it is of more importance to Nejd that certain tribes should not have to enter Transjordan territory on their way to and from

(Continued on page 618.)

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1925.

THE POLITICAL TANGLE IN GREECE.

The Greek elections are fixed for March. During the next three months, therefore, politicians and political parties will be taking stock of the situation, and will have to decide whether the present position, far from satisfactory from a constitutional point of view, is to be continued or whether a practical attempt is to be made to win Greece back to more normal conditions. However anomalous General Pangalos's assumption of office may have been, he has, undoubtedly, steadied Greece politically and called a halt to the system of interpreting the interests of the State solely in terms of party advantage. He found the administration of the country stultified by the feud between the two chief political groups, and in order to have a strong Government he transferred power from the hands of the politicians into his own. The main trend of his policy appears to have been to give the Greek people the respite that they desire and badly needed from political strife. If he had used his dictatorial powers to the full, he could probably have avoided any appeal to the electorate for a much longer period; but the deference that he has paid to constitutionalism has obliged him to yield in this matter to the pressure brought to bear upon him. The issue before the politicians, therefore, at the coming elections would seem to be whether they can convince General Pangalos and those who are behind him that they are now ready to resume control of the Government without any risk of a relapse into a political war to the knife, or whether in his opinion a clear case is made out for a continuance of the exceptional conditions that he felt obliged to introduce into the direction of public affairs. Unless some definite action is taken by the political leaders, the elections next March may leave the political groups much as they are at present, that is to say, fairly equally matched in political strength, if, indeed, a general tendency to attribute to past and present leaders the various economic and material ills from which the public considers itself to be suffering does not cause the electorate to veer largely to the Left. In the latter case, it may be imagined, General Pangalos would feel called upon to see that the dictatorship was established on unequivocal lines, and the politicians would have lost the opportunity afforded them of restoring an unrestricted parliamentary régime.

By the reconstruction of his Cabinet, which has enabled him to modify its former exclusively Venizelist complexion, General Pangalos has given the two chief political parties a clear lead. They are unlikely to profit by it, however, unless they can bring themselves to discuss in joint conference the whole situation with all its various complications and ramifications. The dominant factor to-day is that the military element has taken charge of Greece. Now, as things were, this may not be a bad thing for the country, but it is not a solution that the politicians can be expected to endorse. The two chief political parties, as already stated, are fairly evenly matched; at the same time relations between them are still officially embittered by past events and by considerations of present emoluments. In spite of the fact that General Pangalos holds himself above parties, his identification with the republican system caused him to rely in the first instance for administrative help on Venizelists, who regard their retention of power as essential to the maintenance of the Republic. The Anti-Venizelists—the term Royalist has been dropped—considered that General Pangalos and the system that he has introduced is evidence of the failure of Venizelism to govern the country satisfactorily by itself, for the Government that General Pangalos overthrew was purely Venizelist. To them, therefore, it is an axiom, endorsed in effect by General Pangalos himself, that the interests of Greece require co-operation between the two parties. The main obstacles in the way are the execution of the five Ministers in 1922 and the problem of the Anti-Venizelist officers removed from the Army. In the former the Anti-Venizelists see a stain attaching not only to individual families, but also to the party as a whole, until the episode has been formally and finally liquidated. The position in regard to the Army is that for the most part the places of the dismissed Royalist officers had to be taken by men hurriedly promoted for the purpose; their military education in the bulk would be inferior, and if appointments were to depend entirely on merit, when the dismissed officers were reinstated, the Venizelist officers might stand a poor chance against their competitors. It may be that misgivings on this point, coupled with the conviction that General Pangalos was inclining too much towards the Anti-Venizelist camp, were responsible for General Plastiras' abortive intrigue; for in the event of any general reinstatement of Royalist officers a large number of those now on the active list could hardly expect to be retained solely on their military qualifications.

As far as is known, the desire for co-operation exists only with the Anti-Venizelists; the Venizelists, being in possession, are not so impressed with the need for any change. To overcome the obstacles in the way of closing once and for all the unedifying chapter of the Royalist-Venizelist feud, the Anti-Venizelists, it is understood, would like a joint declaration issued by the two parties admitting mistakes in the past on both sides, but recording that there were no traitors on either; the executions of the Ministers would be declared to have been unlawful, in order that the dead men might be rehabilitated in the eyes of their countrymen, but a further clause would exculpate all those in any way responsible for the executions. The fears of the Army regarding the reinstatement of the dismissed officers are held to be exaggerated, if only for the reason that many of the latter have taken up other callings and would not wish to return to military life. It could, however, be made a stipulation in the joint agreement that no present officer should be superseded without adequate compensation, for it would be essential to the success of the movement for co-operation that no considerable body of opinion on either side should labour under a sense of grievance. The concession to be made by the Anti-Venizelists would be the whole-hearted acceptance of the Republic, with possibly the proviso that, if at any time a change was suggested, it should not be adopted without the official support of both parties. Whether both the Venizelists and the Anti-Venizelists could bring themselves to accept a working agreement on these lines we have no means of knowing. Moderate men on each side are believed to favour co-operation, but neither party is without its extremists. Only by co-operation can they hope to eliminate military interference in politicics, and the leaders will incur a serious responsibility, if they go to the country in March with no better appeal than the old party cries. A political alliance between Venizelists and Anti-Venizelists would enable the Chamber to become the focus of the intelligence and constructive ability of Greece instead of a mere battle-ground for contending parties. What is required is that the leaders should meet in conference to explore the ground of possible agreement, in the meantime imposing silence on their champions in the Press.

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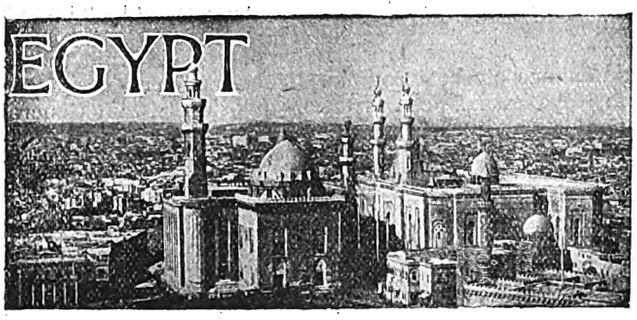
From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, November 8.

Ziwar Pasha's Return.

The return to this country to-morrow of the Prime Minister, Ahmed Ziwar Pasha, after an absence in Europe of close upon five months, seems likely to lend new animation to local politics. For a long time past it has been thought that Ziwar Pasha would welcome an opportunity of resigning from the Ministry and returning to the comparative peace and calm of the Egyptian Legation in Rome, or in any other European Capital. On the other hand, it is known that at one time he contemplated taking over the portfolio of the Interior, an intention which would suggest a wish to become even more closely concerned with the politics of the country, rather than a desire to get out of them. What are Ziwar Pasha's real views at the present time will not be known until he has had an opportunity of revealing his intentions, one way or the other, but if he is still anxious to get out of local politics he will hardly find a better time than the present, when the Coalition Ministry which he formed has become, with the single exception of himself, a Unionist Ministry, which has been led during the past five months by the President of the Unionist Party.

Government and Cotton.

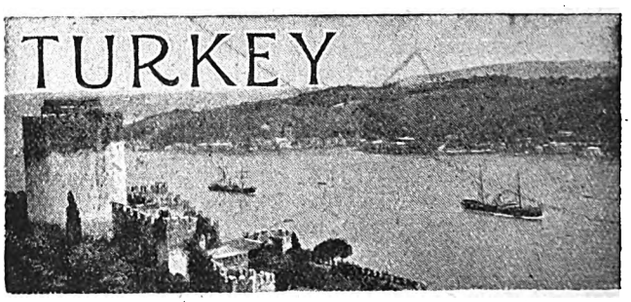
The Government's cotton speculations show little sign of influencing the market, for during the past week the official buyers have merely followed the market down with daily purchases of a few hundred bales. In previous years Governmental gambling in cotton has been very popular with the growers, but now, since it is apparent that the law of supply and demand will refuse to bow before official attempts at artificial bolstering-up of prices, the same newspapers which two months ago urged the Government to buy are now severely criticising the purchases. The Government during the past week has decided to try another expedient, namely, the limitation of the cotton area to one-third of the total cultivated land of the country. This step has been tried with success in the past, but it has many opponents to-day, because of the great difficulty of enforcing the restriction.

Political Associations' Law.

The Government's *ballon d'essai*, in the case of the new law regarding political associations, which took the form of releasing for publication the draft of the law before its appearance in the *Journal Officiel* makes it operative, seems, in the circumstances, to have been wise. For the law has encountered extraordinary opposition, and all the anti-Government forces have declared their intention of refusing to obey it. Faced with the probability of serious trouble, the Government is not only preparing a memorandum, explaining that the ordinance was never intended to be so noxious as its opponents imagine, but is also, so report says, reshaping the law itself.

Hatred of Nashaat Pasha.

This Political Associations' Law, which was a palpable "try-on," timed to appear shortly after the arrival of the new High Commissioner, with the hope, on the one hand, that the fact of his having come so lately would prevent his taking any great interest in the measure, and, on the other hand, that the country would suppose that the British Representative had no objection to the ordinance, has earned the present Administration undiluted abuse. But it is not the Cabinet upon which the Opposition concentrates its heaviest fire, for the Acting Premier and his colleagues are assumed to be tools in the hands of Hassan Nashaat Pasha, Director of the Royal Cabinet, for whom Liberal Constitutionals, Zaghloulists and Nationalists have an equally intense hatred. How this young man, who seems not to have a friend anywhere, even among the Unionist Party which he himself created, has managed, nevertheless, to increase his power and influence to its present remarkable height, is one of the romances of Egyptian politics. No doubt there will come for him, as there comes, sooner or later, for most palace favourites everywhere, a day when all that he has done and built will fall crashing about his ears, but there is no sign as yet of the approach of that day. But until then, Nashaat Pasha is yet feared by most, and exercises his authority over all.



Constantinople, November 10.

New Tax Proposals.

Further enlightenment regarding the financial sacrifices which the people of Turkey will have to make this year was quickly forthcoming after the preliminary reference made to them by Mustapha Kemal Pasha in his speech to the Grand National Assembly on November 1. The new draft laws which are now before the Assembly are a work of art as far as the possibility of taxation goes. The Ministry of Finance has left very few, if any, loopholes by which an inhabitant of Turkey can escape being taxed. In the new scheme provision appears to have been made for everybody in every station of life and the effort to

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make up, on the swings, for what has been lost or missed on the roundabouts has, apparently been extremely successful. Bachelors become liable for almost as much as married men with families, and those who burn gas and electricity in preference to the taxed paraffin oil will also be caught at the end of the month when ten per cent. on the amount of the bill will be exacted as a Government tax. Chocolates, liqueurs, sweetmeats, in fact everything having sugar as an ingredient, will, from the time these projects become law, be prohibited importations because sugar becomes a Government monopoly (with a tax of three pence per pound). An additional revenue of between 60 and 70 millions pounds Turkish will be realised by these taxes, which will make up the present budget deficit and, in addition, permit a considerably raised expenditure.

Changing Customs.

It becomes increasingly difficult to estimate to what extent the reforms undertaken by the present Turkey will ultimately go, as some new or projected change is recorded every day. While the adoption of the international style of head-dress constitutes the most evident and one of the most important of these changes it is only one of many which have been agreed upon during the past few weeks. The projected substitution of the Christian era in preferance to that of Hegira is by no means a change without an important significance. Customs and modes not essentially Turkish, whose own individuality is insufficient to enforce their continuance, are being abolished. In this category comes the use of the word *effendi*. *Effendi*, as at present used in the Turkish language, is now considered as without significance, and this, together with the fact that it is of Greek origin (being a corruption of a Greek word) is sufficient to have called for its erasure from the Turkish vocabulary.

Intermarriage.

Another startling example of the complete veering round of Turkish opinion is supplied by the fact that one of Turkey's oldest newspapers published an editorial advocating the removal of the barrier to mixed marriage with Turkish women, which has hitherto existed. The rule exacting the adoption of Islam, which has constituted an important condition in all marriages between foreigners and Turkish women, is now, because the present-day standard of intelligence is awakening to the fact that such a barrier is in many ways detrimental to the country, the object of much unfavourable criticism. It is now held that intermarriage with Europeans would go far to promote the necessary standards of health and intellect in the Turkish nation.

Fashions in Hats.

As regards the new fashions of wearing hats there seems, to judge from what is seen in the streets, to be some slight uncertainty concerning just what is "done." The sight of a gentleman in the remarkably baggy pantaloons fashionable only a short time ago, wearing a sort of morning coat and top hat, hardly promotes serious respect, while the sight of *hamals* carrying miniature butcher's shops on their backs and wearing bowlers points to the fact of there being some misconception regarding the relevancy of things. Many of these strange sights were, however, due to the sudden order against wearing fezes, to conform with which, especially as the shops were closed on the day the order came into force, fashion and etiquette had to take a second place.

PERSIA.

Teheran, October 21.

The Anti-Kajar Agitation.

The City is passing through another phase of Republican agitation, which was apparently timed to coincide with the Shah's departure from Europe. The Shah postponed his return indefinitely, but the present agitation aims at the deposition of the Dynasty. Telegrams were addressed to the Speaker of the Mejliss from Committees of Progress, and so on, at towns like Tabriz and Kerman, threatening trouble if Government and Parliament failed to reply favourably at once. It was also understood that a Bill is about to be presented to the present House of Deputies authorizing the next Mejliss to make changes in the existing Constitution. Teheran is used to these extravagances, and the simple solution was indulged of the Speaker's resigning, and the House's informing the Committee of Tabriz that no reply could be given till a Speaker could be elected. As no one will accept election, there is time to consider the agitation; meanwhile Parliamentary business is at a standstill.

Fresh elections commence on November 15, and only three or four months remain to this Mejliss to finish the Land Law Tax, the Penal Code, and much other essential legislation. It is predicted by many that little future business will be transacted by this House.

The attitude of the Public is apathetic, partly as it has seen so many changes recently, and partly because it fears exploitation of any unfavourable situation by Bolshevist agitators. It is said that Police inquiries after the recent Bread Riot prove the existence of active Communist Committees in Persia, and their Press propaganda is constant and insidious.

Prospect of Hardship.

Bread is still a source of popular discontent, being both deficient and of bad quality. Every effort is being made to import reserves of wheat from distant Provinces, and even Russia, but one difficulty leads to another, and prices of fodder and consequently transport steadily increase with the demands on them. Altogether the outlook is an anxious one for the poor this winter, and, probably next year also, owing to deficient sowing.

Exceptionally abundant rains have fallen recently and are taken as a good omen.

French Aviation in Persia.

A French aviator, M. Nogues, has performed a fine feat in flying his machine here via Constantinople and Aleppo. With him was a representative of the French Air Commercial Service, who is making certain proposals to Government in competition with the German Junkers Company.

America and Persia.

Dr. Millspaugh addressed a large gathering of members and friends of the Persia-America Society on the 15th instant, on the subject of "The Economic Ties of Persia and America," in the course of which he outlined the result of his recent visit to America. Emphasising the friendly interest and sympathy existing towards Persia, he expressed confidence that capital would be forthcoming for any sound business proposition, provided a stable Government and properly balanced budget will be assured. The lecture was very favourably reviewed by the Press, though some disappointment was evinced that more information was not given regarding a loan for railway construction. It is well realized now that had the railway surveyed in 1918 been completed, the present economic

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difficulties of Teheran would have been impossible. The prospect of any railways being successfully built now is remote, though the need of one is more obvious than ever.

General News.

A welcome improvement in the telephone service is promised for this winter, thanks to the efforts of the German engineers of the local Persian Telephone Company which has imported and installed an extensive system of underground cable in place of the existing maze of overhead lines. The German engineers of the Electric Light Company are proposing to do likewise for the electric light service.

Mr. McCaskey, the popular Treasurer-General, is proceeding on leave and will be replaced by Mr. Jones, from Azerbaijan. New advisers have been appointed to Resht, Kerman, and Khorassan.

A few changes have occurred in the staffs of the Legations. Mohieddin Pasha left recently for Egypt, and the new Turkish Minister, Mahmoud Shaukat Bey, is expected shortly. The new American and Polish Ministers are also now *en route*, and a new Afghan Minister has been nominated.

PILGRIMAGE TO GALLIPOLI AND SALONIKA.

The St. Barnabas Hostels have made arrangements for a War Graves Pilgrimage to Gallipoli and Salonika in September of next year. A special train has been engaged for transport to Marseilles, where the pilgrims will embark in a chartered steamer. The itinerary will be as follows:—London, Marseilles, Girgenti (for Empedocle Cemetery, Sicily), Malta, Salonika, Lemnos, Suvla Bay, Anzac, Lancashire Landing, Constantinople, and possibly Athens. The pilgrimage will last about 18 to 20 days and the inclusive cost will range from £30 upwards, according to location of cabins. The St. Barnabas Pilgrimage Fund hope to include a few poor mothers in this pilgrimage. A certain number of cabins will be available for soldiers who served in the areas, but the main object of the pilgrimage is to give relatives an opportunity of visiting their boys' graves. Lectures will be given on the battlefields of Salonika and the Peninsula, and guides will be provided for the pilgrims who will thus be assured of seeing the graves they go out to visit. Cabins will not be allotted until next year, but intending pilgrims should make early application to avoid disappointment. Full particulars can be had from the Hon. Secretary, St. Barnabas Pilgrimage, 7, Hobart Place, S.W. 1.

THE INDIAN SOCIETY.

The second issue of "Indian Art and Letters," the publication of the India Society, will be ready before the end of the month. It will contain the lectures delivered before the Society by Prof. Sylvain Lévi, on "The Art of Nepal," by Sir John Woodroffe on the "Psychology of Hindu Religious Ritual," and by Mr. Stanley Rice on "The Sanskrit Drama." There will also be an illustrated summary of Sir Wolseley Haig's lecture on the "Architecture of Hyderabad." The price is 3s.

According to the *Morning Post* the *Ekonomitcheskaya Zhizn* reports that the proposal made by Arcos to the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture to the effect that the Soviet will supply Turkish peasants with paraffin and petrol at prices below those of the Standard Oil Company has been accepted.

THE PERSIA SOCIETY.

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ORIENTAL TYPES.*

The Qadi.

By F. W. Chardin.

Ahmad Effendi had long been a clerk in the Shar' Court, rising through all its grades until he become *bash-katib* or head clerk. By disposition, culture and every physical and mental characteristic, he was the beau-ideal of an elderly Oriental gentleman. Slightly built, he possessed finely cut features with a complexion as white as an Englishman's, a short white beard framing the lower part of his face. His slender, shapely white hands, and indeed his whole appearance, proclaimed this man of some sixty years of age a scholar, just as his kindly eyes and whole deportment proclaimed him a gentleman. His well-trimmed beard, the spotless white muslin turban wound round a red fez, the long, collarless broadcloth coat of a sober colour and stretching from shoulders to feet announced, at once, his pretensions to religious learning. The authority with which he spoke and the manner with which his judgments were accepted by others showed that he indeed possessed an erudition which sprang from a lifetime of study and experience.

At this point a word as to the Shar' Court in Turkish or ex-Turkish lands is necessary. Although, nowadays, only a division in the judicial system of these lands, a system admirable on paper but so often sadly lacking in effectiveness, it was, until the middle of the nineteenth century, the only court of pleas in that vast empire. The Shar', the Canonical or Sacred Law of Islam, was the only code by which all human actions were regulated and the measure by which all human conduct judged. This code is fixed and, of a necessity, somewhat archaic, being composed of the precepts of the Prophet as contained in the Quran, together with his utterances as reported by his close intimates and preserved in the *Hadith* or "Collection of Traditions." These great collections of precepts, interpreted and explained by one of the five great legists, in this case Abu Hanifa, the founder of the "Hanafi" or orthodox school of thought followed by the Turks, became the canonical law of the most important Sunni division of Islam. The Prophet died in A.D. 632 and Abu Hanifa in A.D. 767, and, from that time, the law remained immutable. These laws might have been all that was required in a simple primitive community such as that of the Arabs of the seventh century A.D. but, with the growth of Western influence, education and thought, and with the more complex, changing and advancing conditions of European civilisation, it was found necessary for a change to be made. The Sublime Porte therefore issued an Ottoman civil and penal code of laws which took cognisance of modern conditions. This code, based on the "Code Napoleon," is, in theory, an excellent one. It is its administration which has left, so often, much to be desired. With the advent of this new civil code, new courts were established to deal with it, and the Shar' Court was left to administer such matters as marriage, divorce, inheritance. This court had jurisdiction only over Muslims, the jurisdiction in such matters, in the case of Christians, Jews and other religious minorities, being delegated to their various bishops or other spiritual heads. Of course, the ordinary civil courts were split up into several branches, such as police or magisterial courts, local

* See The Near East and India of April 30, June 4, August 20, and October 22.

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criminal and central criminal courts, court of appeal, etc., and court of first instance with jurisdiction for small pleas and higher courts of pleas. But to describe these various courts would have no reference to our subject.

Ahmad Effendi then, had for many years sat as a clerk in the Shar' Court, in an atmosphere calculated to corrupt all but the characters of the finest texture, an atmosphere of traditionalism, bigotry and fanaticism, the very birthplace of that disease of the East, religious intolerance. During all that time, while performing his clerical duties, he had absorbed, and, by great study, had acquired, an exceeding great store of knowledge and precedents. When, upon the entry of the British conquerors, he was appointed to the vacant post of Qadi, the chorus of approval from Christian, Jewish and other quarters, with no axe to grind, was unanimous.

Ahmad Effendi was appointed by the British administrator of the old Turkish province, a forceful, vigorous soldier, often of rough, violent speech, and whose actions sometimes savoured of high-handedness. But this fiery dictator was a genius in his judgment of men, be they saint or sinner, and the gentle, cultured, courteous Ahmad Effendi, who had never pushed himself forward, nor intrigued for advancement, was preferred above his more assertive and ambitious colleagues. The fearless, restless-spirited man of action appreciated the virtues of the gentle, pious man of learning.

The town had not, within living memory, had such a Qadi. Former European travellers relate that on the occasion of their visits, the Qadi was the centre of a corrupt, ignorant and fanatical circle. The labours of a well-known archæologist were greatly hindered, and well-nigh prevented, by the machinations of a former Qadi who almost stirred up a riot on the pretext that the visitor was releasing on the earth long-buried devils, worshipped in the ignorance by the *Awwalin* or ancients.

It was always interesting to watch the kindly old gentleman at his duties, to mark his gentle firmness with argumentative and often semi-hysterical claimants and witnesses, and to see him propound abstruse rulings on some intricate point of law, always carefully dealing with each particle of evidence.

I have often discussed with him the dogmas and doctrines of his faith, and have had them set forth in the best possible light. Once when I informed him that I sometimes read the Quran in a parallel version printed in Arabic and English, the old gentleman replied, "But, your Excellency, it is unlawful to translate the Word of Allah into any other language. How then can it be, as you say, translated by a Muslim?" On the reply that the translation and annotation were made by a learned Indian, a member of the Ahmadiyah sect, he shook his orthodox head sadly.

If one met him in the street, his salute would be of the most punctilious, a low bow with the right hand making a motion as of scooping up dust from the ground, the hand with its imaginary dust being placed on the breast, lips and forehead, a relic of old Eastern courtliness not much seen nowadays.

Kind-hearted and gentle though he was by nature, he knew that, sometimes, a stern severity was necessary in the task of Government. Once, when the authorities had as usual shown themselves extremely forbearing in their dealings with some troublesome desert tribesmen, the old gentleman came into my office and said, "Your Excellency, there is only one fault that I can find with the British administration of this country, it is too kind. That does not do with these Arabs, who respect only force. I know that it is not from fear or weakness that you British act thus, but only from a desire to avoid needless hardship on women and children, but my heart is very troubled about it all; the British Administration shows too much *hilm* (kindness) to people of that sort."

One day I asked my servant Ibrahim what the common people said of Ahmad Effendi. "Wallah, Sahib," was his reply, "there never was such a Qadi, so pious, so learned, so just and honest. "Yes, yes," I said, "I know all about that, but do the people appreciate such qualities?" To which he replied, "Well, Sahib, truly there are many of the poor people who complain of him, saying "He makes too much *taftish*, i.e., he investigates too thoroughly!"

PERSIA IN RECENT YEARS.

On November 12, at the Royal United Service Institution, Colonel W. G. Grey lectured to the Central Asian Society on "The Recent History of Persia," General Sir George MacMunn being in the Chair. The lecturer briefly sketched the history of Persia from the time of the Anglo-Persian Agreement of 1907 to the recent deposition of the Kajar Dynasty, paying special attention to the circumstances surrounding the nullifying of the Anglo-Persian Agreement of 1919, and, particularly, to the efforts of Mr. Armitage-Smith and of Mr. Norman to govern the finances of post-War Persia. He supplied certain evidence which went to show that some Russians, at any rate, believed in the partitioning of Persia, but declared that such a scheme was hostile to Great Britain's intention. In referring to present conditions he stated that Riza Khan, who might at any time become Shah, was exactly what Persia needed—a strong man.

In memory of Doctor Norman Lothian (British) and Dr. Darling (American), the two members of the Malarja Commission of the League of Nations who were killed in a motor accident near Beyrouth on May 21 last while investigating malaria conditions in Syria, the League's Health Committee has decided to create a "Lothian Scholarship" and a "Darling Prize," which will be awarded periodically for the encouragement of malariological study.

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Book Reviews and Notes.

A SUFI PILGRIM'S PROGRESS.

"THE CONFERENCE OF THE BIRDS." An abridged version of Farid-ud-Din Attar's Mantiq-ut-Tayi. By R. P. Masani. (Oxford University Press.)

Every organised religion develops a mystic side. In each there arises a knot of earnest men and women who strive to pierce the veil concealing the Creator from His myriad creatures. By dint of ceaseless effort they cast off the slough of animism, tradition, and dogma which obscures the eternal Verities. Their goal is union with the Source of Life, but the upward path is beset with stumbling-blocks. Some mystics are inclined to quietism, which gives free scope to evil-doers; others in despair find an illusive refuge in agnosticism, which plunges them into the vortex of anarchy; while others are unable to subdue their earthy passions which enslave them to egoism and self-indulgence.

Islam was no exception to the rule. Its founder was undoubtedly a mystic; and within three centuries of his death there took root in Persia a cult which is steadily gaining ground in these troublous times. Adepts styled themselves "Sufis," from a root word signifying purity; and their speculations led them by sheer intuition to anticipate the latest discoveries of science. Thus a 13th century Sufi named Maulánd Rumi was clearly a forerunner of Charles Darwin. He writes:—

> I died as a mineral and became a plant,
> I died as plant and rose to animal,
> I died as animal and I was Man.
> Why should I fear? When was I less by dying?
> Yet once more I shall die as man, to soar
> With angels blest: but e'en from angels
> I must on—to God we shall return.

Another of the brotherhood was Muhammad-Ibn-Farid-ud-din Attar, born near Nishapur in 1119 of our era. He produced 120,000 poetical couplets, besides several works in prose, of which the best known is his *Mantiq-ut-Tayr*, or "Conference of the Birds." Unlike many of his fellow-teachers, who suffered martyrdom at the hands of orthodox Moslems, Farid-ud-din Attar reached the patriarchal age of 114 ere he was slain by one of Genghiz Khau's henchmen.

Mr. Masani has done well in giving the world a translation of this beautiful allegory, which resembles our own "Pilgrim's Progress" by typifying the pains and perils inseparable from the quest for Truth. Its author imagines a vast assemblage of birds, representing human souls, who have set their hearts on attending the Court of the Simurg, or King of Beasts. They choose a leader in the person of the Hoopoe, who guides them through seven toilsome valleys, encouraging the despondent by aphorisms and parables. Finally, thirty birds who have survived the hardships of the journey are led by the hoopoe into the Divine Presence.

Sufism is pregnant with lessons for this despairing and disillusioned age. In Mr. Masani's opinion its doctrines will help us to steer clear of the rocks of self-indulgence and nihilism; moreover,

> There is no branch of Oriental or European thought the study of which promotes a better understanding between East and West. It removes many a veil of separation which keeps the different races apart from one another, and therefore apart from God: and makes them realise their essential unity beneath superficial diversity.

F. H. S.

PROMETHEUS MI IN CHAINS.

"SIX PRISONS AND TWO REVOLUTIONS: ADVENTURES IN TRANSCAUCASIA AND ANATOLIA 1920-21." By Oliver Baldwin, sometime Lieut.-Col. in the Armenian Army (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 12s. 6d. with Illustrations and map).

This is the account of the happenings of somewhat less than a year of the author's life. The scene is laid in Erivan, Alexandropol and Kars. The period is 1920-21, the author being then 21 years of age. Most of the period was spent by him in Bolshevist or Turkish prisons of a most unpleasant kind, and all of it was filled with constantly present danger and every circumstance conducing to depression. Yet this is by no means a gloomy book. The author's youth, brains and pluck have seen to that.

Mr. Baldwin's avowed object in writing has been to make England believe that Armenia has suffered cruelly for siding with us, and that these sufferings have been very largely due to our abominable conduct in deserting her. We may say at once that, with all the horror that one must feel for the terrible events which he has so well narrated, he has entirely failed to convince us that England failed to do what she could. The author is an avowed Socialist, but even he has no use for Bolshevism after he has seen it at close quarters. It struck him "as being far more of a psychological disease than a form of society," but it is not easy to see how we could have "helped" the Armenians except by war or by coming in with the Bolshevists. In fact Mr. Baldwin's book makes us realise more clearly than before that Armenia has herself been and still is chiefly to blame for what she has suffered and is still going through, and that the Armenians are not an easy people to "help."

If, however, the author fails to carry conviction in these matters, he entirely succeeds in bringing before his reader a series of convincing and very interesting pictures of what he saw around him and of the mental attitude of those among whom he lived. And entirely unconsciously and unwittingly, he reveals himself as a very delightful personality.

We trust that he will not neglect his considerable literary talent, while hoping that growing years may lead him to relinquish the rôle of a Prometheus eating his own heart out in uncalled for shame for his own people.

C. S.-W.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Indo-Aryan Polity." By Praphullachandra Basu, M.A. (London: P. S. King and Son, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The Serajevo Crime." By M. Edith Durham. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Financial Reconstruction in England 1815-1822." By A. W. Acworth, B.A. (London: P. S. King and Son, Ltd. 8s. 6d. net.)

As a result of the inquiry into the robbery at the Archæological Museum at Sofia it has been ascertained that the thieves succeeded in carrying off 161 gold, silver, and copper coins, including 50 gold pieces of the time of the Macedonian Kings, and 45 gold coins of the Middle Ages.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Re-Opening of Parliament.

Parliament, which opened yesterday, promises to be a little more lively than recent sessions have been. First, and least important from the debating point of view, there are the Locarno Treaties. Then will come up a much brighter subject—the withdrawal by the Public Prosecutor of a case of larceny against some young British Fascisti who wrecked a van belonging to the *Daily Herald*. This case resembles in more than one way the affair of Campbell, during the Labour Administration. It should provide an illuminating study for the political psychologist. Without question, there is a feeling among certain Labour politicians that the Government is looking with unusual leniency upon the activities of the Fascisti, and this sentiment will surely make itself felt before long. In other words (as I think) there will be a demand for the jettisoning of the Home Secretary.

Other, larger things that may afford unexpected turns are the question of Mosul and of unemployment, towards both of which it seems difficult for the business mind to take a long view.

The session will, if one may venture to prophesy, resolve itself into a conflict between those who loyally follow Mr. Baldwin and the business interests which would like to see him deposed. Much—and not all of it from the Unionist benches—will probably be heard from these commercial representatives. From the purely political point of view the Government is, of course, as safe as Mr. Neville Chamberlain's houses.

Scottish Tories and Political Levy.

Another spoke was put in the wheel of that band of Tories who follow Mr. Macquisten in his demand that the funds of the Trade Unions shall be placed under the law at the annual conference last week of the Scottish Unionist Association. This enthusiastic exponent of the Trade Unions' "lawlessness" was very sharply rebuked by the Chairman of the London and North-Eastern Railway, who described Mr. Macquisten as one of those people "who did not understand the industrial position." This speaker explained that an agitation for the repeal of the Trades Disputes Act would inevitably be construed by Trade Unionists as a campaign for the complete suppression of Unions, and that if Mr. Macquisten's "sledge-hammer policy" were adopted, the Tories "would do more than anything else could do to annihilate trade and bring revolution."

This last view is, of course, the view of almost every impartial student of the industrial position, and its preferment at a Tory meeting is emphatically a hopeful sign.

The Raid on the Road Fund.

With a deficit of many millions on the first half of the financial year, Mr. Winston Churchill's eyes have been glancing eagerly round to see whence help may come to his Budget. At first they alighted on the Channel Islanders; but those insular *privilégiés* appear to have stared him out of countenance. His next gaze, however, has been directed to the Road Fund, and here it may be that something is doing, or, at any rate, brewing. The step contemplated has been named, happily enough, "raiding the Road Fund," for it is proposed, apparently with authoritative sanction, that part of the Road Fund should go to the Treasury instead of to the upkeep of roads.

Now the revenue of the Road Fund comes from taxes on motor vehicles. It contributes about £16,000,000 out of the £50,000,000 a year which the roads require for maintenance. The deficiency is made up out of the rates. What the Exchequer is contemplating is, therefore, to help the Budget by making the sorely-stricken citizen pay through his rates instead of through his taxes. It is a rather ghastly form of deceit. But the financiers always get the best of us with their inexhaustible dodges.

The Church Assembly.

The reforming hand is busy in the Church these days, and though the great measure, Prayer-Book Revision, is absent from the agenda of the Church Assembly this week, there is enough to occupy the public's attention. A storm of controversy is expected to arise on the question of Patronage. As is known, Diocesan Boards of Patronage are to be constituted, but nobody seems to quite know how. Should the lay electorate (i.e., the Parochial Councils) form a direct element in such Boards? Again, who shall be the residuary legatees for the patronage of lunatics, bankrupts, and criminous persons, of Jews and of Roman Catholics, and, perhaps, of the Crown and the Cabinet?

Another proposal that will excite fierce discussion is one made by the Bishop of Durham that all clergy should retire at the age of seventy. And there are other proposals down for creating an age-limit for certain offices.

Altogether it looks as though the Assembly would afford the spectacle of a contest on which shall be the greater—the elective or the non-elective elements, the clergy or the laity.

On the Nature of "Rags."

Whether it is owing to increasing senility or gentility I do not know, but there is a definite antagonism on the part of an intelligent section of the public to the "rags" in which students nowadays indulge. As is sometimes the case with other and more important matters, there is a little to be said on both sides. The public is without much doubt less tolerant (possibly it is not so well compensated) than it was; and there is unquestionably a falling-off in the quality of the rags.

Of the traditional centres of "rags," Oxford and Cambridge, I have seen little since the War. Before the War, at any rate, the rag at those places was pure farce, without motive and cause and final purpose. It was simply and confessedly anarchic. To force the doors of a music-hall; to fill up permanent holes in market-places with cement; to adorn revered buildings with articles of pagan domesticity—these and their like were the limits of pre-War rags. Now, however, students appear to set themselves up as arbiters in the Lord-knows-what-fields. Some young bloods from London, for instance, have just covered the Epstein Memorial to Hudson with green enamel, the heroic deed being commonly ascribed to law students of Gray's Inn.

Statues have, of course, been daubed many times before. But the motive has always been due to political feeling. This, however, is on the plane of æsthetics, and one does not remember a statue being maltreated on purely æsthetic

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grounds before. If this sort of thing goes on, we shall have our prohibitionist loyalists being moved to smash such a portrait of the King as was hung in last year's Academy. But it will not: æsthetic quarrels are only quarrels of words—which even students of law may in due time discover.

The Affairs of Woman.

A very clever woman, who used once to delight the intellect of Cambridge, and has since considerably spread her fame, Miss Rose Macaulay, has just been protesting with all the subtle vehemence that is at her command, against the hodiernal practice of "discussing Woman with a capital 'W' in the Press." One has great sympathy with her, and one would have more if she included Man in her list of things to be left out of the journalist's expositions. For the truth is that practically all the stuff that is written in the popular Press about human beings is so much piffle: it is always the abnormal or the absurdly sentimental type which is described.

Naturally Man thinks he knows something about the subject: has he not since Time began discoursed exhaustively on Woman and Weather? But of this tendency to drag in the limelight all the modern woman's affairs, be they concerned with her own home or that of somebody else, is increasingly nauseating. There is but one correct attitude of Man towards Woman: it is eternal and incorruptible, and it was written by a woman:—

Be plain in dress, and sober in your diet;
In short, my deary, kiss me, and be quiet.

Provincials of England.

There was a time when an Englishman might be found to rise up in defence of the men of his country, but since the days when it was made known by war correspondents that anyone but Englishmen won the War, the Englishman has sat with duly humbled head and listened dully to the Welshmen and Scotsmen and Irishmen making fun of his deficiencies. It is all now part of the British game, with the ignorant, ill-speaking, unimaginative, un-self-reliant Englishman as the butt of Celtic and Colonial scorn.

Two Irishmen, for example, whose love for their own country is so intense that they needs must live outside it in order to see it better, Mr. G. B. Shaw and Mr. St. John Ervine, have lately been saying, of our educationists and of our actors, that they are the least capable and the least pure-speaking of men. And it needed a professional Scot, the Master of Balliol, and an active actor, Mr. Nigel Playfair, to put them into their place.

The truth is, of course, that many Irishmen and many Scotsmen speak most delightful English, but it is a hundred miles away from being pure English. As for education, I confess I do not know what it means. . . .

Russian Boots.

It is not in the fitness of things that a man should comment upon the fashions of the female, which alternatively fascinate and bewilder in their variety and rapidity of movement. Most of them originate, as far as England is concerned, in the West End. But an interesting social phenomenon, which is reversing the usual process, is now simply forcing itself upon one. I refer to the wearing of Russian boots. As far as one can see, the City and the suburbs have taken the lead in these attractive brown and black boots; and the West End, after a momentary hesitation, is following in coloured suit.

Three things are determining this fashion: the short skirts that are to stay, the cold weather that is to come, and the leather trade that is to exploit both. Until the present time the demand has been for Russian boots of glacé kid or willow calf, sold, I am told, at from 15s. to 25s. a pair. But now a vogue is spreading for expensive coloured boots, which, when they cease to be noticeable, will undoubtedly be imitated and worn in our discreeter, safer quarters. In any case it all provides fun for the observant male, but whether that is its subconscious object I had better leave to the psychologists to resolve.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

(Continued from page 610.)

Syria than it is to Great Britain to have Transjordan and Iraq conterminous. It does not appear that any decision was taken during the negotiations to modify the existing arrangements, except in so far as to fix the southern section of the Nejd-Transjordan frontier.

Pouring Trouble on Oiled Waters.

Those who obey the injunction not to "miss the Post" had last week an object lesson in missing the point. A statement by the Chairman of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company to the effect that the shares of the Turkish Petroleum Company were jointly owned by the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, the Royal Dutch "Shell" Group, an amalgamation of French companies and Mr. C. S. Gulbenkian, set the *Morning Post* wondering what had happened to the twenty-five per cent. of the total number of shares in the Turkish Petroleum Company that were popularly supposed to have been allotted, in accordance with an international understanding, to a group of American Oil companies. From this it was an easy step to the conclusion that the Americans had withdrawn from the Mosul oil-fields, and a wide field was at once open for speculation as to the why and wherefore. When it was reported simultaneously that American oil companies had obtained a monopoly for the retailing of oil in Turkish territory, the "mystery" became even more profound, until twenty-four hours later it was learned that there could be no question of a withdrawal, as the American companies had never been shareholders of the Turkish Petroleum Company. To meet the wishes of the United States Government, the Anglo-Persian Oil Company has been prepared to allow America to have her share in the Iraq oil-field and negotiations to this end have been in progress; but up to the date of the Company's meeting last week no definite arrangement had been reached. Accordingly the British public is spared the worry of trying to solve another Iraq riddle, why the American group should have chosen this particular moment for withdrawing from participation in the Mosul oilfield. The incident has elicited the assurance that it has no intention of so doing. The *Morning Post* hesitates to sound the "All Clear," but its readers can take it for granted that it is a case of "as you were."

M. Litvinoff, the Soviet Acting Commissary for Foreign Affairs, has addressed to the Persian Ambassador in Moscow a letter expressing satisfaction at the election of Riza Khan as head of the Persian Government.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY

November 19, 1925 (New Style).
November 6, 1925 (Old Style).
Jumada I., 3, 1344 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Kislev 2, 5686, of the Jewish Calendar.

Prince Paul of Serbia arrived in London last week from Belgrade.

Sir Marcus and Lady Fernando left London last Saturday for Colombo.

Prince Christopher of Greece left London last week for the Hotel Ritz, Paris.

The Prince of Wales received the Turkish Ambassador at St. James's Palace last Thursday morning.

Sir Archibald and Lady Weigall have returned to 41, Berkeley Square from Petwood.

Sir Gilbert Clayton arrived at the Residency, Cairo, from Jeddah last Sunday evening.

Captain Ernest and Mrs. Platt arrived at the Palazzo Geddo, Alassio, last week from Bucharest.

Captain Panas, the former Greek Naval Attaché, and Madame Panas left London on November 11 for Athens.

Ahmed Pasha Ziwar, the Egyptian Prime Minister, returned to Cairo on November 9 from four months' leave.

King Faisal was the guest of the Emir Abdulla at Amman last week for a few days before continuing his flight towards Baghdad.

Viscountess Willingdon is organising a dinner in aid of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association, to take place at the Savoy Hotel next Wednesday.

Sir John and Lady Simon will leave England on December 3 on a brief visit to India. They will spend Christmas with the Earl and Countess of Reading at Calcutta, and will return to London at the end of January.

Sir Stanley Reed and Lady Currie were among the passengers who left London last Thursday by the P. and O. Bombay Express to join the s.s. Macedonia at Marseilles for Bombay.

Lady Reading, who underwent an operation last month, continues to make excellent progress towards complete recovery, but will not be able to take part in any public functions for a considerable time.

It is announced in Angora that Mazar Mufid Bey, who succeeded Hajim Bey of Kerassund in March as president of the Tribunal of Independence in the eastern vilayets of Turkey, has resigned that appointment.

M. Dimitri Stancioff, former Bulgarian Minister in London, Mme. Stancioff and Mlle. Fedora Stancioff arrived in London on November 8, and are staying with Sir Kay and Lady Muir at Blair Drummond, Perthshire.

Sir Horace Rumbold and the other members of the Commission appointed by the League of Nations to investigate the Demirkapu incident arrived in Belgrade on November 9.

Saleh Pasha Enan, Under-Secretary of Public Works, and Dr. Derry, Anatomical expert in the Ministry of Education, with representatives of the Antiquities Service, left Cairo last week for Luxor for the examination of the mummy of Pharaoh Tutankhamen.

The King has given authority to Mr. Robert Stewart Millar, M.D., director of the Egyptian Hospital for the Insane at El Khanka, to wear the insignia of the Fourth Class of the Order of the Nile, conferred on him by the King of Egypt, in recognition of valuable services.

"James Elroy Flecker: Scholar—Poet—Dramatist," was the subject of an address by Mr. Wallis Mansford on November 11 at the London Institution, Finsbury Circus. Sir E. Dension Ross, director of the School of Oriental Studies, presided.

M. Nicholas Mishu last Friday entertained at luncheon, at the Ritz Hotel, the Duchess of Buckingham and Chandos and Miss Gore Langton, Prince and Princess Lobkowicz, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, Count A. Bernstorff, Sir Arthur and Lady Crosfield, Mrs. Philip Bateman, and M. H. G. Da Silva.

Major H. F. C. Hobbs, who was recently selected for appointment as Military Secretary to the Governor of Madras, has taken up duty as aide-de-camp preparatory to succeeding the outgoing military secretary, Colonel F. C. C. Balfour, in March. Major Hobbs is in India with the 2nd West Yorkshire Regiment.

The Begum of Bhopal was so deeply impressed by the service at the Cenotaph on Armistice Day that immediately on her return to her residence in Portman Square she wrote a letter to Earl Haig enclosing a cheque for £5,000 for his appeal fund, "As my insignificant contribution towards this most deserving charity." The Begum's little granddaughters were among the sellers of Flanders Poppies in the London streets on Armistice Day.

Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Joseph Tighe, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., C.I.E., D.S.O., of 2, Prince of Wales Terrace, Kensington, W., who saw service in Burma and on the North-West Frontier of India, and who commanded the British forces in East Africa during the earlier part of the War, who died on September 5, aged 61, a director of the Kensington Palace Mansions, left unsettled property of the gross value of £4,888, with net personalty £4,759.

At a meeting of the C.M.S. General Committee held on November 10 the Rev. S. Garrett was elected Home Secretary of the Society in succession to the Rev. W. W. Cash, the new General Secretary. Mr. Garrett has had considerable experience in India, having been Railway Chaplain at Gorakhpur from 1910 to 1913, and afterwards at Lucknow. He is at present organising secretary of the C.M.S. for the dioceses of Birmingham, Lichfield, Worcester and Coventry.

It is announced from Athens that all decorations are to be abolished in Greece. Henceforth no Greek citizen will be able to wear Greek orders, and only those of foreign countries after having received the permission of the Greek Government.

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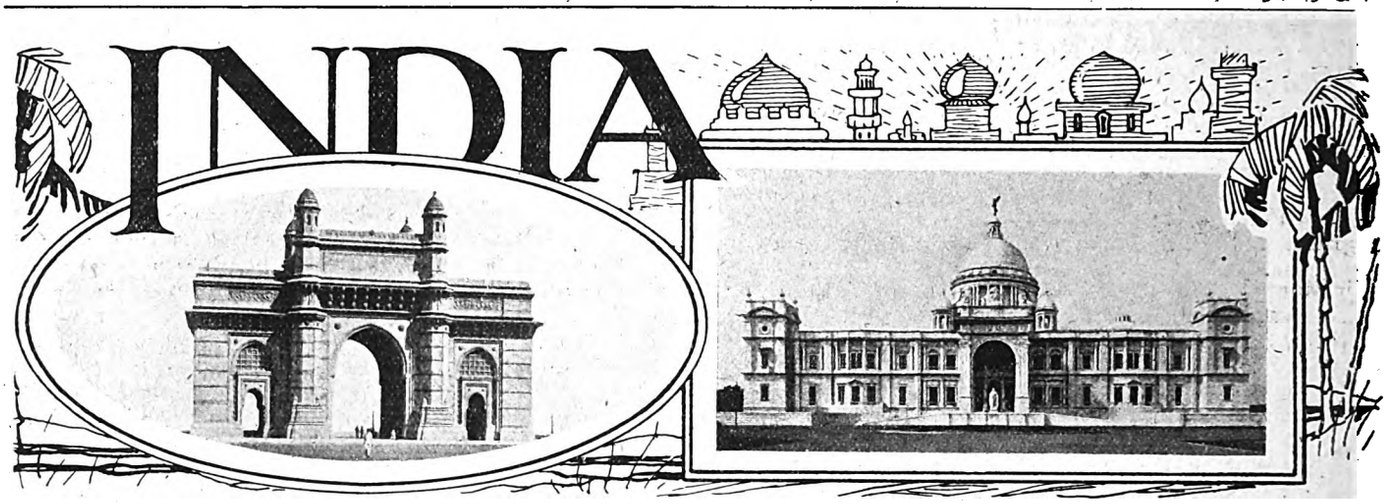

INDIAN RAILWAY POLICY.

The Indian Railway Conference Association regularly, every year, holds a session at Simla in October, which is attended by the heads of all the railways in India, and at which matters of railway policy are discussed. The President this year was Mr. Lloyd Jones, Agent and Chief Engineer of the Nizam's State Railway, who delivered an unusually interesting presidential speech. Sir Clement Hindley, the Chief Commissioner for Railways, adverted to the fact that the President occupied a position of detachment, because he represented a railway whose finances have no concern whatever with the Railway Board or the Government of India. He was, therefore, in a position to offer disinterested advice: and Sir Clement expressed the opinion that the Association was to be congratulated on having received such a useful dose of it—there had, he said, rarely been, in the history of the Association, an address so full of constructive suggestions. Mr. Jones' speech was chiefly occupied with discussing the advantages of co-operation in railway problems: with local authorities and public bodies, with customers and the general public, of one railway with another. Co-operation was specially needed with those who control ports and roads; for the chief interest of railways lay in the total cost of transport from the time a commodity was produced to the time it was consumed or exported. Construction and upkeep of roads, and improvement of road transport, were therefore matters with which railways were intimately concerned. The question in which the public took the greatest interest was that of rates: and the advantage of co-operation between a railway and its customers was, in that respect, one that could not be over estimated. A rate might be bad because it was too high or too low: in either event both the railway and the public suffered. If the rate were too high, trade was restricted and the railway lost tonnage: if it were too low, the railway lost revenue without stimulating trade, and the burden of providing the required revenue fell elsewhere. The most difficult traffic to cater for was the third-class traffic: and there the interests of the railways and the public were not always identical. The public wanted the best possible service without a rise in fares: the railways knew that low fares implied strict economy on equipment and station facilities, and a low ratio of train miles to passenger miles. It was a deplorable fact that co-operation between railways had been reduced to a bare minimum: what was wanted was a clearing house for ideas, an organisation to examine data and a tribunal before which they could place their resolutions. For instance, statistical inquiry into the passenger traffic, with a view to ascertaining the fares best suited to the public capacity to pay, and the despatch of traffic by competitive routes, were matters that would amply repay examination. A general study of such questions could not fail to elicit facts that would assists all railways, however jealously they guarded their own rights against any attempt at dictation, to frame their policy without prejudicing their decisions. Another problem of outstanding importance, in view of the early Indianisation of the railways, was that of training railway officers: those Indian officers who would, in future, largely take over the responsibility for working the lines. It was a far too prevalent idea that training fitted a man to conduct railways. It did not—it merely put him in a position to acquire the kind of experience that would enable him to do so. In conclusion, Mr. Jones said that, in view of the importance of co-ordination, it might be thought that the best solution would be that all railways should be administered by the State; but with such a view he did not agree. A single system might lead to co-ordination and uniformity, but it would be "the co-ordination of indifference, the uniformity of mediocrity. Co-ordination of the work of independent systems leads to a free and instructed criticism which, as a test of merit, is far superior to the methods of autocratic rule."

Sir Charles Innes, the Member of the Viceroy's Council for Railways and Commerce, in welcoming the Associaton to Simla, said that he agreed that a much more elaborate system of training railway officers was now necessary. He sympathised with the desire of Indians towards Indianisation of the railways, and hoped that Agents would make a serious attempt to give Indians a fair trial in all kind of posts. He felt sure that, "every Indian, however keen he may be on Indianisation, is equally anxious that Indianisation should not in any way lower the standard of efficiency among railway officers." He also referred to the Government of India's policy in the matter of branch lines: which is, "to finance extensions which are likely to be remunerative, and to consider proposals by local Governments or local bodies for the construction of lines required for local purposes, even if they are not likely to prove remunerative on railway earnings; provided that Local Governments are prepared to guarantee the railways against loss, in view of the advantages that such construction may confer locally." In this connexion, he suggested that it might be worth while to consider "whether, in certain cases, we should not go in for a much cheaper type of line. A Governor said to me, not long ago, that, if only we would make cheaper lines, his Government would probably be prepared to carry out a large railway programme."

The Indian Railway system is already moving in the direction of the co-ordination of competing lines, by the grouping of railways after the fashion obtaining in Great Britain. Close co-operation also exists between railways and seaports: and, if it is not to be found in the matter of roads, this is not the fault of the railways. In many parts of India the roads, whose maintenance is—or rather ought to be—the business of the local authorities, are in a state of disrepair that is nothing short of disgraceful: even Mr. Gandhi, that apostle of a return to the "golden age" of India, was recently moved to make scathing reference to the subject. Anything that railways can do to spur the road authorities into activity will be of the greatest possible advantage, not only to themselves, but to the general public. In the matter of rates, the public have just cause for resentment against the railways: whose tariff for carrying goods at their own risk is most exorbitant, while the process of dispatching them at railway risk is hedged about with so many vexatious formalities, as plainly to indicate the objection of the railways to this form of carriage. The ordinary rates, which, in themselves, are reasonable enough, are only allowed on

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what is called a "risk note"; which absolves the railway of all responsibility except in case of proved negligence on their part. This is due to the very extensive practice of theft from goods trains, which reached such a scandalous pitch, a few years ago, that the railways were forced to try and reduce it to a minimum by organising a special "Watch and Ward" department for the purpose. In the case of theft or pilfering—unless it could be proved to be due to a railway servant—they would accept no responsibility at all: and senders of goods are so painfully aware of this fact that they generally make plans to defeat it themselves—not often effectively. The present Viceroy mentioned, one day, that he had received a hamper of mangoes, inside which was a slip of paper stating that the fruits bearing a pink label were for Viceregal consumption: those not so labelled were intended for the benefit of who ever opened the hamper en route and desired to help himself to the contents. The writer of these notes, having received several hampers of mangoes that reached him not more than half full, asked his correspondent to wire and seal the next consignment. This was done: with the result that the package arrived intact, but with its contents reduced to a state of pulp—practically all the mango kernels being separate from their parent fruits. One can only suppose that, in disgust at finding themselves unable to open the parcel, the seekers had played football with it up and down the platform. In the matter of fares, the railways are admittedly in a difficulty; since the fares of all classes are governed by that of the third class: and, unless the third class fare represents a sum that is not greater than the expenses of a traveller doing the same distance by road, the ordinary Indian, to whom time is no object, prefers to walk. Sir Charles Innes' remarks have led to some alarm and resentment in India. Alarm, when he suggested that, in the matter of feeder lines, what was wanted was "a much cheaper type of line"; by which he presumably meant a narrow gauge railway, or even perhaps a steam tramway: with the resulting break in gauge which is already a source of much economic loss, and against the extension of which the great railways have strongly set their faces. Resentment, when he laid down the Government policy in the matter of railway extensions: which amounted to saying that the Government of India is prepared to finance a line that is likely to pay; but proposes to leave it to local Governments to build, and to finance, any that are not. One might, perhaps, also add amusement; since the statement that the supporters of Indianisation are anxious that it should not in any way lower the standard of efficiency is notoriously contrary to facts. It is not so long ago that a prominent Indian politician condemned "efficiency" as a word accursed: and, though any Indian selected, in the process of Indianisation, for an important post, would doubtless feel confident in his own ability to carry out its duties without loss—rather, with increase—of efficiency, there can be no sort of doubt that, in every such case he would prefer a European to any Indian other than himself. The average Indian's idea of an important appointment is of one where he can get the real work done by somebody else, while the credit and the patronage (for a horde of needy relatives) go to himself. To such a man, efficiency is of no moment. That this should be so is, most likely, the fault of the Englishman, who has for so many years taken responsibility from the shoulders of the Indian; and it is one of the most important tasks, before the Englishman in India to-day, to improve matters in this respect; but that it is so is an indisputable, if deplorable fact.

CURRENT TOPICS.

"*To-morrow Blossoms.*"

The late President of the Legislative Assembly has been unburdening himself of the political ideas that he has collected during the years of his office: and has broken "the political silence imposed upon him by that office" in an address delivered to the European Association in Calcutta. The cabled report of his speech represents him as saying that the Reforms had not failed, but that the period during which they had been under trial had not been long enough to decide whether they had failed or not. The report also says that "he claimed that there had been sufficient co-operation in the Legislative Assembly to satisfy Lord Birkenhead's test, and argued in favour of the grant of a larger measure of authority to Provincial Councils."

One who has been President of the Legislative Assembly for five years may reasonably be expected to have formed an opinion about the success of the Reforms—one less nebulous than that with which the cable credits him, which is reminiscent of the Parliamentarian who "spoke on both sides and voted in the middle": and one who has been on special duty in a Government office, preparing a "student's handbook" on the relations between Central and Provincial Governments, may be excused for falling in love with his own handiwork. But, in spite of his local experience, he is perhaps on less sure ground when he asserts that co-operation has progressed far enough to satisfy Lord Birkenhead's test. Here he has not only the Viceroy against him, but the leader of the Swaraj Party also: whose view—to judge by his recent declaration that, if Government does not bow to the Nationalist ultimatum, his party will take steps that will not be in the direction of the co-operation desired by Lord Birkenhead and Lord Reading—is diametrically opposed to that of Sir Frederick Whyte. Otherwise, the speech is interesting to the onlooker, if only because it marks a not unfamiliar process of evolution, from official through politician to statesman: with the goal of a recognised "authority on India" and the resulting "claims" which that recognition may be expected to imply.

Some light is thrown on the meaning that the speaker intended to convey by the publication, in the *Evening News* of November 10, of an article by Sir Frederick Whyte, which follows the same lines as his Calcutta speech. As regards the success of the Reforms, the article says that it still remains to be proved whether Western institutions, of the kind recently set up in India, are appropriate to the East. As regards co-operation, it says that "the co-operation which Lord Birkenhead demands has in large measure been given": and proceeds to give examples from, be it noted, the first Legislative Assembly, when the non-co-operators had boycotted the elections, and the Parliamentary "Swaraj Party" had not yet come into being. The same claim cannot be advanced on behalf of the second Assembly: and time alone can show whether, after the general election of next year, it will be possible to advance it for the third. There are hopeful indications that this may be possible; but that is the most that anyone can say at present. As regards the grant of a larger measure of authority to Provincial Councils, the article says that, in spite of the fact that India is not yet a nation and that Indians do not really know what government is and have no mature ideas to apply to it, it is unjustifiable to conclude that India cannot govern herself, "either now or hereafter." Englishmen have held almost every responsible post in India for the past 150 years and have therefore stood in the way of the Indian who wished to learn the meaning of political responsibility: so that no one is entitled to say that Indians as a whole are unfit for responsibility until they have been given much larger opportunities of proving their quality. From this it may be inferred that Sir Frederick Whyte believes that the Indian Provinces should be given the chance to show that they can govern themselves now: and that, as the national idea develops, the ability of India as a whole to govern herself will follow hereafter. It certainly cannot be denied that we have held Indians in leading strings for so long, that it is our own fault that Indians habitually look to a European to make up their minds for them: no one who has served for any length of time in India can fail to call to mind many examples of this defect: and, since it is Englishmen who have fostered it, it is for Englishmen to eradicate it. It is permissible to suggest that the right way to set about doing so is to begin lower down than with the existing Provincial Governments: and that the true solution will be found in a wide measure of Indianisation in much smaller units, under a strong European supervision in the Provincal Governments and a still stronger one in the Central Government of India.

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Hindu-Moslem Unity.

Miss Cornelia Sorabji's letter which appeared in *The Times* of November 11, throws an interesting light on Moslem mentality in India. She relates how the population of a Mohammedan village in Bengal at first declined to listen to the Health Officer's advice, in a smallpox epidemic, on the ground that the disease was due to the visitations of the Hindu goddess Kali, and therefore did not concern them; but, on the Health Officer assuring them that Kali must have heard the Swarajists' declaration of the existence of Hindu-Moslem unity, they so far relented as to buy an image of the goddess, which they carried in procession and buried outside the village precincts, after the Hindu manner. Miss Sorabji notes that history does not relate whether they also agreed to be vaccinated—"to submit to the little prick of blood which was the remedy for which Kali thirsted"—or whether their recognition of Kali's belief in the existence of Hindu-Moslem unity stopped short at the adoption of Hindu ritual. But that such an adoption should be possible shows the great effect that centuries of residence, cheek by jowl with Hindus, have had on Indian Moslems. When the unity campaign was at its height, several instances occurred of Hindus being allowed not only to take part in a meeting in a Mohammedan mosque, but actually to address the congregation: occurrences which, although they gravely scandalised strict Mohammedans—at any rate, after they had had time to think them over—show that, in times of political (as opposed to religious) excitement, the partition between Hindus and Mohammedans is apt to wear a bit thin.

In the average Indian Mohammedan of the lower class there is almost always to be found a small, but quite perceptible, admixture of Hindu ideas or prejudices. Kipling's Indian stories contain many references to this undoubted fact: for example, the "whiskified objectionable" Giffen, who "turned three parts Mussulman and one Hindu": and Abdul Ghaffur the butler, who "broke down and howled, forgetting that he was a Mussulman, Thou art a Brahmin—I am thy cow." In many parts of India, Mohammedan villages keep Brahmins to pray for them: and the writer of these notes well remembers how a Colonel of Afghan irregulars once asked him for a draw from his pipe, and took it direct from the Christian's lips into his own mouth. No Indian Mussulman would have done that: if he had taken a pull at the pipe at all, he would only have done so after first carefully wiping the mouthpiece—the faint spectre of Hindu ideas of caste being behind the orthodox Moslem belief in the brotherhood of the "peoples of the Book."

But, when religious feelings are uppermost, the matter is entirely different: perhaps, indeed, it is the consciousness of a taint, small though it be, of Hinduism that then moves the Indian Mohammedan to such fierce and intolerant fury against the Hindu. The Swarajist creed is, that politics and religion are entirely distinct, and should be so regarded; but this is one of the many truths that, incontrovertible in theory, is in practice unattainable in India.

Cure for Snake-bite.

A telegram from Calcutta to the *Morning Post* reports a case in which a woman who had been bitten by a cobra was cured by injections of strychnine and antivenine, administered six hours after she had been bitten. The bite was on the hand: and the only treatment that she had received, before arrival at the hospital, consisted of two ligatures on the arm and the administering of "nostrums by friends." As the message says, the discovery of a reliable remedy for snake-bite is of first-rate importance to India, where 20,000 people die every year from this cause: and the report suggests the hope that such a remedy may now have been found: apparently by the addition of strychnine to the ordinary antivenine injection.

The great majority of deaths from snake-bite in India are due to the bites of three specially poisonous snakes: the cobra, the Russell's viper, and the Krait. Antivenine to counteract colubrine and viperine poisons has been, for a considerable time past, prepared in India: and what is known as "polyvalent" serum has lately been successfully manufactured, to counteract either of the two. Popularly speaking, both colubrine and viperine poisons are made up to the same two constituents; but, whereas colubrine poison contains 90 per cent. of one and 10 per cent. of the other, viperine poison contains 90 per cent. of the other and 10 per cent. of the one. The difficulty of manufacturing a serum, that will counteract either, is therefore obvious; but it has been successfully achieved. In the case of the poison of the Krait, however, which is sui generis, being neither colubrine nor viperine, it has not been found possible to prepare an antidote. A reason that has been given for this—though a mere layman is naturally unable to say whether it is the true, or only, one—is that antivenine is prepared from the poison of snakes kept in confinement, in the course of which they are artificially induced to emit their venom as a basis for the preparation of the remedy: and that the Krait resolutely refuses to live in confinement, but dies immediately it is subjected to it, and before it can be induced to emit its venom. Whether this is the true explanation or not, the absence of an antidote to the poison of the Krait is a serious matter; for it is a small and inconspicuous snake, though a very deadly one, and is apt to strike without warning, besides being much less easily avoided than the much larger and more conspicuous cobra or viper.

What the particular "nostrums" were, that the friends of the patient tried in the first instance, is not mentioned in the message. Ordinarily, they consist of incantations or charms, or the administration of vegetable substances popularly supposed to cure snake-bite. A curious example of the use of the latter was, some years ago—and presumably still is—prevalent in Behar, where the fruit variously known in India as the papaya or pepita, and in some other parts of the world as the pawpaw, is common. This fruit contains a large number of seeds—at a guess, five or six hundred: and the Indian (unregistered) practitioner maintains that there is one seed in every fruit that will cure snake-bite; only the patient must select it himself, and is only allowed to take one. The value—to the practioner—of this remedy is obvious. If the patient recovers, the "hakeem" (doctor) claims the credit for successful treatment of the case: if he dies, it is his own fault—"the silly fool chose the wrong seed."

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, October 29.

Setting the Lead.

Does the action of Mr. Patel, in accepting the Presidency of the Legislative Assembly, differ in any way from that of Mr. Tambe in the acceptance of the Home Membership of the Central Provinces? This question has provided politicians with a fruitful topic during the week, and Swarajist leaders are going to much trouble to emphasise the heinous nature of Mr. Tambe's desertion, while according their entire approval to Mr. Patel's attainment of honour in their midst. Some, however, are so little impressed that they have stated that the difference is only a technical one; on the whole extremist opinion is far from united on the issue. The disciples of non-co-operation and obstruction are growing steadily less in numbers, and the blustering of the remainder prompts the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* to remark that desertions should cause them no surprise; if the Party wishes to preserve its solidarity, it must recast its whole programme and policy. Meanwhile, in the Central Provinces, matters are progressing along the lines anticipated. Mr. Tambe's resignation from the Swaraj Party has created a profound impression which does not promise to affect his own Province alone; the reasonableness of the demand for co-operation is telling on the masses. The Berar Swaraj Party and members of the Central Provinces Council, at a meeting called for the purpose, expressed their disapproval of Mr. Tambe's action, but took out what little sting there was in the resolution by adding, "This meeting at the same time puts on record its deliberate opinion that the time has come when the All-India Swaraj Party should change its policy to that of responsive co-operation,

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either with or without the acceptance of Ministerships at the discretion of the Province concerned." To add to the effect, Dr. Babasaheb Paranjpe, the acknowledged Swarajist leader of Berar, has resigned from the party without giving a reason. It is rumoured that the cause is sympathy with Mr. Tambe. The gesture, asked for by the Secretary of State and Lord Reading, is taking a definite shape in the Central Provinces: and other parts of India will not be slow in following the lead.

The Pandit Again.

During the recent session of the Legislative Assembly, an amendment was passed whereby persons convicted by the Courts should not be disqualified on that account for the Legislatures. In discussion, the Home Member pointed out that, if such an amendment passed into law, it would mean that any criminal would be eligible to stand for election, even were he in prison at the time: and it is not surprising that Government have intimated the rejection of this amendment. This provided Motilal Nehru with the necessary foundation on which to raise the counter-attraction for which he has been looking, with little success, for some weeks past: and he turned the occasion to account in a speech delivered at a public meeting in Cawnpore a few days ago. Lords Birkenhead and Reading, he said in effect, could not expect co-operation when they declared that formal and final decisions had not been reached, while, at the same time, preparing India for the worst by *ad interim* decisions which left no doubt as to what the formal and final decisions would be. Swarajists had given Government the full length of rope and (hey presto!) co-operation lay dead in its coffin; a coffin which, somehow or other, had only one nail in it—the rejection of what the Pandit termed "a very reasonable amendment." Lord Reading hid other nails in his pocket, and these would be driven into the coffin before long. Changing his simile again, the Pandit said, "We Swarajists have sailed as near the wind as we possibly could. We can sail no nearer." Truth will out! Now, however, a change is imminent; the Pandit only awaits a mysterious mandate from the Cawnpore Congress, the terms of which are clear in his own mind though he cannot disclose them further than to say that they are not of the nature of the desired co-operation. And what does it all mean? It gives a clear indication of the internal state of the Swaraj party, which is now going through a period of transition; but what it means is, that the Pandit feels the waning of public interest and has done his best to revive enthusiasm by his usual bluster. India is beginning to understand these tactics and give them their true value.

The New Market Burial.

Towards the end of August the Corporation of Calcutta decided to exhume the body of the Christian beggar who had been buried in the New Market, by Mohammedans of the butcher class, with the passive acquiescence of the Deputy Mayor. An amendment followed, to the effect that a period of two months would be given, during which time any sect which felt itself interested might remove the body; but, if no action were taken during that time, the Corporation would proceed along the lines of their resolution. The period has now expired, with things exactly in the same state: and the question of exhumation has again come forward. The leaders of the Swaraj element, however, appear to be reluctant to take action: and, accordingly, at a meeting held during the week, Councillors retired to the privacy of the Mayor's room, and an informal discussion ensued. The meeting was private, and no details have been circulated; with the exception of the rumour that it was hoped that an amicable settlement would shortly be arrived at. Last night another informal meeting took place: and, according to the report which appears in the *Bengali*, the sympathetic attitude which marked the proceedings of the first conference was lacking. Hindu Councillors stated that they had approached their constituents in the meantime, and had received a mandate to oppose the re-opening of the subject; and European opinion followed the same line. The Deputy Mayor, who was responsible for sanctioning the burial, is reported to have displayed heat, remarking that the opposition showed that the Hindus were out to retaliate against the Mohammedans. Strong exception was taken to the remark, and an acrimonious atmosphere prevailed, making it apparent that no useful purpose would be served by prolonging the discussion. The Mayor then asked if there were any suggestions forthcoming which would be acceptable to all parties; on which a Councillor opined that they should pass a vote of censure upon the Deputy Mayor and another Mohammedan Councillor, obtain an expression of unqualified regret from the Mohammedan Councillors, and thereupon agree to allow the body to remain. This did not meet with universal approval and, when the meeting broke up, no decision had been arrived at. It will be interesting to see how it will all end; as a test of their abilities for self-government, the present problem will give the Swarajists all they require. It seems safe to say that there are no signs that the Corporation will rescind its resolution for the exhumation of the body, as public opinion is very definite on this point; but to move, in the face of the very uncertain temper of the Mohammedans, will prove a difficult task.

Markets.

The Jute market has again pursued its upward tendency and, with the crop fast disappearing, prices have been almost anything. Hessians have ruled firm, and speculators have been taking keen interest in all forward positions up to September; heavy goods have remained unchanged. The market closes quiet. The piece-goods market has been idle and rates have sagged. Both here and in London the Tea market has been strong and active, almost all descriptions finding ready buyers at increasing prices.

With the exception of a sustained inquiry for tea and rubber shares, the tone in the Stock Exchange has been dull. Jutes, following the continued rise in the price of the commodity, have declined, though at the close the shares are steadier. Transactions in cotton and coal shares have been restricted to one or two companies, and mostly confined to small parcels. Teas have been responsible for a large turnover and, with the maintained improvement in prices paid at the auctions here, may be expected to go better; at present, the dividend-paying class are receiving most attention; rubber shares remain strong with a preponderance of buyers, and prices have again hardened. Government securities have been the subject of a fair amount of inquiry, without displaying any outstanding feature. Money has been in less demand, and Exchange steady at unchanged rates.

BOMBAY LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bombay, October 30.

The Bombay Legislative Council met again on October 20 at Poona, and the Nationalist Party remains unshaken in its determination to take no part in any debate in the absence of a clear majority: which merely enables Government to get on quicker with their work.

The Turf Club.

Legislation has been mainly of a social kind, including the debate on the position of the Turf Club. How a paternal Government can possibly be interested in the internal affairs of the Turf Club, such as the question whether there should be a third enclosure provided, is a mystery to most ordinary people. But it all seems to arise out of the original decision of Lord Sydenham to confine all betting to the totalisator principle. This seems a perfectly sane way of keeping gambling within reasonable limits. All betting is strictly cash, and the public cannot lose more than they have in their pockets; the unit of five or ten rupees is a low one, and any attempt to bet high shortens the odds so quickly, as to be unprofitable on the face of it. There was, it is true, a sad anecdote told at Poona of a man who committed suicide after losing 60,000 rupees of his fortune of a lakh, in one afternoon; but such a performance would be quite apparent on the Totalisator records and there is no trace of its ever having happened.

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The Turf Club has a very large revenue arising from its ten per cent. on the money passing through the Totalisators, and it is not wholly unreasonable that covetous eyes should be cast on it. But it has always been administered on the principle that nobody should make a profit of any kind. There is, in fact, nobody who can, as no sort of dividend can be distributed to the members; who, if anybody, are presumably the owners of the surplus revenues. After paying the costs of racing, on progressive lines intended to improve the class of racing and of horses in Western India, reasonable sums are set aside for reserves and development, and the whole of the balance goes to charities. How much can be distributed in this way depends, of course, on the weight of taxation; and, if it should please Government to increase taxation indefinitely, there will be nothing left for charity; which will be a pity, as the hospitals are, to a very large extent, dependent on the Turf Club's large annual donations, and the money for them must be found somewhere.

There is nothing whatever to be said against the administration of the Club or the objects on which it spends its revenues; and the opposition can only be based on the general idea, that all horse racing is so bad in itself that it must be sternly prohibited to those who like it; and the special idea, that it has a peculiarly evil effect by tempting the poor millhands of Bombay to gamble. These are not local, but world-wide questions: and the only reason why they are brought up in Bombay is, that there is a certain class of Indian who considers that racing affords a convenient way of attacking the Englishmen, and incidentally the large body of Indians, who care for it, on broad moral grounds, which offer very obvious opportunities for the high and noble style of oratory about abstract principles that is so dear to the Indian heart.

Cotton and Exchange.

The sensation of the week has been the fall in the cotton market following the publication of the American Report. The Bombay mills remain idle: and, with the Continent and Japan watching the American market until it shows signs of stabilising itself, there is likely to be little activity in the Bombay market for some time to come. The return of cotton prices to something like pre-War levels is likely to have far-reaching results all over the world: and, by reducing the cost of cloth, it will probably help to restore the prosperity of the mills. Whether the fall will be heavy enough to make so serious a change in India's balance of trade as to affect exchange, is another question. The maximum possible diminution in India's exports on this account would seem to be something in the neighbourhood of 25 million pounds; against which must be offset the reduction of import values. On the whole it may be assumed that, if things take their natural course, the demand for money must be much smaller than usual this year, with the natural concomitants of a low Bank rate and a sagging exchange; but there are many factors elsewhere in India which may counteract the tendency of Bombay, and in any event the Government of India has now such wide powers of regulating the issue of notes, and the supply of money, that it is not likely that they will be forced to lower the rate of exchange. The worst that seems likely to happen is, that there will be fewer bills than usual in Bombay, and remittance rates will therefore fall slightly. But at present the other side of India seems to have enough trade to keep the rupee fully steady, and this may quite possibly continue irrespective of the reduction in Bomaby's exports.

THE INDIAN MAIL.

Railway Collieries.

From the papers received by the last mail, it appears that, in June last, the Indian Mining Federation addressed the Railway Board on the subject of railway collieries, the production of which, already seriously interfering with private trade, was likely to do so even more seriously in the near future. The Federation quoted figures showing that the present consumption of coal by Indian railways was 6½ million tons, of which the railway collieries themselves produced over 1½ million; while, at the present rate of increase, their production was likely to reach over three million tons in 1930, and about four million in 1933. It was argued that the progress of electrification would probably keep pace with the increase of mileage: and that, in the latter year, the demand for coal by Indian railways was not likely to exceed its present figure; so that, if this calculation was correct, the Indian railways would, by that time, only come into the open market for about half the amount needed at present. The total annual output from privately owned coal mines was now about seventeen million tons: and the necessary output of the railway collieries would not only greatly reduce the demand for the product of the coal industry, but would thereby add to the evil of over-production from which it was already suffering.

The reply of the Railway Board has now been published. It disputes the method by which the Mining Federation arrive at their conclusion regarding the probable increase in production by railway collieries, but does not dispute the conclusion itself: though it considers that the probable demand in 1933 will be considerably greater than the Federation's forecast. It main argument is directed to showing that the price of coal obtainable in the open market has risen so greatly in the last three years—on an average, more than fifty per cent.—that the railways found it impossible to obtain the quantity they needed at a reasonable figure, and that the policy of opening railway collieries had amply justified itself in the matter of cost. Besides the high price, there had also been serious default in the delivery of coal contracted for: in March 1921 the arrears of coal due under contracts amounted to nearly 700,000 tons and, at that time, the stocks held by several of the great railways were so dangerously low that they were faced with a most serious situation. At that time the demand exceeded the supply: and it was necessary for the railways to accept large quantities of inferior coal, as an alternative to going without it altogether. The railways therefore decided that they would protect themselves against increased cost, slackness in fulfilling contracts, and delivery of inferior material, by opening collieries of their own: and thus defeat what they declared had been an attempt of the coal companies to "squeeze them to the utmost." In view, however, of the present depression in the coal trade, and the consequently decreased difficulty in getting their contracts satisfactorily placed in the open market, they had decided not to proceed with one of their colliery projects, though they reserved the right to reconsider the matter if conditions should alter in the future.

This reply is considered unsatisfactory by the coal trade: who declare that it was not the colliery companies, but the railways, who did the "squeezing"; since the possession, by the latter, of collieries of their own enabled them to dictate their coal contracts "with a loaded pistol at the head of the coal companies." That the continued production of coal by the railways is not only taking the bread out of the mouth of those engaged in the coal industry, but is causing it direct and increasing injury by adding to the already excessive output of coal in India. Also that the decision not to proceed with one new colliery merely means that, at the present time of depression, the "loaded pistol" of the railways is effective: while, should it ever cease to be so, owing to a recovery in the industry, the railways intend to see that their pistol shall carry a heavier load. Calcutta has never forgiven the Government of India for the change of Capital effected in 1911: and this particular form of "King Charles' head" always crops up in every discussion between Bengal and India: so that it is not surprising to find a leading Anglo-Indian newspaper of Calcutta writing that the Railway Board's reply suggests "an increasing mental petrification in officialdom, due doubtless to an outlook conditioned by location at Simla in the hot weather and at Delhi in the cold. The inquiry why the Railway Board should suffer more acutely from this trouble, than other Departments of the Government of India, makes an unwarranted assumption." The dispassionate observer may think that the Mining Federation has a good enough case without the necessity for calling on the local Mr. Dick for such an addition to its arguments; but it would certainly seem that the Railway Board has the whip hand, and that the Bengal coal

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industry will have to reckon with that fact. In the course of their memorandum, the Mining Federation stated their view that privately owned collieries could produce coal at an even lower cost than railway collieries; but, as the Railway Board pertinently observed in their reply, the railways are not so much interested in the price at which privately owned collieries can produce coal, as in the price at which they are prepared to sell it.

The Howrah Bridge.

Nothing further has been heard of progress in the matter of the Howrah bridge over the Hoogly except that the Government of Bengal has again addressed the Government of India regarding a contribution to the cost of the bridge: and that the Government of India maintains its refusal to contribute, except on its own terms. These are, that the bridge should be a permanent structure—that is, a cantilever; whereas Bengal has apparently made up its mind that a cantilever bridge, though admittedly much the better solution, is too costly, and that all it can afford is a new floating bridge—though a double one, in place of the present single structure. Local opinion is that the Committee of 25 members of the Bengal Legislative Council, which is conducting a detailed examination into the question of the bridge, will eventually report (its cumbrous size prevents the hope of an early decision) in favour of a floating bridge: that the Legislative Council will accept its report: and that the Bengal Government will be guided by the opinion of the Council.

The Calcutta *Statesman*, in commenting on the present position of affairs, blames the Government of India for "persisting in regarding a floating bridge, affording access to two great railways, as a matter of purely local concern": and for declining to part with its right in the matter of the central revenues to which it is entitled, part of which consists of port and railway revenues, while it has a lucrative source of income in the commerce of Calcutta: "nevertheless, a bridge over the Hoogly is nothing of its concern." The paper says that local opinion against a cantilever bridge has been steadily hardening, "nor will the insistence of Simla on its own opinion have the effect of reopening the question." That it is easy to see that the Committee will decide for a floating bridge: and that, though the Council cannot be expected to reject such a decision, yet it would be a good thing if they did, for a bold policy is likely to pay best in the long run, and to refuse to make a special effort now can only prove expensive in the end. It concludes by saying that Calcutta has no need to be downcast "because the Supreme Government fails to see the value to the country as a whole of an adequate bridge across the river that divides the commercial Capital of India from the central and western Provinces."

Criticism of the Government of India from the "Commercial Capital" is always to be expected; but, on this occasion, even on the *Statesman's* own showing, it seems misplaced. It is not fair to say that the Supreme Government fails to see the value of an adequate bridge; on the contrary, that is exactly what it does see. What it desires is, that the bridge should be adequate, and here the *Statesman* agrees with it. To an adequate structure the Supreme Government is prepared to contribute; but, if Bengal persists in deciding in favour of one that is not adequate, no contribution will be forthcoming. This is not only an intelligible position, but a perfectly sound one: and it is curious to find the *Statesman* admitting it in one breath and condemning it in the next.

The Admirable Crichton.

In a recent speech Mr. Patel, the newly elected President of the Legislative Assembly, excused himself for indulging in a little tune on his own trumpet by revealing the fact that his predecessor's parting piece of advice to him had been that "the President, of all men, must magnify his office." It is not surprising that he should have interpreted this to mean that the magnification should include the individual who held the office, as well as the office itself. For such an error—if indeed it was an error—he had some justification. More, perhaps, than in most countries, in India it seems to be honestly believed that a man, who has done good work in one appointment, has thereby established a "claim" to employment in something entirely different. "*Ex caelo descendit gnothi seauton*"; but its descent is by no means universal. Most of us think that we recognise the limitations of our friends, but to few is it given to recognise their own, and to still fewer to admit them. We all know the type of man who would be ready, at a moment's notice, to take command of the Channel Fleet or occupy the pulpit at St. Paul's: both him who admits it himself, and him who, with becoming modesty, stands aside and allows his friends to say it for him. Among Britons in India, the latter is the more familiar: among Indians the former.

The Indian "ummedwar" (perhaps best translated as "expectant") is accustomed to apply for a job entirely regardless of qualification: it is enough that he is the nephew of someone with whom his prospective patron is acquainted, or, failing that, that he is "a poor boy who has no protector except Your Honour and God." He generally professes confidence in his ability to fill "any remunerative post" with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of his employer, no matter what it should be: and, when he does descend to details, he is apt to make curious mistakes. It is on record that an Englishman in India who, being in want of a weight-carrying pony, advertised for "a good waler," received, among the replies to his advertisement, one from an Indian youth who professed his intention, if appointed to the post of "your Honour's waler," of carrying out his duties with zeal, and his certainty of being able to do so with credit.

A famous Englishman, the dispenser of much patronage in his time, once gave a seeker the following advice: "Make up your mind exactly what it is you want—then ask for it, and keep on asking for it." The Indian expectant ignores the first item in this programme, but whole-heartedly follows the letter of the rest: and it would seem that some, at least, among recent temporary British importations into Indian officialdom have caught the infection. To do them justice, they have left the asking to their friends and admirers; but it is a new departure that it may be hoped will not persist. That, so far, it has achieved no apparent success is a fact that will not be displeasing to followers of an older fashion, who dislike advertisement even when vicarious.

Non-co-operation among Fish.

A small local sensation has been caused at Bombay by the fact that a number of bathers in the sea at Juhu, a popular bathing resort on the mainland north of the island of Bombay, have received injuries from fish. The local opinion seems to be that the action of the fish is a concerted attempt at non-co-operation, to show their disapproval of the European style of bathing costume: of the "non-violent" brand made familiar when the non-co-operation campaign was at its height, when one of its devotees stood in the way of an oncoming tramcar at Calcutta and non-violently threw corrosive acid over the conductor, or when the Chauri Chaura crowd non-violently beat 23 policemen to death, non-violently set the police station on fire and non-violently threw their bodies on the flames.

A leading Bombay paper reports that some of the bathers have received injuries which "would indicate that a ray-fish had, in a mad fit, used its long knitted tail to revenge itself on its victims by using it as a cat-o'-nine-tails": while, in the case of others, "a large part of the flesh at the chest has been bitten off, distinctly showing that it was the result of a wicked operation of the teeth of both jaws of a fish": and the conclusion is drawn that

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these different kinds of injuries "establish basis for a theory that it is not only one fish that has gone suddenly mad, but that there is a combination of fish of different kinds bent upon expressing their indignation at something very repulsive to piscine sentiments." The reporter who is responsible for the article sought and obtained an interview with one of the heads of the fisher folk, who gave his opinion in solemn tones: "Our fisher shores are sacred. We have always known what is shame and modesty. If even the fish are offended with such indecent scenes that take place in our waters, it is high time for some power to improve public morals."

INDIAN COMMERCIAL NOTES.

In the issue of November 5, some account was given of the prospects of the new cotton season in India; and it was shown that sowings reported to date had advanced from 21¾ to 22¾ million acres. Details of this forecast have now been received, and are of special interest in revealing the extent to which India has promoted the cultivation of long staple cotton during the past few years. During the year 1913-14 the area under cotton in India amounted to 20,643,000 acres, of which roughly five million acres were under long staple cotton (seven-eighths of an inch and over); while the balance of over fifteen million acres, were under short staple (below seven-eighths of an inch). The forecast now to hand for the year 1925-26 shows an area of 22,752,000 acres under cotton, of which 15,831,000 are under short staple, and 6,921,000 are under long staple. In other words, while the total area under short staple has not advanced very much since pre-War days, the acreage under long staple cotton has increased from five to nearly seven million acres.

Special interest attaches nowadays to the trade between this country and India and, in this connexion, the statistics for the five months April 1, to August 31, 1925, are instructive. For purposes of comparison, the percentage of the British share in India's total import trade during the five months is shown together with the percentage during the same five months of 1924, and with the pre-War percentage. Japan, America and the Continent are also shown as being our principal competitors. The following are the percentages for the periods mentioned; the figures being given in order for pre-War, April to August 1924 and April to August 1925: United Kingdom, 63, 56, 52; Continent, 14, 14, 15; Japan, 2½, 6½, 8½; U.S.A., 3, 6, 6.

The Continent has thus made but little progress so far. America has doubled her share of India's total import trade, but is stationary at that for the present. Japan has made, and is continuing to make, great strides, and has picked up a good deal of the trade with India which this country has lost, particularly in cotton textiles.

Part of the explanation lies in the export figures. To what extent is England buying less than before of Indian goods? The following are the shares in India's export trade for the same periods; the figures being given in the same order as before: United Kingdom, 25, 24, 20; Continent, 31, 26, 26; Japan, 7½, 13, 17; U.S.A., 7½, 9, 9.

The falling-off in British purchases of Indian goods is due almost entirely to lower purchases of wheat of which this year Indian supplies have been seriously curtailed as the result of a poor harvest. The increase, on the other hand, of Japan's share in India's export trade, from 13 per cent. last year to 17 per cent. this year, is due almost entirely to bigger purchases of cotton. America shows no signs of expansion over last year, while the Continent is actually taking less.

It must not be forgotten how important a market India is to this country. While she sells to England a large proportion of food-stuffs and other raw materials such as tea, coffee, jute, cotton, oil-seed, etc., which are not produced in this country and are not competitive with the efforts of the British farmer, she buys from England a large quantity of just that class of British manufactures in whose final value the wage bill figures prominently; e.g., machinery, railway plant, iron and steel, textiles, etc.

INDIAN EXCHANGE.

London, November 16.

Rupee Exchange has recovered from the temporary weakness to which we alluded last week, and in both Calcutta and Bombay quotations are back again to 1s. 6 5-32d. for T.T., with sellers at 1-64th higher, and few buyers under 1s. 6 3-16d. These quotations really hold good until the end of February, and the absence of business does not lead merchants to expect better rates in the meantime.

Three months' credits are steady at 1s. 6 13-32d. for delivery up to the end of December, but commercial paper is very scarce even in Calcutta, where apparently the bulk of the jute bills have now been contracted for.

Forward T.T. rates are called March 1s. 6 5-32d., April-May 1s. 6⅛d., June-August 1s. 6 3-32d., but it is reported that business has been done in April T.T. at 1s. 6 5-32d.

In the London market, rates have been quite steady at 1s. 6 7-32d. T.T. with a very occasional seller at 1s. 6 3-16d. for cash. There are more buyers than sellers at the lower quotation, and but little business passing either ready or forward.

The last Cotton Bureau Report giving the expected total of the American Crop as over 15¼ million bales should extinguish any hopes of a rise in the Bombay Cotton Market, where prices show a decline on last year's figures of over 20 per cent. We also learn that in spite of a scarcity of rainfall over many cotton districts, the crop in India is estimated to out-turn as much as 6¼ million bales. It is reported, however, that native holders have not yet become accustomed to the serious fall in the prices, and movements in cotton from the country have therefore been restricted. In these circumstances, it is reasonable to assume that the season will begin later and that shipments will probably be prolonged.

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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

170, *Strand, London, W.C.2,*
Tuesday Morning,

Anglo-Persian Progress.

As was expected Sir Charles Greenway was able to give a most satisfactory account of the progress of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company at the annual general meeting last week. The developments in the main fields have continued to be extremely favourable, while the policy of extending the oil-bearing territory has been successfully pushed forward, and the productive area has been very considerably extended. The production for the year amounted to 4,333,933 tons as compared with 3,714,216 tons for 1923-4. For the current year, which Sir Charles Greenway pointed out is largely one of stabilising the position that the company has achieved before embarking on larger undertakings, it is not expected that the production will be more than 4,500,000 tons. As regards the opening up of new areas, the most interesting development to which he referred is the pending formation of a separate company to take over the concession for the Naft Khana area, which is on the borders of Persia and Iraq.

Company's Conservative Finance.

This year the dividend is increased by 2½ per cent., though greatly increased profits would have permitted a much larger distribution. But the policy of the directors has always been one of conservative finance, and there is no doubt that, as Sir Charles Greenway says, the first consideration should be the building up of a strong financial position. In due course it is certain that the shareholders will reap their reward, and such is the strength of the company and so imposing are its potentialities that it is far from improbable that the suggestion that in five years the value of the shares will have appreciated by 100 per cent. will be justified by the event. It is interesting to note that the company now proposes to commence the declaration of interim dividends, and shareholders will doubtless read into this announcement a foretaste of things to come.

The Turkish Petroleum Company.

On the occasion of this year's meeting as it happened the story of the progress of the company was eclipsed in interest by a brief answer of Sir Charles Greenway to a question as to the shareholders in the Turkish Petroleum Company. He stated that 47½ per cent. was held by the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, 22½ per cent. by the Royal Dutch Company, 25 per cent. by the French group, and 5 per cent. by Mr. Gulbenkian. This statement was interpreted, wrongly as it soon transpired, as implying the end of American participation in the company. It will be remembered that, following a prolonged agitation by America for an "open door" in regard to the exploitation of the Iraq oilfields, it was agreed to admit American participation, and it was arranged that half the holding of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company—or 25 per cent.—should be transferred to an American group in which the Standard Oil Company occupied a prominent place. Last week's misconception arose from the belief that that arrangement signified a *fait accompli*, and it was heightened by a report that the Standard Oil had been granted a monopoly in Turkey which led to all manner of speculations as to developments. The prompt statement of the chairman of the Standard Oil that American interests had not withdrawn and denying the reported grant of a monopoly rather intensified the mystery until it was made clear by a statement on this side that the negotiations with the American group had simply not yet been concluded. But since that is the case one may well ask how it is that this delay should have occurred. America was willing to do anything to obtain participation, and yet is so dilatory in coming forward. An objection to the 5 per cent. interest held by Mr. Gulbenkian has been advanced as the matter over which there is disagreement, but it is difficult to believe that the cause does not lie much deeper, and that the delay is not in fact another manifestation of the policy which America has so consistently pursued since the Armistice of refusing to undertake any obligations which might carry ever so remotely the risk of foreign complications.

Diala Cotton.

The supposed American withdrawal from the Turkish Petroleum Company was not the only shock with regard to Iraq to which we were subjected during the week. Reports were published with regard to the Diala Cotton Plantations which could only be described as alarming, for it was obvious that, if they represented the facts, the prospects for cotton cultivation in the Diala territory must be anything but roseate. I am able to say, on the authority of the company, that the statements in question are entirely inaccurate. That, so far as it goes, is very satisfactory, but there will naturally be considerable anxiety on the part of shareholders and others interested in cotton growing to know what has been the yield of cotton on the experimental plot, and it may be hoped that the company will shortly amplify its *démenti* with a fuller statement.

The Palestine Market.

By all accounts the Tel-Aviv Exhibition and Fair which has just come to an end has had a very considerable degree of sucess. Foreign machines and motors were a prominent feature, and it is evident that some at least of our trade rivals took advantage of the opportunity for developing their trade with Palestine that the Fair afforded. No doubt they will be still more to the front when the Fair is reopened next spring. It is regrettable to hear that British goods were poorly represented, for the Palestine market is one which offers special inducements to our traders; indeed, we are justified in looking for a continually increasing outlet for our trade there. But that is not to be achieved through apathy, and if our traders neglect opportunities to exhibit their wares they must not be surprised if their returns do not increase. After all buyers are not going to look far afield for their require-

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ments if they can obtain them close at hand. That is the lesson evidently that British traders still have to learn with regard to the Near East markets.

The P. & O. Thrift Scheme.

A very interesting departure has just been arranged by the P. and O. Company in the shape of a thrift scheme for the benefit of its employees. The company has for long allowed interest on deposits made by its employees, and the present scheme gives them a definite interest in the fortunes of the concern, for in addition to the fixed interest of 5 per cent., provision is made for an additional rate which depends on the Deferred Stock dividend. In view of the fact that the company's employees are widely scattered it will be some time before an idea can be obtained of the extent to which the scheme is likely to be taken advantage of, but it will be surprising if the response is not very general.

International Debts.

The terms given by America in her latest debt settlement must give one furiously to think. Great Britain has to pay at the rate of 3 per cent., rising to 3½ per cent., but now we have Italy let off at the rate of ⅛ per cent. for the first five years. Admittedly the conditions are very different, but the gradual improvement in the terms granted does suggest that we were perhaps premature in leading the way. It is not as if the indebtedness of so many nations was in all respects an asset to America; in some ways it is an embarrasment; notably in so far as it restricts the market for America goods abroad by reducing purchasing power, and it is not impossible to visualise a situation in which America would be glad to modify the debt terms.

Indian Railway Results.

The prosperity of the Indian railways at the present times is marked. The three companies, reports of whose meetings appear in this issue, have all had excellent years. In the case of the Bengal Dooars Railway the aggregate gross earnings amounted to Rs. 22,63,884, an increase of 10 per cent. on the previous year's figures, while the aggregate expenditure was Rs. 11,52,862, an increase of 5.60 per cent. The company's earnings, it may be pointed out, constituted a record, just as those of the previous year had done. At the meeting of the Assam Railways and Trading Company the Chairman was able to point to the fact that the accounts represented the best year that the company has ever had. The railway was largely responsible for the increase in profits, and in this connexion the chairman drew attention to the fact that the railway earnings for some years past had shown progressive increases of about 5 to 6 per cent., and for the year under review the passenger traffic showed an increase of 21 per cent.. He said that they could not expect that exceptional rate of increase to continue, but the opinion of the management in Assam that a steady increase for some years to come could be expected, was borne out by the fact that their returns for the current year up to date showed a satisfactory increase on the returns included in the present accounts. Finally, the Bengal Nagpur Railway had gross earnings for the year of Rs.826.70 lakhs, which was a record, but even so, the chairman pointed out, did not quite come up to expectations, as traffic fell off during the second half of the year owing to the trade depression.

The Rubber Revival.

It has taken a little longer time for the interest to revive in the rubber market than was anticipated. The raw commodity has remained very firm for weeks past, but the shares apparently for no better reason than that there has been a flood of new issues had been rather overcast. But now the situation has changed again. The demand for the commodity has shown signs of developing considerably, with the result that quotations have firmed up particularly for distant dates, and assisted by the increasingly optimistic outlook the share market has burst into renewed life, and it looks as if we are at the beginning of another of those minor booms that have been so pronounced a feature of the market in recent months.

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TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street. S.W.)

EGYPT.

Water Pipes.— Tenders are invited for the supplying and laying down of water pipes of various diameters and accessories at Zifta. December 3. (D.O.T.)

Hose Pipes.—The Superintendent of Stores, Saptia, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 1,250 hose pipes without couplings, 1,000 rolling rings and 9,060 joint rings. December 15.

Lock Bridge.—The Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, invites tenders for the construction of the new lock bridge over the Mahmoudia Canal at Alexandria. This bridge is designed with a superstructure for two railway tracks and a road bridge. It will be built on the existing masonry which will have to be modified in consequence. Tenderers may submit such offer as they deem best according to the information they may obtain from the general drawings of the Administration, suggesting three solutions of swing bridges and a solution of a lift bridge. February 16.

Paper and Stationery.—The Central Stationery Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of paper and stationery required for the year 1925-1926. January 9.

THE SUDAN.

Supplies.—The Inspector-General of Irrigation, Sudan, Khartoum, invites tenders for supplies required for the Floating Workshop "El Nasheet": (a) Electric generating set and fittings for electric light—supply only. (b) Oils and paints. Contractors may tender for one or both of the above groups. December 7.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The ordinary general meeting of the Land Bank of Egypt will be held at 4 p.m. on December 1, at the head office in Alexandria.

The production of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields for the week ended November 13 was:—Gemsah 17 tons, Hurghada 3,444 tons.

The final estimate of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture of this year's cotton crop is 7,526,782 kantars, of which 3,547,459 are Sakellarides.

Within two weeks of the issue of a new metal coinage in Yugoslavia forged coins have been found in circulation. Successful forgeries of the two-dinar [illegible]s have been passed in Zagreb, said to be made of galvanised lead.

The traffic receipts of the South Indian Railway Company for the week ended October 17 amounted to Rs.9,23,598, making the total from April 1 Rs.2,91,30,624.

Roumania's wheat harvest amounts to 2,894,688 tons and is the best since the War, comparing with 1,900,000 tons last year, and there is an estimated export surplus of 600,000 tons.

Messrs. Bow, M'Lachlan and Co., Paisley, have obtained a contract for a motor vessel, 190 ft. in length, for the Red Sea Cargo trade of the Halal Shipping Co., London. The machinery will consist of a five-cylinder Atlas-Diesel unit of 720 b.h.p.

A Reuter Sofia message states that comments are appearing in the newspapers on the exchange of Notes between M. Kalfoff, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and the British representative with a view to the conclusion of a provisional commercial convention on the basis of the most-favoured nation treatment. They emphasise the extension of economic relations between Great Britain and Bulgaria, and express the desire that the strong bonds uniting the two nations may be drawn still closer.

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ROUMANIA AS A MARKET FOR BRITISH CARS.

(From a Correspondent.)

At the beginning of 1924 the British Commercial Secretary in Roumania drew attention in his annual report to the possibilities of Roumania as a market for British cars. In spite of the authority of his advice and its obvious reliability, practically no effort has been made in England to meet a very real demand.

For a considerable period after the War, when German and Austrian currencies were depreciated, motor car manufacturers of those countries carried out a highly successful campaign in Roumania, entirely capturing the local market. The restoration of peace and the consequent re-opening of the oil wells led to a demand for motor vehicles of all kinds hitherto almost unknown. During the War all available cars in Roumania were commandeered, first by the Roumanians, and later by the German Army of Occupation. Roumanian car owners received from their Government receipts which theoretically entitled them to a car of equal value on the cessation of hostilities; in reality they either received nothing at all or some ancient wreck, worn out by military service and military drivers, the repair of which fell to their charge.

Such conditions inevitably led to a big demand for new cars, for immediate delivery, and those who had the money took the first car to be offered at a reasonable price.

The Austrian firm of Steyr, among others, realised this, and immediately flooded the country with stocks of really excellent and handsome cars at a very attractive price. Good agents were appointed, entries made and successes gained at International and local automobile meetings and trials, and within a very short time, the Steyr was the most common object on the Roumanian roads, after the ox-waggon.

Other makers, German, Austro-Italian, and even Czecho-Slovak followed suit, and met all demands. Meanwhile the British maker remained silent, apparently cowed by the exchange advantages of Central European rivals.

With the coming of stabilisation in Austria and Germany, the situation changed, and prices crept up to the world level. Here was the chance of the British maker —no longer could he complain of unfair competition— but in spite of the prestige his nationality would have given him, he remained aloof, allowing the Americans and French to succeed to the mantle of Steyr and others. The best agents were captured, and generous consignments of stocks supplied, so that now Overlands, Oaklands, Buicks, Chryslers and Fords are to be seen everywhere in Bucharest and the surrounding country. The Americans deserved their success, for in spite of the handicap of a long sea journey, they have been able to put their goods on the market of a country with a very depreciated currency. Their machines are not specially built for Roumania, but in their essentials are suitable to local conditions. Clearance is high, springs are good and shock absorbers can be easily obtained. Plentiful supplies of spares are available with agents, and in many cases American mechanics have been sent out to supervise delivery to new owners. The light car market at present rests with France, Citroens and Renaults being the most popular makes. Here again American methods have been used with deserved success, and the result is that British cars in Bucharest can almost be counted on the fingers of the hands. Their ownership is divided among a very few diplomats, some oil magnates in Ploesti, and an enterprising taxi owner, who runs an ancient Rolls Royce in the capital.

The demand for reliable passenger and goods vehicles is steady, and, though generous credit has to be given, the money is generally safe. In Bucharest itself there are two or three first-class agents, but it is likely that their time is fully occupied with French and American agencies. It would seem that it would be worth while for a British maker to set up his own selling agency, provided his car is really suitable to local conditions. The fact that he was Britsh would probably give him a 10 per cent. advantage over his rivals, and he might be able to charge a little more than do foreign makers. At any rate, the demand is there, and it seems pitiful that England should be so ignored. Reliable and up-to-date statistics are not available for the present year, but trade returns indicate that mechanically propelled vehicles were imported into Roumania during January, February and March to an amount of 582,733,790 lei, or nearly £600,000—and this during the slackest season. This figure hardly indicates a stagnant market.

Customs duties on cars and lorries amount at present to the following:—

On vehicles of 1,000 kilos and over 10 gold lei per 100 kilos; below 1,000 kilos down to 500, 13.50 gold lei per 100 kilos; below 500 kilos down to 250, 17.00 gold lei per 100 kilos; below 250 down to 100, 23.50 gold lei per 100 kilos.

The paper leu stands at something over 1,000 to the pound at present, while the gold leu equals the gold franc. There is a possibility, if certain proposals take form, of a rise in import duties in future, so that an improvement in the trade balance may be effected—and American makers are about to set in motion a "drive" throughout Europe for increasing car sales. Both these factors make it all the more urgent for the British maker to consider very seriously the Roumanian market.

MOTORS AND MOTORING.

(Continued from page 631.)

The ground clearance is 10 in. up to the back axle. I am afraid that amount would be of little use in many overseas markets. One of the things essential for Australian, South African, British East African, West African, and many parts of India and the Middle and Near Easts is good ground clearance. Time and again have buyers from one or other of these countries asked me, specifically, whether such and such a car had good ground clearance. I used, emphatically, to answer in the affirmative. I am very much afraid that in connection with quite a number of vehicles I shall in future have to say that the clearance is only so many inches and consequently, in my opinion, is insufficient. What, I would ask, is the reason for this new low-clearance fad? Who started the thing? Is it something in which we are copying American practice just because it is American? Is it because the low chassis was thought—and rightly—to be necessary for the covered top omnibus and that, as a corollary, if it were right for one class of vehicle, it would be right for all? The sooner our makers of ordinary light and medium commercial vehicles scrap the low ground clearance idea, the better.

The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China announce that Mr. Edward Fairbairn Mackay, late of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, Shanghai and China, has been elected to a seat on the board of directors to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Sir John Newell Jordan, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., K.C.B.

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Near East Markets.

SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co. report as follows for the week ended October 31 :—

Sultanas.—The arrivals since the opening of the season are estimated at 17,000 tons, and the sales to date are put at 15,300 tons. Closing prices Smyrna : per cwt. c.i.f. London/Liverpool : Type 12, 54s. ; type 13, 56s. ; type 14, 59s. ; type 15, 62s. ; type 16, 67 s. ; type 17, 73s.

The market broke some 3s. to 4s. (Fls. 3 to Fls. 4) this week. Business continues on restricted lines and the general tone remains heavy.

Figs.—The arrivals are estimated at 177,214 bags, and the sale to date 176,618 bags. Closing prices : per cwt. c.i.f London/Liverpool : extra choice Natural Figs, 40s. ; finest (genuine) Natural Figs, 38s. ; superior (GAQ Natural Figs, 35s.

We last week reported that it was becoming increasingly evident that the crop was nearing exhaustion. It has become a startling fact this week that there are practically no more figs left on this side to be marketed, with the consequent result of a sensational rise in prices occasioned by the rush to secure the small remaining lots by shippers still short in their forward engagements.

The possibility of further business this season must be excluded. It remains to be seen to what extent some shippers will be able to execute the totality of their engagements without recourse to covering in on the London and Liverpool markets forward contracts for November-December shipments to the States.

Russian buyers this week on spot have bought some 400 tons of Naturals (Genune quality) at the parity of 43s. c.i.f. U.K. (9.1/4 cents C. and F. New York).

The report for the week ended November 7 states :—

Sultanas.—The arrivals now amount to 17,700 tons and the sales to date are 16,000 tons. Closing prices Smyrna, per cwt. c.i.f. London/Liverpool : Type 12, 53s. ; type 13, 55s. ; type 14, 57s. ; type 15, 59s. ; type 16, 64s. ; type 17, 71s.

The market is quiet with little demand. Prices continue sliding, but the decline this week has not been very marked.

Figs.—The arrivals amount to 181,655 bags, and the sales to date are 179,941 bags.

The Russian buyers have withdrawn. The present high level of prices on this side precludes the possibility of combining new business. Some small lots of figs that reached the market this week have not met with buyers. Now that the Russians have withdrawn, shippers, still uncovered, are in no hurry to operate, realising the unlikelihood of new business at level of prices asked by dealers and hoping thus eventually to cover in at more reasonable rates.

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*MASSILIA, Dec. 11.	*BRITANNIA, Mar. 10.
*ELYSIA, Dec 29.	*MASSILIA, Mar. 30.
*CIRCASSIA, Jany. 12, 1926.	*ELYSIA, April 13.
*CASTALIA, Feb. 2.	*CIRCASSIA, April 30.
*OLYMPIA, Feb. 19.	*CASTALIA, May 14.

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DEMAND FOR MOTORS IN EGYPT.

Contrary to the usual seasonal trend, imports and sales of passenger cars in the Egyptian market reached a record peak instead of a low mark in the July-September quarter (says an American Consular report). This applies not only to low-priced vehicles, but to medium and high-priced cars, also. Because of an excellent crop prospect and a satisfactory political outlook, dealers are looking forward to very large sales in the last quarter of the year. It is a reliable estimate that this market will import during the last quarter about 2,000 passenger cars, including chassis. If realised, this will nearly double the receipts for the corresponding quarter of 1924.

The lorry and motor-'bus market is gradually widening, owing to the continued expansion of 'bus transport, but along rather limited lines. The abundance of second-hand motor-cycles continues to be the outstanding factor influencing limited imports of new machines. However, American makes are holding their own, while the dominating British makes are experiencing a much restricted demand over a year ago.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

TEA COMPANIES.

The Jokai Assam Tea Company has declared an interim dividend of 10 per cent., less tax, payable December 7.

The Noyapara Tea Company has declared an interim dividend of 7½ per cent., less tax.

The Balijan Tea Company announces an interim dividend of 5 per cent., less tax, against 10 per cent. last year.

The Tea Corporation has declared an interim dividend of 7½ per cent., less tax.

The Longai Valley Tea Company announces an interim dividend of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares, less tax at 4s. 1½d. in the £.

The Amalgamated Tea Estates Company announces an interim dividend of 5 per cent.

The Consolidated Tea and Lands Company announces an interim dividend of 5 per cent.

The Isa Bheel Tea Company has paid an interim dividend of 5 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary shares.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses :—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Scindia for Bombay (Liverpool, November 23). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mandasor for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, November 28).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Yorkshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, December 2).

British India Line.—S.s. Malda for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 21); s.s. Warfield for Bombay and Karachi (London, November 28).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Brescia for Patras, Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Swansea, December 14).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Canton for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 1).

Johnston Line.—M.v. Sycamore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, November 21); s.s. Kenmore, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 5).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Rawalpindi for Bombay (London, November 27); s.s. Nankin for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 12.

Major-General Sir John H. Davidson, M.P., has been elected a director and a member of the London Committee of the National Bank of Egypt. Sir John Davidson is a director of the African Mercantile Company, the Gresham Fire and Accident and the Gresham Life Assurance.

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Motors and Motoring.

By G. B. B.

My recent remarks regarding the certainty of a big overseas market for our commercial vehicle manufacturers, provided they take the trouble to make the good points of their products known, have attracted a certain amount of attention in trade circles, which is all to the good. As was only to be expected, my statements were met by a point-blank assertion that British commercial vehicles and the special features of all types of British commercial vehicles were already well known overseas. Others said that possibly there was something in my statement but very little. One or two agreed with my contentions. To those who assert that British commercial vehicles are well known in Near, Middle, and Far East markets, I would reply that not one business man in a thousand, in any of the regions in those three vast areas, could mention off-hand the names of five British makers of commercial vehicles, and of those who could mention five makers, not one in a hundred could tell what sizes and types of vehicles those makers produced. And I ask: Is it good enough? Here are we at home suffering under stress of taxation, of bad trade, of a dozen things that only good trade can cure, and our British captains of commerce, practically unknown south of the Isle of Wight, delude themselves with the idea that the whole world knows them and the goods they make, and that the reason they do not sell more goods abroad is because the extraordinarily wicked foreigner underquotes them! As I frequently pointed out in the *Financier*, our manufacturers are a little disposed to call on all their gods to witness their sad plight and do little or nothing to better the situation.

Our Steady Progress.

In design and construction our makers have made and are making steady and remarkable progress; it is only in commercial ability that they fall so lamentably behind their foreign competitors. The advances which have been made during the last few years in engine design have been little short of astounding and British designers and manufacturers alike have proved their immense superiority, so far as the construction of medium-powered- high-speed engines are concerned, to the rest of the world. It is true that despite the strenuous efforts and painstaking work of Messrs. D. Napier and Son, who have been wrestling with the problem for years in spite of many handicaps of which the general public know nothing, the Americans seem to have outstripped us, for the time being, in high-speed, high-powered aeroplane engine design, but I believe myself that here the American superiority is more apparent than real, and I would just say that a nation like ours would not necessarily lay the whole of its cards on the table for the purpose of winning the Schneider Cup. There is a nod in that sentence which will probably be as good as a wink to most of my readers. Speaking of aero engines, there is no doubt the aero engine practice did much to assist in the development of our light car engine, and to an extent this was also assisted by the development of the motor cycle engine, a development which showed that high-speed "babies" could more than hold their own against slow speed giants. The War also caused an immense forward stride in the manufacture of high-speed steels and alloys, and these immensely strong stress-and-strain resisting materials were pressed into the service of the motor car engine and chassis maker, and the net result was the introduction of types of comparatively high-speed engines, of but little weight and extremely compact, but giving out astonishingly high horse powers. It is these light engines, fitted into strong and beautifully made chassis, with improved change speed gears and powerful brakes that have made the British light car and the British light delivery van and medium to heavy lorry the fine vehicles they are to-day.

Protection!

A correspondent has taken exception to my remarks regarding protection and the commercial motor industry, and my reply merely is that I have expressed my opinion and stand by it. The best protection our commercial motor vehicle makers can have is that recommended by no less an authority on fighting matters than the late general, Julius Cæsar, who invariably "carried the war into the enemy's country." In other words, he did not seek to defend himself at home; he knew his home would be all right if only he kept the other fellow busy. To our commercial motor vehicle makers, I say again, as I said before: Get your goods known in the vast overseas market and you will be so busy turning out vehicles that your production costs will fall below even your most optimistic ideas and you will not need to worry about your home market; you'll have that so safe that you could not lose it if you tried!

The Guy Six.

I have just been examining the latest Guy passenger chassis, which seems to me to be more than a mere advance on what has been done before. The chassis is for a motor coach, and so far must represent the last word in comfortable and luxurious travelling. It seems to be just the type of chassis that should sell well in Indian markets, as the design has evidently been the result of a perfectly correct impression that people are willing to pay for luxury in travelling. The six-cylinder engine is of the sleeve valve type, and not only is it designed to work at a high speed but, thanks to the sleeve valves, it is practically silent at all speeds. A worm-driven back axle also tends towards perfectly silent running. The wheelbase is 16 ft. 5 in., and the track is 5 ft. 5 in., and the chassis is suitable for carrying a 32-seater body. I understand the chassis can be obtained, at a slight extra price, with a wheel base of 19 ft. 1½ in.

Low Clearance.

There is one thing in connection with modern design that I am by no means sure about, and that is the new tendency towards low frames. I agree that these are a great advance—for use in countries with good roads. I note in the "Guy" motor I have just mentioned that the height of the top of the frame of the chassis is only 1 ft. 10 in. from the ground with the vehicle unloaded.

(Continued on page 629.)

INDIAN AFRICAN SERVICE.

Regular Passenger and Freight Service from

RANGOON, CALCUTTA, and COLOMBO
To BEIRA, DELAGOA BAY, DURBAN, EAST LONDON PORT ELIZABETH, MOSSEL BAY, and CAPE TOWN.

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RANGOON—J. & F. Graham & Co.
CALCUTTA—Andrew Weir & Co.
COLOMBO—Skrine & Co.
BEIRA—Beira Shipping Agency.
DELAGOA BAY John T. Rennie & Sons.
DURBAN—Andrew Weir & Co.
EAST LONDON—Messrs. Dunn & Co.
PT. ELIZABETH—Mackie, Dunn & Co.
MOSSEL BAY—Messrs. E. Searle & Co.
CAPE TOWN—Thomson, Watson & Co.
HONG KONG—The Bank Line, Ltd.
BANGKOK—Siam Forest Co., Ltd.
SINGAPORE—Huttenbach Bros. & Co.
MAURITIUS—Adam & Co.

LONDON—ANDREW WEIR & CO., 21, Bury Street, E.C.3.

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Company Meeting.

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL COMPANY.

Growth of Production.

Sir Charles Greenway's Speech.

The sixteenth ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Limited, was held on November 10 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C.

Sir Charles Greenway, Bt. (Chairman of the company), presided.

The Secretary (Mr. John Clark) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—Ladies and gentlemen,—The report and accounts which we submit to you to-day and which, with your permission, we will take as read are again, I am pleased to say, of a very satisfactory character and continue to reflect the successful progress which the company is making. As you are aware, our chief aim and object during the past 12 or 13 years has been to build up an absolutely self-contained organisation—capable not only of producing our crude oil but also of refining it and of transporting and distributing its products direct to consumers wherever there may be a profitable outlet for them without the intervention of any third parties—and I think that we may now claim that we have successfully achieved that object and have firmly established ourselves as one of the leading oil companies of the world. The advent into the world's markets of a new and powerful competitor has, of course, aroused a good deal of opposition, but I would like to take this opportunity of saying that while we shall always be ready to enter into any arrangements with our competitors that will serve the purpose of reducing costs to the consumer, it is an essential of any such arrangements that we should retain our own individuality. (Hear, hear.)

Profits.

I will now ask you kindly to turn your attention to the accounts before you. Dealing first with the profit and loss account, you will remember that when I addressed you last year I indicated that, subject to there being no further material decline in prices, I was hopeful that the profits for the year under review would show a substantial increase. You will see that this hope has been realised. The trading profits show an increase of over £1,500,000, and the net profits, after deducting the larger amounts payable in respect of royalty, income-tax, etc., an increase of about £1,120,000. I should explain further that the figure of £4,599,676 8s. 9d. showing in the profit and loss account as "balance of profit" has been arrived at after providing collectively in our main concerns a sum of over £3,500,000 for depreciation, which result, gentlemen, I am sure you will all regard as eminently satisfactory. (Hear, hear.)

Now, looking at the appropriation account, you will see that out of the £3,571,966 18s. 7d. brought down from the profit and loss account we have appropriated to extra depreciation and various reserves a total of £1,193,000, as against a total of £665,000 only in the previous year, and that the balance at the credit of the profit and loss account remaining to be dealt with, including £1,746,643 9s. 11d. carried forward from the previous year, amounts to £4,066,549 2s. 6d. Out of this, after allowing for preference share dividends, we recommend payment of a dividend of 12½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, absorbing £1,118,750, and carrying forward a balance of £2,072,799 2s. 6d. subject to Excess Profits Duty, if any, for the year ended March 21, 1921, and Corporation Profits Tax for the year ended March 31, 1925.

Conservative Financial Policy.

As regards the dividend which we have recommended on the ordinary shares, I would like to say that we might easily have recommended a higher figure, but I think most of you will agree with us that our first consideration should be the building up of a strong financial position, and that it is therefore advisable to continue the policy of conserving our resources as much as possible, at any rate until we have accumulated funds commensurate with the gigantic extent of our business; being content in the meantime with the knowledge that we shall thereby be gaining more by the consequent appreciation in the value of our assets than we are losing for the time being by denying ourselves a little in the form of higher dividends.

In this connexion, I may mention that we have received a letter from an ordinary shareholder who at the last meeting raised some objections to our conservative policy, complaining that his criticisms and the discussion which followed were not supplied to the Press and to shareholders in full. I would like to point out to him that it is not usual to supply verbatim reports of the criticisms of shareholders to the Press, and it is certainly not necessary when, as we know, fully 90 per cent. of our ordinary shareholders are in full accord with our policy. (Hear, hear.) I appreciate his desire for higher dividends, but I would like to say that throughout my business career it has been my practice to put back each year into my various businesses a considerable portion of my profits, and I am quite sure that every business man present here to-day will agree with me as to the wisdom of this policy, particularly in the case of an industrial concern with such wide ramifications, and so many vicissitudes, as ours, and that the advantages to be gained from the consequent appreciation in the capital value of our assets far outweigh the satisfaction of a large immediate return in the form of higher dividends. A simple calculation will show him that if as the result of our conservative policy our shares appreciate in value during the next five years to the extent of 100 per cent.—a not at all improbable assumption—his average return, even on the basis of the present dividend, would be far better than getting an immediate return of, say, 20 per cent. per annum. (Hear, hear.)

However, I am pleased to be able to announce that we now see our way, unless some unforeseen contingency arises, to falling in with the desire expressed by shareholders for the payment of interim dividends on our ordinary shares—(cheers)—and our first interim dividend will probably be declared in April or May next.

As to the outlook for the current year, all I can say at present is that, subject to there being no serious decline in prices between now and the end of our financial year, we can, I think, look forward with confidence to results at least as favourable as those for the year under review.

As regards the market for petroleum products, it is at the moment more than usually difficult to gauge the future course of prices. The production of crude during the present year will show a substantial increase in every important producing country in the world, excepting Mexico. The total increase for the year will probably amount to about 8,000,000 tons, and the decrease in Mexico to nearly 4,000,000 tons, leaving a net increase in the world's supply of about 4,000,000 tons, or a little under 3 per cent. But, speaking broadly, the consumption of the various products fully keeps pace with the increase in supplies, and though there is every possibility of further increases in production, these will, in my opinion, be fully offset by the continuous expansion in the demand for oil products which must result from the improvement in economic conditions which is taking place in practically every country of Europe, and from the extended use which is daily being found for these products in nearly every branch of industry. In any case there will, I am confident, always be a remunerative outlet for all the oil of good quality which can, as in Persia, be produced at a low cost. In this connexion, I would again remind you that every drop of crude we produce is obtained from flowing wells of large calibre which, of course, means that it is raised at the minimum of cost. These wells, I may add, are all connected with a central storage and pumping station at which at any time of the day the flow from the wells can be varied to any degree required.

JOHNSTON LINE

Mediterranean, Black Sea and Danube.

REGULAR SAILINGS

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Antwerp, Swansea and Liverpool
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I will now deal with such items of the balance-sheet as I think call for comment or explanation. Taking the debit side of the account first of all, the only changes of importance are (1) a reduction of £125,000 and £63,000 respectively in the amount of debentures and short-term secured notes outstanding. The repayment of the latter released £70,000 of the debentures deposited as security for these notes, thus making the total debentures redeemed during the year £195,000; (2) an increase of £276,463 2s. 4d. in the amount at credit of the employees' provident pension and insurance fund account, and (3) an increase in the reserve accounts of £800,000, bringing the total up to £6,083,128 11s. 6d.

On the assets side of the account you will notice that the first item—namely, purchase price of shares in and advances to associated companies—now stands at £26,445,958 17s. 3d., which is a reduction of £1,713,741 1s. 9d. on the figure shown last year, although in the meantime there has been fresh outlay in respect of this item to the extent of about £785,000. This total reduction of £2,500,000 is almost entirely due to the repayments of some of the advances to our associated companies. In connection with this item I would like to point out that about £9,000,000 of the total represents advances to our two principal subsidiary companies—namely, the British Tanker Company and the National Oil Refineries—and that the amount of these advances is far more than covered by the value of their assets.

These companies might have raised a portion of the large amounts they have expended in creating these organisations by public issues of capital, but as this could, at the time the money was required, only have been done at a comparatively high cost, the Anglo-Persian Company, for reasons of economy, financed a portion of this expenditure by means of temporary borrowings in the open market at low rates of interest. These borrowings have all been liquidated, but now that the conditions of the money market are more favourable, we may, in the near future, decide to make a debenture issue in respect of the British Tanker Company, in order that its capital may be more commensurate with the value of its large fleet and to provide the Anglo-Persian Company with some of the further funds that will certainly be required in the future to meet further developments. But this issue will only be made if it can be done on terms that will justify this change in the method of finance. The other assets included in this item are, as I think you are all aware, also of a value far greater than the figure at which they stand in our books.

In this connection I would remind you that we have during the past few years met an enormous amount of new capital expenditure out of revenue. This very sound policy is, as you will have seen from the figures I gave you when dealing with the profits of the past year, still being continued, but it is a policy which should not be carried too far, and once we are satisfied as to the company's ability to meet all possible financial contingencies, the shareholders will, I think, be entitled to look for a more liberal participation in the profits of each year. (Hear, hear.)

The next item on the credit side of the account—refineries, tank installations, pipe-lines, etc.—shows a small increase, being the balance of capital expenditure in excess of the amount written off for depreciation.

As regard debtors and debit balances, there is an increase of nearly £1,200,000, practically all of which is accounted for by the increased dividends payable to us by our subsidiary companies. Taking the last two items, which collectively represent our liquid cash resources at the end of the year under review, you will notice that they show an improvement of close upon £1,000,000 on the position shown twelve months previously, and you will be gratified to learn that the position to-day shows a still further material increase in our liquid assets.

Fields and Production.

The developments in our main fields continue to more than justify all our expectations. Our policy of extending the area of oil bearing territory has been vigorously and successfully continued since I last addressed you, and it will, I am sure, come as welcome news to you that the productive area has now been extended along a line of strike running continuously five miles north-west and over five miles south-east of the well known F. 7.

As I have mentioned on previous occasions, this famous well—which for a long time was regarded as our index of production and whose yield to date is 6,500,000 tons—is now eclipsed by a number of others. The well head fittings with which it was capped in 1909 are, however, in a dangerous condition and since the well is situated near the most active and populated area of the field it would be a serious matter were it to get out of control. Therefore, as the oil it produces can equally well be drawn off and with greater safety from adjacent new wells equipped with modern high pressure fittings it is intended to close it down at an early date for the sake of the greater security that will thus be obtained.

None the less, since we have come to regard F. 7 as an old friend, its deliberate suppression, as a matter of field policy, will cause us all a certain amount of sentimental regret.

Following on much investigatory work on the chemical and engineering sides, an important and comprehensive scheme has been adopted for recovery of petrol from the 50,000,000 cubic feet, or more, of gas which come off daily with the oil from all parts of the main fields, only a portion of which has hitherto been utilised. The installation of the necessary plant is now well in hand, and there is every reason to hope that this scheme will considerably augment our production of petrol and thus prove very profitable to the company. All necessary field developments are steadily and punctually following the drill, and I think it may now fairly be claimed that our main fields are not only the largest and the most prolific, but also the best equipped that the world can show. (Cheers.)

As I have explained on previous occasions, our policy in regard to our main fields is a conservative one. The wells drilled and coupled to the production lines are capable of yielding far more oil than could be dealt with at present by our existing pipe lines, refineries, tankers, and marketing organisations. However, we can happily record a steady progress in all these complementary facilities, and in consequence, a correspondingly increased production.

To illustrate this, I cannot do better than continue the table of figures recorded at previous meetings, viz.:—

In 1918-19	our production	was	1,106,415 tons.
,, 1919-20	,,	,,	1,385,301 ,,
,, 1920-21	,,	,,	1,743,557 ,,
,, 1921-22	,,	,,	2,327,221 ,,
,, 1922-23	,,	,,	2,959,028 ,,
,, 1923-24	,,	,,	3,714,216 ,,
,, 1924-25	,,	,,	4,333,933 ,,

(cheers) against my estimate last year of 4,250,000 to 4,500,000 tons.

Development Programme.

The current year is largely one of stabilisation of the position we have already achieved—or in other words of securing the best possible results in every direction from our present production—prior to embarking on yet larger developments. For this reason production in the year 1925-26 will probably not exceed 4,500,000 tons.

I am not able to record the discovery of any new areas elsewhere in Persia having prospects comparable with those of the present producing areas. The further examination of the strike of oil on Kishm Island, to which I referred last year, was not sufficiently promising in quantity to warrant development under existing conditions, and work in this area has therefore been discontinued.

Similarly, oil has been discovered in yet another area in quantities which, had the field been situated in America or Europe, might have warranted commercial development. But situated as they are in Persia they could not be worked remuneratively and therefore operations in this area have also been suspended except in so far as they are necessary to produce oil for field use in some neighbouring areas where we are carrying on test drilling and in which we hope to find oil in larger volume.

As a result of general geological survey work followed by an authoritative and comprehensive geological reconnaissance, no less than six new areas have now been indicated as meriting immediate test with the drill, and the necessary work is well in hand.

I have on previous occasions referred to a new area where the existence of appreciable supplies of oil had been definitely proved. This area, known as Naft Khana, is on the borders of Persia and Iraq, and is situated in what is known, so far as the Iraq portion is concerned, as the "transferred territories."

This company possesses the oil rights in "the transferred territories" by virtue of an international agreement executed in 1913, following on a rectification of frontiers. The agreement in question has since been ratified by the grant by the Iraq Government of a formal concession of these rights, and a separate company with a capital of £1,000,000 is about to be registered to take over this concession.

Drilling is steadily continuing in this field with the view of proving definitely the existence of oil to such an extent as would justify the cost of laying a pipe-line linking the field with the seaboard. There is reason to hope that this may prove to be the case, but capital expenditure of the magnitude indicated will not be undertaken until its justification is fully established.

Since we last met a concession has been obtained from the Albanian Government over areas amounting to approximately 80,000 acres, which were selected by us after careful geological survey, and drilling on these commenced a month ago. The discovery of oil in this country would, of course, be of great importance, but obviously it is too early to indicate the possibilities of success.

Relations with the Persian Government.

The past year has been characterised by one important event in connexion with our relations with the Persian Government: in a

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97⅛	97⅛
Athens	Drachmæ to £ ...	25.22½	359—362
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	272—275
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.35½
Berne	Francs to £.....	25.22½	25.14
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 11/64—13/64
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	106.95
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	1,042½
Budapest	Kronen to £	24 02	345-347,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 11/64—13/6
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	860—875
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.84⅜—¾
Paris	Francs to £.....	25.22½	12.050
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	163½
Rome	Lire to £	25 22½	120¾
Sofia.....	Leva to £	25.22½	660 - 680
Teheran	Krans to £	50	42.½
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	34.39
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	31¼

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visit to our oilfields and to our refineries at Abadan by His Imperial Highness Riza Khan Pahlevi, who has, as you are no doubt all aware, recently been given by vote of the Mejliss full control of the State. This is the first occasion on which our operations in Persia have been inspected by so high a personage, and I am pleased to report that His Highness expressed the utmost gratification in the great work which has been achieved by us in the face of the many difficulties attendant upon carrying on operations in a country devoid of transport and other commercial facilities. This visit, we are assured by our representatives, cannot but have a favourable effect upon our relations with the Persian Government, inasmuch as it has impressed upon His Highness not only the magnitude and efficiency of the operations we have carried on in the past but also the great potentialities of the Persian oilfields as a future source of increased revenue to his country. The further developments necessary to produce this increase revenue can only, of course, be carried on under conditions of security, and it is therefore a matter of satisfaction to us that the Persian Government have now for the first time established a military force in the neighbourhood of the fields to give us the protection guaranteed under the Concession. (Hear, hear.) Under these improved conditions we can therefore, I think, now look forward with more confidence than ever to the political security necessary for developing our Concession to the best possible advantage to all concerned.

I would like to take this opportunity of pointing out how greatly the advent of the company has added to the welfare and happiness of the population in the districts in which it is operating, and I am pleased to say that this is fully realised and appreciated in Persia. Apart from the employment we afford to many thousands of Persians, it is our aim to do all we can to promote the well-being and the prosperity of the inhabitants of the country with which we are associated in this extensive enterprise, and in many directions we are rendering most valuable assistance.

When it is understood that about £2,500,000 is spent by us annually in wages and local purchases it is possible to appreciate in some measure the services we are rendering to Persia in this direction.

The very material increase, moreover, in recent years in the Customs receipts at the southern ports is to no small extent due to the increased trade in Southern Persia consequent on our enormous disbursements in this area. The Persian Government therefore directly benefits from the expansion of our operations, not only in the direction of receiving increased royalties but also by a larger revenue from Customs, apart from the indirect gain resulting from our large and constantly growing expenditure in the country.

He then moved the resolution.

The Right Hon. the Lord Bradbury of Winsford, G.C.B., seconded the resolution, and the Chairman then invited questions and comments from shareholders.

Mr. Kemp requested details regarding the shareholdings in the Turkish Petroleum Company, and asked that in any future issue of that company Anglo-Persian shareholders might have a participation.

The Chairman, in reply, said that with regard to the Turkish Petroleum Company, the shares were held as to 47½ per cent. by the Anglo-Persian Company, as to 22½ per cent. by the Royal Dutch Company, as to 25 per cent. by the French group, and as to 5 per cent. by Mr. Gulbenkian. For voting purposes the shares of Mr. Gulbenkian were equally divided between the Anglo-Persian and the Royal Dutch. It was impossible for the directors of the Anglo-Persian Company to give any undertaking as to future issue of capital by the Turkish Company. The Anglo-Persian Company had only a 50 per cent. interest in that undertaking and naturally could not expect to get 100 per cent. of share subscription rights. When the time came, however, the directors of the Anglo-Persian Company would do their utmost to protect the interests of Anglo-Persian shareholders.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

BENGAL DOOARS RAILWAY.

Increased Net Earnings.

The thirty-fifth ordinary general meeting of the Bengal Dooars Railway Company, Ltd., was held at the company's offices, Gresham House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.2, on November 10, Mr. Robert Millar, the Chairman, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. J. Horne) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that it would be seen from the published accounts that satisfactory increases were shown in the company's earnings as compared with the previous year, notwithstanding that last year established a record. The aggregate gross earnings for the year under review amounted to Rs.22,63,884 against Rs.20,53,379 for the previous year, an increase of 10.25 per cent. The result for the year was that the net earnings amounted to Rs.11,11,022 compared with Rs.9,61,631 for the previous year, an increase of Rs.1,49,391, equal to 15.53 per cent.

After deduction of the Indian taxation (amounting to Rs.1,09,549) from the net earnings, there remained a sum of Rs.10,01,472, equal.

The Supremacy of DUNLOP!

THE following is the census of tyre equipment at the Olympia Motor Show (London). The figures provide abundant evidence of Dunlop predominance. The car manufacturer naturally selects the best tyre equipment for his model—follow the manufacturers' lead and specify DUNLOP the world's best Tyres.

Census of Tyres fitted to exhibits at OLYMPIA MOTOR SHOW, 1925

96% of the British Cars at Olympia were fitted with Dunlop Cord Tyres as standard equipment.

Taking all the cars exhibited 58% of them were fitted with DUNLOP.

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at the exchange of 1s. 4d., to £66,764 17s. 4d., which was increased by exchange differences on remittances, etc., and interest earned and by the balance brought into the account from last year to a total of £117,950 10s. 10d. After making provision for the payment of a year's dividend on the preference stock £14,400, reserve for income and corporation profits tax £3,500, and writing off the sum of £1,565, the cost of the Daling coalheld survey, which was incurred some twenty years ago, there remained a balance of £98,485 on the net revenue account. From this an interim dividend of 4 per cent. on the ordinary stock was paid on April 9, 1925, which absorbed £16,000, and £16,626 had been carried to reserve, leaving £65,858 to be dealt with.

Before dealing with the question of the final dividend on the ordinary stock, he had a few words to say regarding the amount carried to reserve account, and to the position in connexion with possible flood damage. From the accounts before them, they would probably have noticed that the expenditure on capital account was £291,203 in excess of the preference and ordinary stock capital of £760,000, and also that the reserves consisting of premium on capital and reserve fund amounted at March 31 last to £189,873, or £11,330 less than the amount over-expended at that date on capital account. By carrying the sum of £16,626 to the reserve fund the total reserves would then amount to £206,500, which covered the over-expenditure and left a margin of say £5,300, in hand for future capital expenditure. During the year under review the capital expenditure over the whole system amounted to Rs.1,36,262, principally on the construction of stations and buildings and in improvements to rolling stock.

A further good reason for maintaining ample reserves was the erratic movements of the Diana and Teesta Rivers. Since they last met they had experienced considerable anxiety in that connexion. During the flood season both those rivers cut new channels in dangerous proximity to the railway—in the case of the Teesta the encroachment necessitated the dismantlement of some buildings at Barnes Junction and the diversion of traffic. Fortunately of two channels cut by the Teesta River, one within 300 yards of Barnes Junction and the other half a mile away, the river recently took the more distant one, but it was borne upon them that they must be prepared for possible heavy expenditure, and for that reason the directors had decided to continue the same conservative policy as heretofore. The total charge to revenue on account of flood damage during the year under review amounted to Rs.56,366.

The directors had decided that for the past year it would be inadvisable to increase the aggregate dividend and bonus, and therefore recommended the payment of a final dividend of 4 per cent. and a bonus of 2 per cent., making a total distribution of 10 per cent., the same as last year, and leaving a balance of £41,858 to be carried forward, which was practically the same amount as was brought in from the previous year.

At October 17 the approximate traffic receipts showed an improvement of Rs. 10,005 over the corresponding period last year, and they had recently heard from the manager, Mr. J. A. Polwhele, that notwithstanding mosquito blight has appeared in some of the tea gardens, "the earnings for the whole year should not be less than those of last year."

There was one other subject to which he wished to refer, and that was that under the terms of their contracts, the Secretary of State for India had the option, by giving 12 months' notice, of purchasing the railway on December 31, 1926. On July 2 last they received an intimation that he had definitely decided not to take advantage of this option, which meant that a further period of seven years would elapse, that is to say until December 31, 1932, before the Secretary of State could give notice determining the contract by purchase.

The report was unanimously adopted, the payment of the dividend and bonus sanctioned, and the retiring director and auditors were re-elected.

ASSAM RAILWAYS AND TRADING.

A Record Year.

The forty-fifth ordinary general meeting of the Assam Railways and Trading Company, Limited, was held on November 11 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C.

Mr. George Turner, M.E., presided, and after a sympathetic reference to the death of Lord Ribblesdale (a former chairman of the company) said that the accounts represented the best year that the company had ever had. The railway was largely responsible for the increase in profits. This fact was specially gratifying as these increased earnings, besides helping the revenue, protected the company's capital position, inasmuch as the price which the Government would have to pay for the line if it exercised its right to purchase would be measured by their railway earnings. Those earnings for some years past had shown progressive increases averaging about 5 to 6 per cent. The operating expenses for the year were 64.33 per cent. of the earnings as against 74.49 per cent. in the previous 12 months. Satisfactory as this reduction was, the board believed that they could be further reduced.

Dealing with the general trading account, he said that the mines had had on the whole a fair year. The output showed an increase of about 10,000 tons, and the sales a rise of 14,000 tons, but owing to the slump in Bengal coal the competition in their outer markets had become considerably keener. Luckily for them, however, their coal being the best coal in India, with a calorific value 20 to 25 per cent. better than ordinary Indian coal, they were in a good position to meet this competition. The company's investments had again paid them well during the past year. In their new colleries the company had continued their work of preparation and development. There being no programme of further capital expenditure, the company's financial position should improve unless some unforeseen development altered the board's estimates.

The balance of the general net revenue account showed a profit for the year of £146,069, against £137,779 last year, and was the largest profit which the company had ever shown—an improvement of more than £8,000 on the previous year. The board recommended the payment of a final dividend on the "B" stock of 6 per cent., making 9 per cent. for the year—1 per cent. better than last year.

The report was unanimously adopted.

BENGAL-NAGPUR RAILWAY.

Record Gross Earnings.

Mr. Robert Miller's Speech.

The sixty-seventh ordinary general meeting of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company, Limited, was held on October 29 at 132, Gresham House, Old Broad Street, E.C.

Mr. Robert Miller (the Chairman) said that the gross earnings for the year, Rs.826.70 lakhs, exceeded the corresponding figure of the previous year by Rs.47 lakhs, or 6.12 per cent., and were the highest on record. They did not quite come up to expectations, as traffic during the second half of the year fell off owing to depression of trade. During the five years ended March, 1925, the gross earnings increased by Rs.184 lakhs, or 22.26 per cent., against an increase in the mean mileage worked of 102 miles, or 3.6 per cent., a very satisfactory result in face of the instability of trade. The working expenses increased by Rs.22.27 lakhs, or 4.18 per cent., due partly to the larger traffic carried, and partly to heavier renewals of permanent way and additional outlay on ordinary maintenance. The net earnings amounted to Rs.294 lakhs as against Rs.269 lakhs in the previous year, and the surplus profits received by the company amounted, after payment of Indian income-tax, to Rs.5,77,224, making, with the guaranteed interest, a return on capital of 4.94 per cent., as compared with 4.45 per cent. in the previous year.

The Outlook.

With regard to the prospects of the undertaking, the gross earnings up to the end of September last were slightly lower than those received during the corresponding period of 1924-25. The depression in trade that commenced during the latter half of that year had extended into the present year, and though crops were expected to be favourable as the result of a good monsoon, there was at present no indication that the results of the whole year would be much in advance of those for 1924-25, and steps had already been taken to curtail the provision made for working expenses if additional gross earnings were not being realised.

Unlike other principal railway systems of India, which, generally speaking, were carried through country already well populated and

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cultivated and carrying on substantial trade by means of road or river communication, the undertaking commenced its existence as a pioneer railway and had continued in the same role up to the present day. It provided rail communication between the centre of India and Calcutta by way of a country sparsely populated and little given to trade, and covered for thousands of square miles by dense forest. During the two decades 1900 to 1920, capital expenditure increased by about 160 per cent., and gross earnings by over 400 per cent. During the period 1920 to 1925 capital expenditure increased by 40 per cent., and gross earnings by something over 25 per cent. only. In common with other Indian railways, the undertaking was worked to its full capacity from 1914 to 1919 with traffic directly connected with, or arising out of, the Great War. With the cessation of the War that abnormal traffic ceased, but industrial activity arose in India and pressing demands for coal were made. Capital expenditure was then devoted to the work of opening out coalfields situated within the area served by the railway which up till then had remained unexploited. The construction of the necessary lines was fully justified by the conditions existing at the time, but industrial activity subsequently received a set-back from which it had not yet recovered.

Briefly, the position of the undertaking to-day might be said to be that, having fitted itself at great cost to deal promptly and effectively with the growth of gross earnings that might be anticipated in the future, it had to wait on the gradual improvement in trade and industry before it could realise the full return on its capital investment which it had every reason to believe would be reached in due time. While the progress of net earnings and surplus profits might, at the present time, be lower than was anticipated a year or two ago, stockholders would find in the end that their investment had been a fortunate one.

The report was unanimously adopted.

The Roumanian production of sugar is expected to amount to some 140,000 to 160,000 tons, compared with 95,000 tons last year.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

MANCHESTER COTTON MARKET.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Ottoman Bank for the week ended November 14, states:—

Uncertainty regarding the future level of prices still seems to be the dominating influence in the market. The American Bureau Report published on Monday last was again a surprise, the indicated crop showing an increase where, if anything, a decrease had been anticipated. Buyers of cotton goods apparently think that the process of adjustment of the earlier estimates has not yet been completed and that there is a possibility of the total yield being even larger than the latest figures.

Yarn.—Whilst there has been an increase in the inquiry for yarns the actual business transacted remains far from satisfactory, and this applies both to American and Egyptian. The most important item of interest is the recommendation made yesterday by the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners that the mills spinning American cotton should restrict the hours of working during December and January to 35 per week. This would be a reduction of 4¼ hours on the present working week. It seems rather doubtful at the moment whether the majority necessary to carry this into effect can be obtained. Shipments of yarn last month amounted to 17,856,100 lb. as compared with 13,923,400 lb. in September and 13,454,100 lb. in October, 1924.

Cloth.—Following the issue of the Bureau Report business dwindled to very small proportions. There was a slight recovery yesterday but, as a whole, the week has been a poor one. Only a fair business, still mainly for dhooties and fancy goods, has transpired for India. There is nothing new to report with regard to China, and Egypt and the Near East continue to operate very sparingly. Some good lines have been put through for the Home Trade.

Shipments of cloth during October amounted to 366,606,600 square yards as compared with 359,810,400 square yards in September and 364,293,900 square yards in October last year. The most interesting features of the returns were the large amount of goods shipped to Germany and the comparatively low figures recorded for India.

Raw cotton.—There have been considerable fluctuations during the past week. The American Bureau Report above referred to gave the indicated yield at 15,386,000 bales of which 11,199,000 had been ginned at October 31. The former figures represented an increase of 160,000 bales during the last fortnight and were larger than had been expected. There was an immediate drop of approximately ½d. per lb. in quotations, which, however, has since been recovered on unfavourable weather reports. Egyptian cotton has been weak and the quotation has fallen almost daily. Spinners continue to buy very sparingly. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows:—American Middling 10.58, Egyptian Fully Good Fair 20.60.

THE EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company in their report for the week ended November 5, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has fluctuated widely, but towards the close of the week the tendency has become somewhat firmer; the net changes on the week are the following: Sakellaridis, 0.50 dollars down for November, 0.62 dollars down for January, 0.60 dollars down for March, 0.90 dollars up for November 1926: Ashmouni 0.62 dollars down for December, 0.55 dollars down for February, 0.35 dollars down for April, 0.40 dollars up for October, 1926.

The week began with rather weak markets, but when prices fell to 35½ dollars for January Sakel and 25½ dollars for December Ashmouni they induced a good deal of speculative profit-taking, which stopped the drop and caused a slight reaction. Commercial houses also bought moderate lines of contracts round about these low levels. It is said that these purchases were against sales to spinners put through earlier in the season on a bearish view on the

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market. On the first tender day of November, no dockets were issued. New York has shown a rather improved tone owing to unfavourable weather and the expectation that the next crop estimate will be somewhat smaller than the last one.

The demand from abroad has continued to be moderate for Ashmouni and rather poor for Sakellaridis considering the fact that we are now well into the new season. Spinners still find prices of Egyptian rather higher than those of the American staple cottons and other outsiders that can be used as substitutes, but the Egyptian Government, instead of facing the situation in the proper way and helping to expand the cultivation, reduce the cost of production and improve the quality by prohibiting the mixing of cotton of different growths in the villages, is using means which in all probability will result in the eventual further curtailment of the world's consumption of Egyptian cotton. It is buying Sakel on the spot market and it apparently intends to restrict the acreage under cotton for 1026 to one-third of the total cultivated land. The result of this will be to lift the price of Egyptian cotton too high compared to other cottons and so reduce the consumption still further.

Our opinion on the market remains unchanged; the position is still bearish, but prices will probably show some resistance to any further decline should there be, as is not unlikely in view of the very moderate purchases up to the present, any improvement in the trade demand. The week's receipts amount to 339,176 krs. against exports 189,286 krs.; the stock stands at 1,725,620 krs.

Spot: Minet el Bassal continues fairly active and sales amount to about 24,700 bales, of which we estimate 11,500 Sakel, 9,200 Uppers, 3,600 Zagora, 300 Pilion, and 100 White. The Egyptian Government have bought during the week about 1,900 bales Sakel from Fully Good Fair to about Good.

Sakel: has been in fair request and all styles have been dealt in. Spot differences are generally rather easier.

Ashmouni and Zagora: A fair business has been done in all grades. Spot differences are without much change with the exception of Good and above which have hardened somewhat.

Pilion: has been in moderate request. Spot differences are without much change but with an easier tendency.

Brown: is neglected and no business has been done. Spot differences are quotably dearer for the good grades and unchanged for the medium qualities.

White: A small business has been done at about last week's parities.

Crop 1925: The Alexandria General Produce Association estimates the crop at 8,000,000 kantars. This figure seems to us to be a little high and our opinion is that the crop will turn out about 7,800,000 kantars, of which 3,600,000 Sakel, 3,600,000 Uppers and Zagora, and 650,000 Pilion, White, etc.

The report of the Alexandria General Produce Association for October reads:

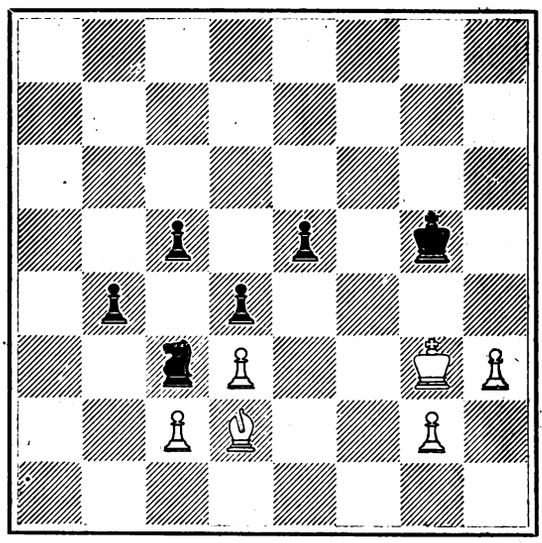
Lower Egypt. The suitable temperature experienced during the month of October has greatly helped the opening of the bolls. The yield per feddan for the two first pickings is on the whole superior to that obtained last year. The third picking, known as "Nili" will give better results than last year. The ginning yield continues superior to that of the previous crop.

Upper Egypt and Fayoum.—The temperature has been favourable for the last pickings. The yield per feddan is much superior to that obtained in previous years. The ginning yield is better than that of the 1924 crop. Taking into consideration all the information given us, and the increased acreage, we estimate the total crop to be about 8 million kantars.

The report of the Ministry of Agriculture for the month of October reads: "Weather conditions during October were very favourable. As a result many late bolls ripened rapidly before development of maximum pest attack; thus increasing yield expectations, especially in the later districts. The first picking has been completed in all parts with the exception of small areas in the north of the Delta. The second picking of Sakellaridis is general. The picking in Upper Egypt is about to terminate as well as the Seidi cotton cultivated in Lower Egypt. Cotton sticks are being uprooted everywhere for Shitwi cultivation.

CHESS.

By "CARO-KANN."



PROBLEM No. 22.

Black to play. What result?

Solution to problem No. 21:— 1, B—K7, P—B4; 2, PxP, K B3; 3, K—B4, K—Q2; 3, B—R4, Kt—B; 4, K—Kt5, P B3 (ch); 5, K—B4, Kt—Kt3; 6, B—Kt3, K—K2; 7, Kt Q4, K B3; 8, K—K4 and draws.

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The NEAR EAST AND INDIA

A Weekly Review of the Politics and Commerce of the Balkan Peninsula, Turkey, Egypt, and the Sudan, Syria, Palestine, Arabia, Iraq, Persia and India.

No. 759.—Vol. XXVIII. Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1925. Price 6d. Postage 1d. Foreign 1½d.

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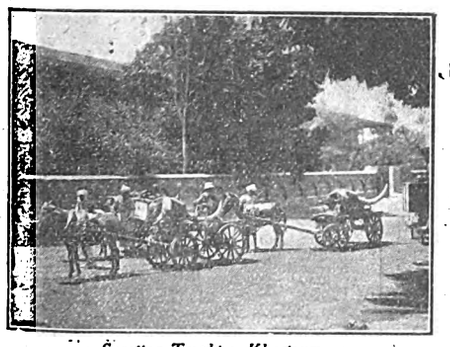

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THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

No. 759.—VOL. XXVIII. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1925.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	Page
NOTES OF THE WEEK	639
SPECIAL LETTERS—	
Egypt	642
The Sudan	643
Bulgaria	644
Roumania	644
Greece	645
Cyprus	646
LEADING ARTICLE—	
Britain and France in Western Asia	641
THE WEEK AT HOME	649
PERSONAL AND GENERAL	651
BOOK REVIEWS	658
INDIAN AFFAIRS—	
The Next Step	652
Current Topics	653
Special Letters: Calcutta	654
Back to Shahjahan	655
Indian Exchange	658
YUGOSLAV SUPPLEMENT—	
Pig-Rearing Industry	661
Yugoslav Exports	663
Iron in Serbia	663
Economic News and Notes	664
COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
Notes and News	659
Shipping Intelligence	668
Motors & Motoring. By G. B. B.	669
Chess	670
Cotton and Cotton Goods	670

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

Queen Alexandra.

It is almost necessary to recall Tennyson's Ode of Welcome to be reminded that the Queen Mother was not a British-born Princess. Never was poet's appeal, "Come to us, love us, and make us your own," more literally fulfilled than in the way in which, as Princess of Wales and Queen, she identified herself with the people among whom she made her home. Queen Alexandra was happy in her generation, which under her lead—no less potent because it was unconscious—set itself to evolve that unique relationship which binds together Throne and Nation in this Empire of ours. For her contribution to that heritage—her choice of her own title as Queen Mother has served as a constant reminder of it—the nation has good reason to be grateful to her. Set as was her life's work in the domestic affairs of Great Britain, she had little opportunity to become known to other peoples, apart from the land of her birth. An Eastern tour with the Prince of Wales in 1868 included a stay in Egypt, and a homeward journey by way of Constantinople, the Crimea, and Athens. The Princess was in Greece again in 1899 on a longer visit to her brother, King George, and on one occasion was in Russia. The memory of these travels, in the light of all that has happened since, will, doubtless, bring home to the people of many countries the fact that monarchy as it has been developed in Great Britain is a plant that thrives nowhere else in just the same way.

The Mosul Dispute.

The controversy between Turkey and Great Britain over the Iraq frontier has been advanced a further stage by the decision of The Hague International Court of Justice. This body had been asked by the Council of the League of Nations to decide whether the decision to be taken by the Council in virtue of the second paragraph of Article 3 of the Treaty of Lausanne was an arbitral award, a recommendation or a simple mediation; also whether the decision had to be unanimous or could be taken by a majority, and whether the representatives of the interested parties should take part in the vote. The Court has ruled that the decision shall be binding on the parties concerned, and shall constitute a definite determination of the frontier between Turkey and Iraq; further, that the decision must be taken by a unanimous vote, the representatives of the parties taking part in the voting, but their votes not being counted in ascertaining whether there is unanimity. It is to be hoped that what The Hague Court gives with one hand will not prove to have been taken away by the other. That the decision of the Council should be binding is in keeping with common sense and the history of the controversy; but the obligation to achieve unanimity may enable the Council, if it be so minded, to avoid a decision regarding the frontier. Yet the Council's prompt action in regard to the Græco-Bulgarian incident encourages the belief that in the Mosul question also it will at last take its courage in both hands. It has been careful to have its authority established beyond challenge, and now it has only to deliver a verdict in accord with the principles that lie behind the formation of the League of Nations, a verdict that will make for the better government of the region in question, that will bring peace and progress to a troubled people, and that will enable both Turkey and Iraq each to mind its own business and to live in amity with one another.

Britain and Iraq.

The opening of Parliament has provided occasion for questions on the subject of Great Britain's commitments in regard to Iraq to be put to the Government. The first of these was an inquiry whether the Prime Minister could state the earliest date at which it would be open to Great Britain to divest itself of responsibility for the Government of Iraq under the terms of the Mandate it held from the League of Nations. Mr. Baldwin cited Article 5 in the decision of the Council of the League of Nations of September 27, 1924, which provided that, in the event of Iraq's

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being admitted to the League of Nations the obligations assumed by His Majesty's Government (under the Mandate) will terminate. Realising that this was not quite the information that he had hoped to elicit, Sir Frederick Hall pressed Mr. Baldwin to say whether Great Britain was or was not "committed to a policy of practically policing and being responsible for Iraq for twenty-five years after the completion of the present undertaking." The Prime Minister replied that that matter would be considered by the Government, and, of course, the House would have an opportunity of expressing its views. Mr. J. H. Thomas inquired whether there were any new circumstances arising in connexion with the matter which would warrant a departure from the Prime Minister's "previously expressed views on the evacuation of Iraq in three years." Mr. Baldwin thought not, but refused to be catechised further on the subject in this way. It is to be hoped that this non-committal reply will not be quoted on future occasion as a further pledge on the part of the Government to evacuate Iraq in three years' time.

The Pessimist's Historic Role.

Unless we are mistaken, Mr. Baldwin's previously expressed views on the evacuation of Iraq in three years are non-existent. The reference is, presumably, to his speech as Chancellor of the Exchequer when commending the Iraq Treaty to the House of Commons. This Treaty was to last for four years after the ratification of peace with Turkey, and, before its termination, the Treaty stipulated that a further agreement should be concluded between the two countries. The word "evacuation" appears to be a marginal gloss on the Prime Minister's words, for which the evacuationists alone are responsible. Those who hold that Great Britain must stand by her pledged word and by the spirit of her undertakings to Iraq will console themselves by the fact that at practically every stage in her history when Great Britain has had to face responsibilites overseas there have been wiseacres who have warned her against the folly and danger of her course. Speaking at a dinner given by the China Association last week, the Secretary of State for the Colonies made this shrewd point in connexion with the development of Hongkong. When Great Britain occupied the island in 1841 there were not wanting those who pointed out that the place was too malarial for white habitation, that its harbour was useless and that its possession would be a source of danger to Britain. To-day it is, if nothing else, the largest seaport in the world, from the point of view of shipping tonnage. When it was a question of building a railway across Canada, the prototype of our Iraq evacuationists prophesied that the line would never earn enough to pay for the accidents that it would have. So too all over the world, and there is no special need for those who realise that Great Britain has still to stand by the Arabs, if she is to remain true to her word and to her position in the East, to be turned aside from a bounden duty by jaundiced pessimists or the yellow Press.

The Syrian Revolt.

As the insurgents have conveniently taken up a central position midway between Damascus and Tyre (es Sur), an encircling movement on the part of the French, operating from the former town and from Sidon, has been facilitated. The necessity for striking a blow without further delay and a desire to forestall a break in the weather may, however, cause them to move before they have enough troops for the country that has to be covered. Unless the insurgents are unduly elated over past successes, they should be more anxious to escape the French net than to try conclusions with a superior force, better equipped in every arm. Moreover, if their news service is efficient, they will probably want, when the time comes for negotiations, to deal direct with the new High Commissioner in preference to attempting to make their peace with officials of the old régime. It should help the cause of peace, if the Druses and the Nationalist insurgents in Syria realise that so far the good opinions formed in the first instance of the new appointment to the High Commissionership have been confirmed by the attitude of M. Henri de Jouvenel and his public utterances. He appears to be aiming at not only friendly co-operation between France and Great Britain in the Near and Middle East, but also "the unification of their conceptions of policy towards the Orient." If this latter aim can be achieved, it will be an important factor in the peaceful and progressive development of Western Asia.

Difficulties in Egypt.

Egypt is experiencing political troubles entirely of her own creation, which by no stretch of the imagination can be attributed to British interference. It is, no doubt, exceedingly difficult for the Government to steer the middle course which will satisfy the true constitutionalist and will at the same time prevent the Zaghloulists from making a farce of the administration of the country. Unfortunately the failure to retain the Liberal Constitutionalists in the Government has tended to make them ultra-critical, and it has been, apparently, an easy step from that stage to making common cause with the Wafd for the defence of the Constitution. Egypt's past history, it might have been thought, would have made the Government very chary of lending itself to any scheme of things that seemed to challenge comparison with the old days of Palace despotism, that were mainly responsible for the British occupation. The objection to Zaghloulism is that it makes political agitation directed against Great Britain the end-all and be-all of Egyptian statesmanship. Ziwar Pasha came forward, not to jettison Egypt's claims, but to put them in their proper place and in the meantime to carry on the routine of government on Egyptian lines. The wisest way of combating the impossible methods of Zaghloulism would have been gradually to group round the political nucleus which provided the first Ziwar Cabinet an ever-widening circle of sane Egyptian opinion. At one stage or another the Government seems to have allowed its attention to be distracted from this aim, and to have embarked on a policy of alienating its friends and so playing into the hands of the Zaghloulists.

The Yugoslav Coalition.

With the appointment of M. Stefan Raditch to a seat in the Cabinet the very notable coalition of parties in Yugoslavia is complete. Serbia is preponderatingly Radical, Croatia Raditchist. The fly in the Southern Slav ointment hitherto has been that the other senior partner in the federation did not wholly accept the Serbian basis of the federation. That difficulty has now been removed, and it is impossible to deny the personal triumph that results for the veteran Prime Minister, M. Pashitch. It may be that the policy that he has pursued in the past will have to be modified in some particulars to meet Croatian susceptibilities; on the other hand, responsibility for all that is done in the Government's name is now shared by Croat and Serb alike, and there will be less opportunity for contrasting the two peoples in matters of politics and statesmanship to the disadvantage of the Serb. It is not without significance that M. Raditch should have taken the portfolio of Education. It is the Ministry over which M. Pribitchevitch presided, and from which, in all probability, originated most of the measures directed against M. Raditch in his unregenerate days. By his appointment to this Ministry the Croat leader shows that, as coalitions go in Yugoslavia, he is as near achieving equality with M. Pashitch as anyone else has been able to do. Moreover, with his nephew in the Cabinet as Minister for Agriculture, M. Raditch appears to have struck his roots fairly deep in the political soil. Yugoslavia, however, is anxious for a practical, businesslike lead in public affairs; she will have little patience for mere oratorical fireworks. The Supplements that we are publishing monthly are evidence of the solid improvement that the country is making, and of its determination to go ahead still more. If M. Raditch aspires to lead his country on these lines, he may find that he will have to do greater violence to his past than M. Pashitch has to do to his Radical policy.

The Allies and Turkey.

M. de Jouvenel is contemplating a journey to Angora in the early days of his tenure of office in Syria. It is to be hoped that, before he goes there, the understanding

(Continued on page 650.)

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1925.

BRITAIN AND FRANCE IN WESTERN ASIA.

The visit to London last week of M. Henri de Jouvenel, High Commissioner-Designate for Syria, was very welcome evidence of a desire on the part of Great Britain and of France to arrive at such a co-operation in Western Asia as the wiser heads in both countries have always recognised to be essential, but the necessity for which has not always been apparent to subordinate agents actually at work in Asia Minor and in the Arab countries That the visit was brought about was mainly due to Mr. Austen Chamberlain, who, it may be recalled, so long ago as the date of M. Herriot's accession to the French Premiership, took the occasion to impress upon the French Government the desirability of a closer entente in the Near and Middle East. For his part, Mr. Herriot lost no time in sending orders in this sense to his representatives in the old Ottoman Empire. Unfortunately, however, the memories of, for instance, Colonel Mougin's anti-British activities at Angora, and of the anti-French activities of certain Transjordanian Sheikhs, took time to dispel themselves, so that it could hardly be said that the entente was as satisfactory as British and French Ministers in London and in Paris genuinely wished it to be. The attempt was being made, however, and in Syria, at any rate, it promised at one time fruitful results. There can be no question that General Weygand, when High Commissioner at Damascus, realised as no man before or after him realised, the necessity for full co-operation between Syria and Palestine, and, indeed, the essential unity of all the Arab lands under British and French mandates. But, unfortunately, it was seen fit by M. Herriot to recall General Weygand. Upon his supersession by General Sarrail, a different atmosphere began to prevail, if not in the highest quarters, at least in the sphere where junior officials can do so much to make or to prevent friction. It is no business of ours to comment upon General Sarrail's eleven months' administration in Syria, but if it was not mismanagement that brought the natives under his charge almost unanimously against him, then we do not know the meaning of the word. Let there be no *Schadenfreude*, however: even if it were only because France's interests are Britain's interests, France's potential enemies Britain's potential enemies. It is the duty of this country—all the more manifestly so, in view of the very gratifying declaration of M. de Jouvenel that it is his intention to restore order in Syria with the help of Syrians and always to work within the framework of the League of Nations—to assist France in her present difficulties, both actively in the direction of preventing the violation of the northern frontiers of Palestine and of Transjordan, and negatively in the direction of keeping within decent bounds the indignation of Arab Nationalists in its mandated territories. We are glad indeed to note that the Foreign Secretary has already sent to British agents in Western Asia a message on the subject of Anglo-French co-operation.

For what are the facts? Whether or not Turkey, whose friendship both Britain and France are, in face of sufficient difficulties, persistently trying to cultivate, desires ultimately to get back her Arab provinces—in our own consideration, she does not—two things are at once obvious from the British point of view. First, Palestine would need, were there no mandatory Power in Syria, to be held by a very much larger force than at present is adequate for its policing and protection; and secondly, the use of that section of the Berlin-Baghdad railway which runs between Maidan-Ekbez and Chobanbeg would, in the event of trouble with Turkey over the Mosul vilayet, become of prime importance. Whatever may be the case in Europe, in Western Asia France and Britain must to a certain extent share their friends and enemies. Now, apart from the question of the Holy Places, there is nothing in the Arab countries that profoundly dissociates French from British interest and sentiments. The problem of Syria, with its score of religions and sects, is admittedly different from the problem of Iraq or of Palestine, but in essentials, the tutelage of Arabs under their charge, their protection from external foes, and the prosperity of the particular countries, Allied interests are absolutely identical. Especially patent is the fact that both Iraq and Palestine need a secure Syria from the commercial point of view but there is no necessity to reiterate the trade aspect of the three countries: it is known to the most superficial student of the question. It is obvious that, if these Arab lands are to develop, as it is hoped they will develop, Anglo-French capital must, at any rate in the preliminary stages, be the main promoter of trade. That fact, one may mention as an example, has already been recognised in regard to the motor services that were until a month or two ago running between Beyrout, Damascus, and Baghdad.

The question arises, then, How is France to quell the revolt that has broken out against her rule? Can she rely on sufficient troops to subdue the Druses and the Moslem tribes that are more or less working in collusion with these hardy warriors? Will she, that is, an embittered and disillusioned Administration, finally impose terms upon an equally embittered enemy; or seeing that, if the campaign has, like that in Morocco, to carry on until the spring, it would probably entail the employment of white troops, will she endeavour to substitute diplomatic for military methods? It is impossible, until the new High Commissioner has actually studied the problem from close quarters, to tell; but if the temper of his preliminary utterances be considered, the probability seems that the coupling of a gift of wider autonomy with the display of more considerable and more reliable forces would induce the Druses to return to their historic fastnesses. And with the Druses enjoying a new independence, the rest of the Syrians would soon be content with the same political delights which they have so fleetingly tasted. But it is no part of the British critic to offer advice. If the freedom of the Iraqi Arab is remarked to the Frenchman in Syria, it is difficult enough to parry the thrust which is made by a reminder of the effectual denial of such freedom to the Palestinian Arab. Syria must solve her own problem. On two things, however, which might affect mandated territories in Arabia, we may in conclusion comment. If the French had possessed in their local Air Force such a ground organisation as Britain has at Baghdad, and in less degree at Ramleh and at Amman, the revolt of the Druses could hardly have spread outside the Jebel Druse. This is a point, indeed, which we trust will never have to be proved; but it is worth remembering. As for the threat, which has been given wide publicity, that behind the Syrian Moslems are countless hordes of Wahhabis, it is baseless, and is sufficiently disproved by the recent Treaty which Sir Gilbert Clayton made with Sultan Ibn Saoud on the subject of the frontiers of Nejd with Iraq and Transjordan. No; France's problem in Syria is really self-contained, and if she can solve it in time, the serious repercussions in the rest of Arabia that have been feared may yet be avoided.

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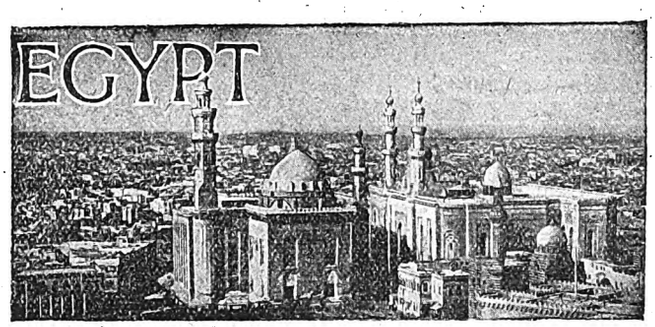
The Near and Middle East*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, November 15.

The Premier's Return.

A return of interest to political life as the result of the homecoming of the Prime Minister on Monday last had been expected, and has materialised. If the Premier has not yet himself resigned or made changes in the distribution of portfolios, it seems that the latter course, if not the former, is likely to be adopted in the very near future. At the time of the break-up of the Coalition, I mentioned the regret felt by everyone who desires a continuance of the peaceful atmosphere which marked the early months of this year at the resignation of Ismail Sidky Pasha, Minister of the Interior. From a purely British point of view there are many Ministers and ex-Ministers more *sympathique* than Sidky Pasha, for he cannot be described as in any way pro-British. Nevertheless, his great ability cannot be denied, and, although he enjoys no sort of general popularity with his fellow countrymen, his prestige is tremendous. Very largely to him is due credit for having kept the country quiet, the students at work and subversive politicians cowed during difficult months when the undoubtedly arbitrary and unconstitutional acts of the Government might, with a less cool head and firm hand in the Ministry of the Interior, have led to serious disturbances.

Effect of Sidky Pasha's Departure.

Almost from the moment of Sidky Pasha's departure there could be felt a change in the atmosphere, and trouble-makers who had lain low for months began to bob up again and be seen and heard. The Ministry's policy began to change from one of quiet but firm control into something that seemed like deliberate provocation. On the day of the new High Commissioner's arrival troops were sent to surround Zaghloul Pasha's house and there they have since remained, for no apparent reason and serving chiefly to irritate and stir to activity the old Wafd leader who, for nearly six months previously, had scarcely been seen or heard by anyone but his family, but who, now that his residence is being treated as though it were an enemy stronghold, is beginning to bring his own guns into action.

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Enquiry Office: CAIRO STATION. Tel. No. 6777.

Governmental Ineptness.

The ill-considered Political Associations' Law which has encountered such violent opposition that, although it has been issued as a decree, over the signature of King Fuad, has not yet been made operative by publication in the *Journal Officiel*, and probably will never now, in its original form, be given the force of law, has served to unite the forces of opposition into a combined whole, pledged to refuse to carry out the law, should it be put into action, and to action and to defy the Government to do its worst. The obvious reluctance of the Government to take up the challenge has not increased the Ministry's prestige.

Lastly, forbidding the Nationalist and Zaghloulist Parties to hold political meetings has infuriated the Government's opponents, and on Friday evening led to a very ugly encounter between the police and members of the Zaghloulist Party, the latter refusing to obey the order of the authorities and, after an affray in which both policemen and politicians were hurt, forcing their way into the Party's headquarters and holding their meeting in defiance of the authorities.

Nashaat Pasha.

All these happenings combine to produce a spirit of unrest and the Opposition, encouraged by its recent partial successes, might at any moment break out into more violent activities. The anti-Government Press indulges in criticism of an extraordinary violence, directed not so much against the Government as such, but through the Government against the Ittehad Party and its creator and controller, Hassan Nashaat Pasha, the Director of the Royal Cabinet. In his recent speeches Abdel Aziz Fahmy Pasha, ex-Minister of Justice, has declared openly what has been known to everyone for long past, though nobody hitherto has had the courage to state the facts with such precision, that the present Government is completely subservient to Nashaat Pasha, who exercises absolute control over at least three Ministries and has a supervising influence over the remainder. The Ittehad Party is simply a means to an end, and recent revelations of the manner in which mudirs and provincial officials are utilised for recruiting support for the party have provided the Opposition with further ammunition for denouncing the Government and its hidden controller.

Nashaat Pasha is so near the Throne that it is impossible to regard the torrential abuse now showered from all sides upon him as being directed at him alone, and there are other signs showing how easily the present position might develop into a distinctly dangerous one. Last autumn it was held as one of the most heinous of Zaghloul Pasha's crimes that, at the time of a Ministerial crisis, when Zagloul Pasha was at the Palace insisting upon the dismissal of Nashaat Pasha, students gathered in front of the courtyard of Abdin and shouted "Saad or Revolution." But now the newspapers of all three anti-Government parties use the word revolution with the greatest freedom, not only in the text of political articles, but in huge banner headlines. An interesting commentary on popular opinion is provided by the popularity of a doggerel song, doubtless composed and distributed in broadsheet fashion at the expense of one of the Opposition Parties, of which the first two lines, freely translated, are:—

> "Do you know the party of Ittehad—
> That is making Cairo like Petrograd?"

Without wishing to be in any way alarmist, it is certainly true to say that the present position gives rise to real anxiety for the near future. Once again, as a year ago, the storm centre is Nashaat Pasha, who last year was saved from a crashing fall by the murder of the

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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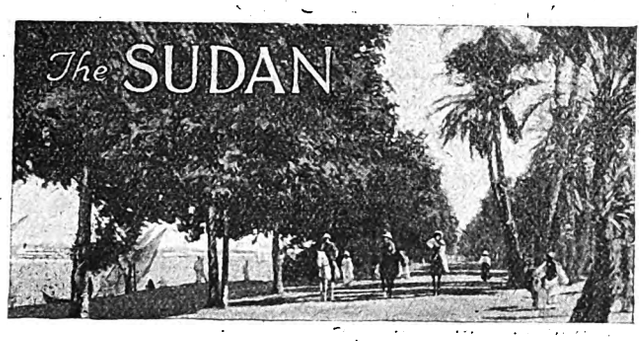
Sirdar, resulting in Zaghloul's going into the wilderness instead of Nashaat's doing so. What it is at which Nashaat Pasha is aiming it is difficult to say. His objects may be entirely patriotic and in the country's best interests, but there is no doubt about his methods being utterly inconsistent with modern times and ideas. For that reason he is a constant embarrassment to successive Governments, and there is no doubt that he will have to go if any sort of political stability is to be attained. And, indeed, it seems now that it will not be long before he does go, for there is growing up in circles which have hitherto defended as inevitable recent administrative methods a realisation that very dangerous playing with fire is going on.



Khartoum, November 6.

Khartoum To-day.

Although irrigation and the development of cotton-growing have focussed a considerable amount of attention on the Sudan of late, it seems extremely doubtful whether many people, apart from actual residents, realise how rapidly the capital has extended during the past few years. New and well-lighted streets of attractive houses have spread far beyond the farthest limits of the city of ten years ago. The old steam trams (which incidentally suffered a minor accident a few days back), are to be replaced by a frequent service of modern electric cars, no small boon to a population that has at present to rely on an hourly service for communication between Khartoum, Khartoum North, and Omdurman. And a second great bridge is to be thrown from near the Moghren to Omdurman, across the White Nile.

Ignorance on the Sudan.

They tell a story in Khartoum of the representative of a British firm who journeyed here from Cairo. The firm is one whose name is a household word, and at one time or another it must have had representatives in nearly every city of importance in both old and new worlds. This particular representative reported his arrival by cable, only to receive in reply a most indignant query as to how and why he had wasted four days on a journey that should only have taken one. There is, unfortunately, no record extant of the recipient's comments on this, but the story is useful in illustrating the amazing lack of knowledge at home of the conditions prevailing here.

Undoubtedly one of the main causes—and one that has been strongly commented on in the local Press—is the habit of appointing the Egyptian agent of a firm, agent for the Sudan also. With the best will in the world, such an agent can pay only fleeting visits to the country, and then probably only to the capital, and he must perforce find it well-nigh impossible to keep in touch with local conditions. One consequence of this appears to be a prevailing impression that the Sudan is a smallish province in Upper Egypt, instead of a country of over a million square miles area, with its capital well towards its northern confines. And although the Railways Department has, in face of almost incredible difficulties, established one of the best organised and equipped systems possible, it cannot be too strongly emphasised that Khartoum is four days by express train and steamer from Cairo, and 36 hours from Port Sudan. Until that fact is thoroughly realised, merchants here are bound to meet terms and conditions which often render their efforts to trade with Great Britain nugatory.

A German's Impressions of the Sudan.

At a time when the Sudan is undoubtedly on the verge of more and more rapid development and progress, the opinions of a leading representative of an important German firm are not without interest, and two points in his conversation stand out as worthy of record. The first was his surprise at the perfection of the railway system, which he considered without parallel in Africa. The second was what he described as the compactness of organisation of the country, and he expressed admiration for a system which could dovetail within so small a compass all that was necessary for the administration and development of the Sudan. On this latter point he was most emphatic.

Airways.

"Transportation is civilisation," said Mr. Rudyard Kipling, some years ago now; and there can be little doubt that modern experience all goes to prove this very true indeed. The preliminary agreement for an experimental air mail from Khartoum southwards to Rejaf and on to Kisumu has been signed. On October 28 the R.A.F. flight of three aeroplanes from Helouan arrived *en route* for Kano, Nigeria, leaving at dawn for El Obeid and El Fasher. And now we are awaiting the arrival of Sir Sefton Brancker, with Mr. Alan Cobham as pilot, on his way to the Cape. The experiences of the South African pilot who made this trip, as well as those of his less fortunate rivals who, for one reason or another, failed to complete the journey, some six years ago, demonstrate that it is a formidable task that Mr. Cobham has before him, but the resultant gain in information should prove invaluable. A fast passenger and mail service both South and North from Khartoum would be of inestimable benefit to the country, and it may be that the day when we shall be able to reach England in 96 hours or less is much nearer than the pessimists would have us believe.

The Church at Port Sudan.

An appeal has recently been published to awaken the interest of the British community in the question of erecting a stone building to replace the present wooden Church at Port Sudan. A site has been acquired, and it only needs the support of those who should be most interested, for definite plans to be adopted. In face of the example set by other communities, it does not seem probable that this support will be lacking.

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Sofia, November 18.

The Rumbold Commission.

After taking cognisance of the Allied Military Attachés' report at Belgrade, the League of Nations Inquiry Commission proceeded by special train to the scene of the recent Græco-Bulgarian dispute. The Commission established its headquarters at Demir-Hissar, and on November 13 entered Bulgaria. They were met on the frontier by a Bulgarian delegation which placed itself at the Commission's disposal. The latter divided itself up into three groups and immediately set off to visit the territory occupied by the Greeks. Inquiries were made regarding the damage and looting alleged to have been committed, and the peasantry were questioned as to the losses they had sustained.

The Commission refused to make any statements whatsoever to the Press, and said that it was bound to secrecy until its report was in the hands of the League's Council, which meets at Geneva on December 12. It is thus almost impossible to know what was the result of its investigation, but it is believed that the Commission definitely established that a certain amount of damage had been inflicted by the Greeks. It is reported that Bulgaria is claiming 31 million levas, equal to about £50,000, as compensation for the material losses of its peasantry. This sum does not include indemnities for the families of peasants who were killed and wounded during the hostilities.

Several amusing incidents occurred during the Commission's inquiry. At one village the Bulgarians had accused the Greeks of driving off a number of cows. The Greeks denied this, saying that the Bulgarians had shifted the animals in question from one village to another with the sole idea of obtaining compensation. The Commission went to a village in order personally to investigate these charges. They found it almost impossible to say which story was correct; finally someone made the ingenious suggestion that the cows themselves could decide the question. So the cows were left to themselves until the evening with the object of seeing where they would return. Eventually they wended their way to the village to which the Bulgarians claimed they belonged, and it was decided that the Bulgarians were right!

On November 16 the Commission left for Athens, where it will spend three or four days before coming to Sofia. Afterwards it will return to Geneva in order to prepare its report. At Athens and Sofia the Commission is expected to inquire into the question of *komitajis*. Greece alleges that her frontier is continually being disturbed by *komitaji* bands operating from Bulgaria. Bulgaria denies this and points out that the Greek Government has made only one protest during the last two years regarding this question. Meanwhile the only thing that can be said is that both Bulgarians and Greeks are definitely opposed to the creation of a demilitarised zone between their frontiers. They hold, and with reason, that such a zone would only lead to more *komitaji* trouble as the latter's bands would find such a strip of territory an ideal spot wherein to organise themselves. The Commission's report, is, of course, being awaited with great interest, but until its publication it would be unwise to make any prophecies concerning Greek or Bulgarian guilt.

A Cabinet Crisis.

A real Cabinet crisis has now developed, the position being that the members of the Democratic Entente (the governing party) demand that at least three Ministers resign and make way for others. M. Tsankoff, the Prime Minister, has at last agreed to his followers' demand, but has dropped the attitude that MM. Liaptcheff and Bouroff must themselves enter the Cabinet, as otherwise it is not worth while making any changes. MM. Liaptcheff and Bouroff are, however, unwilling to serve under M. Tsankoff, as they regard themselves as his eventual successors. There is no knowing how the crisis will develop, but until the League of Nations Inquiry Commission has come and gone it is improbable that any change will occur.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, November 11.

Roumanian Foreign Relations.

On November 5, M. Duca, Minister of Foreign Affairs, made a long speech in the Senate in continuation of the discussion of the speech from the throne. M. Duca spoke of the foreign relations of Roumania, and said that he had noted with great satisfaction during his attendance at the League of Nations meetings, that the prestige of Roumania had recently increased to a gratifying degree. He spoke of the policy of peace which it was Roumania's fixed intention to pursue consistently, and while fully appreciating its importance regretted that the Locarno Convention did not serve to remove the two disquieting factors in Roumania's foreign relations, viz., the attitude of Russia, and of "certain of the conquered nations" who, he said, harboured a strong desire for revenge. He again emphasized the fact that Roumania was ready to resume diplomatic relations with Russia as soon as the latter had formally recognised the frontiers given to her by the Peace Treaties, and also that she was prepared to sign a pact of non-aggression as far as Russia was concerned.

With regard to the Minorities M. Duca reminded the minority populations that no other Government was disposed to treat them with so much consideration as was that of the Liberals, who fully recognised that it was in the best interests of the country to establish the friendliest possible relations between these minorities and the Government and native population of the country. He also reminded them that rights could not be enjoyed without involving duties also, and he admonished them to loyalty and urged them to play their part in bringing about a better understanding.

The Patriarchate of Hungro-Wallachia.

An interesting historical even took place on November 1, when the Metropolitan Archbishop of Bucharest was elected Patriarch of Hungro-Wallachia. During the last spring's session the Holy Synod and National Assemblies raised to the status of Patriarchate the Archbishopric of Hungro-Wallachia, and it was with a most impressive ceremony that the Archbishop of Bucharest, Miron Cristea, was invested with his new title. The ceremony

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of investiture was attended by delegates from almost all the Orthodox Churches of the East: from the Patriarch of Jerusalem, of Constantinople, and from the Bulgarian Russian, Polish and Greek Churches, the delegates in each case having the rank of Metropolitan. The Hungro-Wallachian Archbishopric of Bucharest was created in 1359 by Alexander Basarab Vaevod. There are no precise records of the first holders of this office, but two or three Metropolitans are mentioned for the Principality of Wallachia alone, which shows how large was the number of Christians and how well the Church was organised in those days. The Metropolitan of Bucharest was the representative of the Œcumenical Patriarch of Constantinople for all the Christians beyond the Carpathians. All the Roumanian Bishops and Prelates of Transylvania were elected by him. The proceedings were as follows: on Saturday October 31, at 7 p.m., a religious ceremony at the Cathedral. At 8 a.m. on Sunday, November 1, another service, after which, the Metropolitan was conducted in a Royal carriage to the Palace. At 10.45 the King and Queen and Royal Family, attended by many Members of the Government, received His Holiness in the throne room, where the investiture took place. The new Patriarch expressed his thanks with some emotion, and in the course of his speech said: "Not only will the Roumanian Church have to form a whole corps of enlightened and educated prelates, and create and stimulate religious literature, in order to accomplish its task of religious education of the masses, but it will also have a vast philanthropic and humanitarian task to accomplish."

The King made a long speech in reply, in which he traced the history of the Roumanian Church through its various vicissitudes. After receiving the congratulations of the Royal Family, the new Patriarch walked to his residence, followed by an imposing procession of Churchmen in their magnificent robes. His Holiness was entertained to dinner in the evening by the King and Queen.

Miscellaneous News.

A bust of the late Queen Elizabeth was unveiled last week at the Blind Asylum founded by her late Majesty. The unveiling took place in the presence of the King and Queen, and the Prime Minister made a long speech in which he paid a tribute to the philanthropic activities of "Carmen Sylva."

Considerable interest and excitement has been caused by the passing of a law quite recently, permitting the installation by private persons, under certain defined conditions, of wireless telephones in their houses. As if by magic the shops were full of wireless sets within the following few days and a number of installations have already been made. There is, however, no public broadcasting station in Bucharest yet, so that a powerful apparatus is required that can pick up Vienna, Rome, and so on. It is hoped that by the beginning of next year broadcasting stations will be arranged in this country for the benefit of the public. There are strict rules (at least on paper) as to the types of apparatus that can be introduced into the country, and the approval of the G.P.O. is required before any set can be imported.

Money Orders can now be sent by post from Roumania abroad.

Grain exports are at a complete standstill owing to the huge quantities of grain exported by Russia recently at very low prices.

GREECE.

Athens, November 11.

Municipal Elections.

Municipal elections took place throughout Greece on Sunday, October 25. Being held on party lines and in the principal towns, these elections of *demarchs*, or mayors, are regarded as indications of political feeling in the country, and on this occasion the Royalists made great efforts to secure the return of their candidates. The results were as follows:—In 34 demes, the Republicans won 18 seats, Royalists 9, Communists 2, other parties 3. In two cases the political views of the elected candidate are not stated. While the Republicans express themselves satisfied with these results, they deplore—what cannot be disputed—that so many voters abstained. At Athens and Salonika, for example, only half the electorate voted, and in the latter place the election of a Labour candidate was due to the Republican vote being split. In point of fact the new mayor received only one-seventh of the votes of the total electorate and, of those who actually voted, one-third. He is not a Communist, but was elected on a combined vote of Communists and of a section of Jews and of refugees. The Government promptly met the situation with a decree that candidates must obtain one-fifth of the votes. The election of the Communist mayor at Xanthe, the centre of the tobacco industry, was annulled at the same time on the grounds that the public safety was endangered. At Missolonghi the Royalist candidate got in with a majority of one, but was unseated on a recount. What is almost unprecedented in Greece—in three places candidates were unopposed.

The Drachma.

The drachma rose suddenly at the beginning of the month, and on November 4 stood round 340 to the pound. Since then it has been falling, and is now about 365. A discreet silence was preserved in the Press about the sudden retirement of the Minister of Finance, which occurred about the same time.

Macedonia.

Interest in the frontier incident has never been so great in Greece itself as it seems to have been outside. The Government is criticised for making a diplomatic mistake in occupying Bulgarian territory and bombarding Petritch, instead of referring the case at once to the League. The incident should have one useful result, viz., to bring to the front the whole question of *komitajis*. This is a question which interests Yugoslavia more than Greece, because so far as Greek Macedonia is concerned the arrival of the refugees has made the question of an autonomous Macedonia obsolete. But the great majority of the inhabitants of South Serbia are still Macedonian in sentiment and in race, and so far the Serbians have made no headway with them. That they will eventually be assimilated there can be no doubt, but the process would probably be quicker if Belgrade adopted a more conciliatory attitude towards them. As it is, they are prevented from electing their own deputies, their newspapers are repressed, the numerous Uniates are obstructed by local officials in the practice of their religion, and a feeling of discontent is kept alive which the *komitajis* from the Bulgarian side do their best to encourage, but more with the idea of embarrassing Yugoslavia than of forwarding the ideal of autonomy—already much weakened by the behaviour of the Bulgars themselves in the occupied districts (especially around Prilep) during the War. The plantation of Croatian settlers should do much to improve the situation.

Modern Improvements.

While not all the schemes for the improvement and development of Greece can meet with the approval of those who prefer Greece as it was, one must acknowledge the progressive spirit and the desire to bring the country into line with modern ideas. The present Government recognises these requirements, and it is probably true that more has been accomplished in this direction in the four months during which it has been in office than in any

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corresponding length of time in modern Greek history. In Athens itself, two obvious defects are about to be remedied —absence of water for watering the streets and shortage of post-offices. During the last few years there have been only two post-offices to serve the whole of Athens: seven branch offices are now to be opened.

The Government has decided to proceed at once with the construction of a railway between Thessaly and Epirus. The present line from Volo to Kalabáka will be extended to Yánina, the capital of Epirus, through the famous pass of Métsovo, once the highway between Constantinople and the West. English travellers who visited Turkey at the beginning of the last century used to begin their tour with a visit to Ali Pasha at Yánina, and then, crossing the pass, descended into the Thessalian plain of Kalabáka, where they would visit the celebrated Metéaar monasteries. Should the new railway be continued beyond Yánina to the sea, this historic route may once again become a highway. As it is, Yánina, one of the most beautiful places in Greece, and Epirus whose population are perhaps the most intelligent and patriotic, are almost completely cut off from the rest of the country, and remain undeveloped and, it must be added, unspoilt.

Recovery of Hygia's Head.

An archæological sensation has been the recovery of the head of the statue of the goddess Hygia, one of the figures from the pediment of the temple of Athena Aléa, at Tegea, excavated by the French in 1902. This famous head, an excellent example of fourth century work, was stolen from the Tegea museum nine years ago. Various people were arrested and a schoolmaster had actually been in prison for the last sixteen months in connection with the theft. It seems that he received the head, as a dowry, from a peasant whose cousin he married, but was unable to dispose of it. A joint expedition of police and archæologists went in the dead of night to the remote Arcadian village, where they recovered the head from its hiding-place below the floor of a barn, and it is now in Athens.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, November 10.

The New Council.

The new Legislative Assembly was opened by the Governor, Sir Malcolm Stevenson, on November 6, with all the ceremony observed on such occasions. After the opening speech His Excellency left the Council, and his speech was translated into Turkish and Greek. A Sub-Committee was appointed, with the Chief Secretary, to consider the reply.

Little mention is made of the proceedings in the Press. The speech is described as dry and disappointing. Dissatisfaction is expressed that in translating the Governor's speech precedence is given to the Turkish language (as has always hitherto been the custom), since four-fifths of the population are Greeks. Appeals have been lodged against the validity of elections in several divisions, on account of alleged bribery, undue influence, intimidation, acceptance of the votes of persons who were not qualified electors, and so on. Petitions for annulment are said to be pending in other cases.

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The Forests of Cyprus.

It is satisfactory to note that great praise is universally given to the Principal Forest Officer, Dr. Unwin, for the zeal and ability with which he carries out the duties of his office. Following his practice in late years, he has again organised an exhibition of the numerous articles which are now manufactured out of island timbers. The exhibits this year, which are unusually abundant, are of remarkable interest. The Governor has inspected them, and large numbers of Cypriots have shown great interest in them. The villager is at last realising more and more the inestimable value of the forests, which before the British occupation were sacrified to such insane methods of destruction. This is very important, as likely to diminish wanton and spiteful damage which has hitherto too often prevailed; while the prospects of reafforestation, in which the P.F.O. takes the keenest interest, are proportionately increased.

The Mail Steamers.

It is said that the Khedivial S.S. Company will not renew their contract for a mail service, even at three crossings a month, except at a highly increased subsidy—of £14,000—and the opinion prevails that the Egyptian Government should be invited to combine, and pay at least half of the sum to be demanded. No doubt Egypt benefits very considerably from the service. The steamers should of course return to a weekly, instead of a tri-monthly service. Should the Khedivial liners cease, arrangements would presumably have to be entered into with some other company, probably not British, for steamers of smaller tonnage; and Cyprus would suffer from a yet more retrograde state of things just when there seemed to be a hope of rather brighter prospects.

Hospital for Consumptives.

The new Hospital for Consumptives, which has been constructed a few miles from Nicosia, will shortly be ready for use.

THE JEWISH NATIONAL HOME.

We have received from the Zionist Organisation a Memorandum, submitted to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations for the information of the Permanent Mandates Commission, on the development of the Jewish National Home, 1924-1925. It is divided into six sections: immigration, agricultural colonisation, urban development, industry, public health, and education. Some striking figures are given. In 1924, for instance, 12,856 Jewish immigrants settled in Palestine and in the first half of this year, about 15,000 Jews. In all, 55,000 Jews have settled in Palestine since the British occupation up to May 31, 1925. On the land 2,800 Jews have been settled since the War, making in all 23,000, or 21 per cent. of the Jewish population. And in the other departments the figures are impressive.

The Memorandum has been prepared owing to the disliking, by the Zionist Organisation, of certain details in the report submitted by the Permanent Mandates Commission to the Council of the League of Nations in December, 1924—details which, in its view, "did less than justice to the Jewish immigrants who had settled in Palestine during the period under review." It is obvious, however, that it is during the last eighteen months that the Jewish National Home has made such enormous, and possibly unexpected, strides.

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Messrs. Raphael Tuck and Son, Ltd., are again at their best in providing messages of greeting for Christmas. Christmas cards and pictures, books, bon appétit and lacette paperware, calendars, puzzles—these and many other things have been designed to delight the artistic eye of both young and old.

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THE HOSTILITIES IN THE HEJAZ.

The British Prime Minister has sent the following letter to ex-King Hussein:—

27th October, 1925.

Your Majesty.

I have to thank Your Majesty for your letter of the 22nd of August, which I have carefully considered in conjunction with those members of His Majesty's Government who are concerned with Arabian affairs.

I much regret that anxiety should have been caused to Your Majesty's friends by reports appearing in the Egptian Press that you are being detained in Cyprus as a prisoner of war. As Your Majesty points out, these reports are untrue and it has never been the intention of His Majesty's Government that Your Majesty should be treated in any way other than as a private person who, on their invitation, took up his residence in Cyprus. When His Majesty's Government invited Your Majesty to leave Akaba they were considering only your own interests and those of the Arab race which, in their opinion, have been well served by Your Majesty's acceptance of Cyprus as a place of residence. They, therefore, consider that it is unnecessary to hold any inquiry into the circumstances in which Your Majesty left Akaba; their opinion is strengthened by the admission in Your Majesty's letter that Ma'an and Akaba were used for the concentration and transport of troops to be employed against the Sultan of Nejd which they can only regard as justifying their statement that Your Majesty and the Hejaz Government were engaged at both those places in activities against Nejd.

His Majesty's Government have considered the request that they should take any possible steps towards the termination of the present hostilities in the Hejaz. His Majesty King Ali recently made a similar request, and on the receipt of this appeal His Majesty's Government asked His Highness the Sultan of Nejd whether he would accept their good offices in an endeavour to reach a settlement of the differences between the Hejaz and the Nejd; but as His Highness replied that he was unable to accept such mediation, His Majesty's Government were regretfully compelled to refrain from any further attempt at intervention. Consequently, unless and until both parties spontaneously invite them to do so His Majesty's Government are unable to assist in the re-establishment of peace.

A later paragraph of Your Majesty's letter dealing with the circumstances in which you relinquished the throne of the Hejaz might, in the opinion of His Majesty's Government, convey to an uninformed reader the impression that the influence of His Majesty's Government was exerted in order to induce you to abdicate. Doubtless Your Majesty did not wish to give so erroneous an impression but, as your letter has already received a certain amount of publicity and may therefore give rise to misapprehension, His Majesty's Government think it advisable to state categorically that Your Majesty's action in abdicating was in no way influenced by them, and that this was a matter in which they were not concerned either directly or indirectly.

I am causing a copy of this letter to be sent to those newspapers which are known to have published Your Majesty's letter to which this is a reply.

I have the honour to be,

Your Majesty's obedient Servant,

(Sd.) STANLEY BALDWIN.

A POCKET ATLAS.

Messrs. George Newnes, Ltd., of Southampton Street, Strand, London, have issued a new revised edition of their "Handy Pocket Atlas and Gazetteer." (Price 2s. 6d.) It is a compact, well-printed little volume, that will serve many ordinary purposes for which it is not necessary to have recourse to a bulkier atlas. The gazetteer covers 80 pages with 4,600 entries, and some useful tables give the areas and populations of the countries of the world, and lists of the chief rivers, mountains, lakes, etc.

PERSEPOLIS.

The first of a series of five public lectures on his recent archæological researches in Persia was given at the Oriental School of Studies on November 20, by Professor Ernest Herzfeld, Sir Thomas Arnold being in the Chair. Professor Herzfeld's first lecture was upon Persepolis, the ruins of which wonderful city, constructed during the reigns of Darius and Xerxes, the first two kings of the Achæmenian Dynasty, he described with the aid of some magnificent photographs. The various royal palaces, winter and summer, the audience halls, the columns and terraces and gardens, and so on, were abundantly portrayed. Sculptures and inscriptions proved the diversity and the extent of the Persian Empire at that time—an Empire in which African people, Medes, Assyrians, and Indians were represented. Many of the more beautiful sculptures of this period, portraying the human form, were, he said, destroyed on the invasion of the Moslems, and also by a fanatical Persian King in the eighteenth century, but sufficient remained in Persepolis to show to posterity the height to which the art in marble then reached.

Some of Professor Herzfeld's conjectures and reasonings were most fascinating. He reconstructed, for instance, a temple that may have been a kind of Ziggurat, a shrine of Zoroastrianism, and he showed conclusively from decipherings that at one time the Persian Empire extended over the N.W. Frontier of India, through the Punjab and Sind even as far as Bombay and Delhi. He had found an inscription which proved that a Persian Minister chose to return from Persia to Kabul—upon which choice he commented with the fact that times had changed now!

In conclusion, Professor Herzfeld stated that there had been recently founded in Teheran a Committee for the preservation of ancient Persian monuments. The Persians were intensely proud of Persepolis, which indeed could boast art as good as anything that Greece had to show. And a nation which respected its ancient monuments always had some grain of hopefulness in it.

In subsequent discussions Professor Rapson remarked on the fact that numismatical evidence bore out in a striking degree Professor Herzfeld's discoveries at Persepolis, stating that what on the strength of numismatics had previously been guessed at, had been confirmed by his archæological records.

The remaining four lectures will be delivered next March.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Mr. Morgenthau arrived in Athens at the end of last week.

A censorship has been instituted in Persia over all private telegrams.

Last Friday, the first anniversary of Sir Lee Stack's death, was commemorated by a service in St. Mary's Church, Cairo.

The total receipts of the Jewish National Fund in the Jewish calendar year of 5685 (September, 1924—August, 1925) amounted to £267,011.

Following the incident at the College of St. Jerome in Rome, when the Pope dismissed the Yugoslav Director, the Yugoslav Minister to the Vatican left for Belgrade to report to his Government, after appointing as Chargé d'Affaires M. Yovanovitch, whose appointment was, however, not acceptable to the Vatican. The Yugoslav Government is reported to have protested against the attitude of the Holy See in this matter.

The Times Basrah correspondent reported on November 21 that an explosion of gunpowder and ammunition at Ahwaz, Persia, had killed 70 soldiers. The ammunition, which had been confiscated in the Sheikh Mohammerah's trouble last summer, was being broken up when the explosion, the cause of which is unknown, occurred. The doctors of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company were stated to be giving every assistance.

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Book Reviews and Notes.

A ROYAL PHILOSOPHER.

THE QUESTIONS OF KING MILINDA." Translated from the Pali by T. W. Rhys Davids. (Oxford University Press. 15s. net.)

This ancient Buddhistic treatise has a very curious history. It was written in Northern India soon after the beginning of the Christian Era, but disappeared for eighteen centuries from the land of its origin. In Ceylon, however, it survived in the guise of a Páli translation; and twenty-eight years ago five Sinhalese scholars published a version in their vernacular. The attention of the learned world was thus directed to the Páli text, and Professor Rhys Davids has rendered it in English, as Vol. XXXV. of Max Müller's "Sacred Books of the East." In a scholarly Introduction he identifies the author with a Bactrian King named Menander, who founded an Asiatic empire on the aftermath of Alexander's ephemeral conquests. The "Questions of King Milinda" deal with the doctrine and ethics of Primitive Buddhism in the form of a historical romance. Its hero is the reincarnation of a monkish contemporary of the Buddha who, by dint of merit, had acquired the faculty of solving difficult problems in each successive re-birth. When the story opens he is reigning over an extensive realm in North-Western India, his capital being a wealthy city yclept Ságala. In a remote hermitage there lives a sage named Nágasena, a reincarnation of the god Mahásena, who is deeply versed in Vedic lore. Hearing of his fame as a theologian, King Milinda resolves to enter the lists with him as a disputant, and sets out for Nágasena's abode, attended by 500 "Yonakas," *sc.*, "Ionians"—the Páli word for Bactrian Greeks—who serve as chorus in the ensuing controversy. In its long course Milinda poses a multitude of questions, embracing the entire theory of Buddhism, which Nágasena answers to his entire satisfaction.

As an illustration of the manner in which thought arises from sight through association, the sage remarks:—

> In the art of calculating by using the joints of the fingers as signs or marks: in that of arithmetic pure and simple: in that of estimating the yield of growing crops: and in the art of writing, O King, the beginner is clumsy. But after a certain time, with attention and practice, he becomes expert. Just so is it that, where sight arises thought by association springs up.

This dictum gives an interesting peep into the progress of arithmetic. When our author wrote, the old method of counting on the fingers was still in vogue, but the modern system was coming into general use. The esoteric character of Buddhism formed another subject of discussion; and Nágasena's opinion thereon is based on the Buddha's well-known utterance: "There is no such thing as the closed fist of a teacher who keeps something back." Professor Rhys Davids makes this dictum the text for a diatribe against the "Esoteric Buddhism" of our day:—

> Its tenets are perfectly accessible, are well known to all those who choose to study the books of Indian mysticism: and are Hindu, not Buddhist. . . . If one doctrine—more than any other—is distinctive of Buddhism, it is the ignoring in ethics of the time-honoured belief in a soul; that is in a separate creature inside the body, which flies out of it like a bird from a cage when the body dies. Yet the Theosophists who believe, I am told, in seven souls inside each human body (which would be worse according to true Buddhism than seven devils), still venture to call themselves Buddhists, and do not see the absurdity of their position!

Students who can appreciate the mingled subtlety and *naïveté* of King Milinda's treatise will probably agree with the learned translator in pronouncing it to be "the masterpiece of Indian prose, and indeed the best book of its class that had then been produced in any country."

F. H. S.

ISLAM CONDENSED.

"ISLAM AND ITS NEED." By Dr. W. Norman Leak. With foreword by Rev. S. M. Zwemer. (London: Marshall Brothers, 6d.)

The stream of Christian missionary books dealing with the subject of Islam appears to be increasing, for the literary method as a means to converting both Moslems and Christians is now well understood by the pioneers of either religion. Many of these books are extremely able and sympathetic efforts to illumine what to Christian missionaries appears to be darkness, but it is doubtful whether any book, before the publication of Dr. Leak's pamphlet, has attempted an exposition of the essentials of Islam and of the Christian's duty towards it within forty pages. The Rev. S. M. Zwemer praises it, indeed, as supplying "all that every Christian should know about Mohammedanism in tabloid form," but it is a little difficult to imagine that Christians would be ready to accept as comprehensive a similar attempt on the part of a Moslem to interpret Christianity.

However that may be, Dr. Leak essays his bold task with enthusiasm. He recounts the history of Islam, explains its distribution over the world, tabulates both the points of the belief of Islam and the practice of the Moslem religion, describes its ideals ("it is," he says, "an ever-standing menace to the world outside, for in spite of all the fair words of its nominal leaders to-day, Islam still stands definitely anti-Christian, challenging it at every point, and scorning it as well"), has a word on the personal characteristics of the Prophet's followers, recounts the history of the contact of Christianity with Islam, and includes chapters on Methods of Christian Approach and on the effect of the War upon Islam.

It is when explaining the difficulties under which the missionary in Moslem lands has to work that the author, who was Medical Officer in Nablus and Jaffa and a Medical Missionary in Arabia, is perhaps most convincing. He gets near the heart of the matter when, after describing how, though it may not be too difficult to convert Moslems, in, say, the Christian surroundings of a clean hospital, the convert returns to his own people and finds that in their surroundings Christianity "is not a religion which will work." Yet he believes that, owing to the decreasing by the War of the religious consciousness of Islam, the prospect of the conversion of Moslem is much improved. The impartial outsider may be permitted to doubt whether the conversion of materialistic Moslems is any easier than that of materialistic Christians, but that is a point only indirectly encountered by the author of this sincere and optimistic propaganda.

General Pangalos, the Greek Prime Minister, has invited the following leaders of parties to a conference to discuss the coming elections for the Greek Senate, for which the new Constitution makes provision:—MM. Kaphandaris, Michalakopoulos, Saphoulis, and Papanastasiou, all of whom have been Prime Ministers, and M. Rallis, and Generals Metaxas and Kondylis.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

Queen Alexandra.

Among all the solemn obsequies and observances that attended the death of the Queen Mother, there was nothing so impressive as the unanimous desire to chronicle her simple virtues. She was indeed universally loved. Our older and younger generations have of her different memories, the one emphasising the beauty of her personality, the other the kindness of her character. But on one point all her subjects are agreed: that she was a pious, generous, and gentle woman, the type whom all sections of English society at once and abidingly loved.

What she did, at a time when elsewhere Republican notions were fast gaining ground, for conserving the dignity of and fostering loyalty towards Royalty, may perhaps be left to history, but it is quite certain that no Lytton Strachey will ever arise to expose frailties and deficiencies that might have been overlooked by an indulgent nation. Queen Alexandra, the most gracious figure of our time, pretended to be no whit more than she was: and that was enough for the people who returned her love and now respect her memory.

The Debate on Locarno.

The debate in the House of Commons last week upon Locarno provided no surprises. It is true that both Mr. Ramsay McDonald and Mr. Lloyd George spoke in qualified terms against it, emphasising such points that Russia was still outside the League and that the Pact lacked the signatures of the Dominions, but when it came to the point only thirteen members voted against the Government.

It was inevitable that the Locarno Pact should be regarded as an attempt at the isolation of Soviet Russia, but the Foreign Secretary had little debating difficulty in disposing of this charge. Admittedly many of the Pact's supporters see with delight that the partial isolation of Russia will be one of the effects of Germany's entry into the League of Nations, but the Russians themselves have conveniently provided our Government with many excuses to explain this effect away.

It is, of course, a universal desire that Russia should wish to enter the League, for without her co-operation nothing very much in the matter of disarmament can be done. Of such an entry, however, there is at present no sign. In the meantime there is a good deal of talk of doubtful wisdom being indulged on the creating of a united Western Europe against Russia. Such commentary is valueless. Russia will never become a purely Asiatic power, and Europe will never enjoy through peace until she does so with the assent of Moscow. It is just as well to know where we are.

Liberals and their Funds.

As is well known, many wealthy men supported the Lloyd Georgian section of Liberals when that unfortunate Party was split into the Coalition and the Independent camps. Now after the Asquith-Lloyd George feud had been pronounced to be settled, money began to flow from the Lloyd George Fund into the general Liberal exchequer. The two funds, however, were never identified. And, as it now appears, with good reason.

For Mr. Lloyd George has suspended the transferring of any of his fund to the Liberal Million Fund until he knows the fate of his recent Land proposals at the hands of the forthcoming Liberal Conference. There has been much criticism of the Land Inquiry Committee's proposals by Liberals, so that it will be interesting, in the event of their being disowned by the main body of Liberals, to see what happens to the residue of the money belonging to the Lloyd George Liberals. Whether Liberals will be thus influenced in favour of the Welsh statesman owing to his potential pecuniary control remains to be seen: personally, I think too highly of them for that. The Liberal Headquarters have the funds at present at their disposal both audited and published from time to time; it would be a pity to have to add to them Mr. Lloyd George's private fund—for there would be little auditing and publishing after that. In other words, the Party would lose its independence.

The Miners' Politics.

Before the Liberal Commission that is now considering the problem of the mines, the mineowners' representative, Mr. Lee, last week had his say. He was cross-examined by Mr. Herbert Smith, and gave what politicians might call a very good account of himself. Briefly, his thesis was that the trouble now agitating the mining industry was largely the product of the miners themselves. He frankly attacked the miners' aims as being political, and gave the impression that if the industry were left alone by persons responsible for a wrecking policy all might be well.

Now it is impossible for one lacking expert knowledge to judge on the merits of this affair. But speaking from a broad psychological basis, one cannot easily believe that his continued desire on the part of the miners for change is simply indicative of the fact that there is no need for change. Equally, it is difficult to believe that even were the Royal Commission to confirm—which seems improbable—the Mining Association in its proposals, that the opposition tactics of the miners would cease. Whether, however, the suggestion that the miners themselves propose should be adopted is a quite different matter. For the political student there is little to choose between State Capitalism and Private Capitalism.

Mussolini and British Labour.

The more one studies democracies, the more one comes to doubt the existence, outside academical institutions, of genuine democrats. There is, it seems, no one, who is always prepared to say that what is one man's meat is another man's poison, that the only conceivable motto in life is Live and let live. Intolerance is undoubtedly the rule, or rather the attempted rule, of most people's existence—at least in the theoretical stage. When it comes to practice, it is another matter.

This remark is prompted by the reported intention, on the part of a section of the Labour Party, to boycott Signor Mussolini, if he comes next month to London. For the sake of the future of the Labour Party, one hopes that they will do nothing so foolish.

Going Back to Dicksee.

They will not let it rest—I mean the opponents of Epstein's Rima Memorial. They have prevailed upon the

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poor *Morning Post*, torn between its loyalty to Mr. Baldwin, who recently unveiled the Hudson Memorial, and its present antagonism to Epstein, to publish a public protest in favour of the removal of the Memorial. And they have collected a list of signatories which truly is formidable enough: Academicians like Sir Frank Dicksee. Sir David Murray, and Mr. A. J. Munnings; men of artistic leanings like the Hon. John Collier, Sir Philip Burne-Jones and Mr. Avray Tipping; others so much in the public eye as Mr. E. F. Benson, Hon. Stephen Coleridge, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle; and last, but greatest of all, Mr. Hilaire Belloc.

In demanding the removal of Rima, which they state is "by universal consent so repellent and even inappropriate in character," they refer to the authorities' "woeful lapse of judgment," and end by stating that "it would be a reproach to all concerned if future generations were allowed to imagine that this piece of artistic anarchy in any way reflected the true spirit of the age."

This is obviously going to create what is called a "first-class sensation," and is arousing opinion on the problem, in the extraordinarily happy words of the *Manchester Guardian*, of whether we are going back to Dicksee.

An Artistic Battle.

It is something, at any rate, that the dispute about Rima has been raised from the plane of green paint to that of the newspaper. Not that anything can finally be resolved by the printed word, but at least we are now on the old familiar battle ground where the merits of such things as the work of the Pre-Raphaelites, the sculpture of Gilbert, the paintings of Sir Frank Dicksee himself, were once disputed.

In my view, all the big guns are on the side of those who strive to maintain the Hudson Memorial in its place. For one thing, the Rima was approved in the most formal fashion and publicly unveiled by the Prime Minister. For another thing, the Memorial's supporters have with ease and speed produced a list of names very much more formidable than that published in the *Morning Post*. And lastly, public opinion, which, it may be remembered, is just the same as that which once hissed Wagner, which never heard of Hudson until the few discerning ones had made his merits known, and which is so used to being dully non-committal towards sculpture that it seizes upon the chance of pointing out that Epstein apparently does not measure his models with a foot-rule, does not, until the next generation, matter in the least.

As for "the true spirit of the age," of which the anti-Rima-ites speak, what on earth is it? Is it represented by the Academy? And "artistic anarchy"—is that not a term that might justly be applied, say, to Beethoven, whose later string quartets and piano sonatas are not even yet wholly comprehended? Here the whole trouble arises, of course, between the inability to distinguish between the violation of existing laws and the creation of fresh ones.

"He noblest lives and noblest dies who makes and keeps his self-made laws."

Whether Epstein is really a great artist or merely a pioneer, soon to be forgotten, in a new sculptural expression, it is perhaps wisest for Time to decide.

The Editor of "Wisden."

To the cricketer, "Wisden" is much more of a Bible than is even the "Book of Form" to the student of race-horses. And that this should be so was very largely due to Mr. Sydney Pardon, the Editor of "Wisden," who died last week. Mr. Pardon had a sufficient genius for many things other than Cricket: he had, in particular, a love of Music which appears to be so common a characteristic of our better writers on the game. He made a table of averages as exciting as a novel, the story of a Test Match more stirring than the Iliad. There is no one quite like him now writing. Perhaps Mr. Neville Cardus comes nearest.

ALTER EGO.

IBN SAOUD AND CENTRAL ARABIA.

On November 16, at 22, Eccleston Square, Lord Belhaven and Stenton, who, as Colonel R. E. A. Hamilton, was sometime political Agent at Koweit and was also a British representative at Riyadh, lectured to the Victoria League on "Ibn Saoud and Central Arabia," Sir Charles Bailey being in the Chair. He talked in discursive and illustrative fashion upon the character and the conquests of the Wahhabis, speculating on whether the present efforts of the Ikhwan would end as barrenly as did those of their forbears 114 years ago. Lord Belhaven's aim was, however, rather at general description than at political exposition, in which direction he went only so far as to say that he thought mediation between the Emir Ali of the Hejaz and the Sultan of Nejd quite out of the question, and also that Ibn Saoud would remain pro-British. And on the problem of frontiers in Central Arabia he stated that geographical limits were impossible: the only line was the tribal line, and that, of course, was constantly changing.

A remark which he quoted from one of Ibn Saoud's conversations with him is worth noting. The ruler of Nejd had asked Colonel Hamilton whether Europeans would remain in Arabia after the War, and said that if they did, they would in time find their settlements submerged by the periodically rising Arabs just as did the Arab villagers find their possessions occasionally submerged by the flooding *wadis*. On which the lecturer commented: "No doubt the Arabs would like to imitate their *wadis* if they were allowed to!"

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

(Continued from page 640.)

between Great Britain and France will have assumed a concrete shape. For the moment Britain is officially "the enemy" in Turkey, and it has been France's policy, under a mistaken idea of her interests in the East, to try to turn this situation to her advantage by the unedifying intrigues of special missions, official or semi-official, to Angora. If M. de Jouvenel can change all this, both France and Turkey will benefit. The Turk is too shrewd to be taken in by Mougins and others, although he will exploit them for all that they are worth to his policy of the moment. His real interests, however, are built on a more solid foundation. It would be a fine achievement, if the new High Commissioner for Syria could persuade the Turkish Government that it is much better to put up with what they have to bear at present, even if they do regard them as ills than to court mishaps in a variety of other directions. Turkey has been buoyed up in her dispute with Great Britain by the attitude of a section of the British Press and by the reflexion that the more embarrassment she causes the British Government the better pleased France will be. When M. de Jouvenel disillusions her on this point, she will be readier to listen to schemes for a Locarno Pact of the Middle East. !

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY

November 26, 1925 (New Style).
November 13, 1925 (Old Style).
Jumada I., 10, 1344 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Kislev 9, 5686, of the Jewish Calendar.

Colonel and Mrs. Stephenson R. Clarke have left Borde Hill on a visit to India.

Moukbil Bey, Counsellor to the Turkish Embassy, returned to London last week from Paris.

The Roumanian Minister and Madame Titulesco will return to London early next month from America.

Mr. Hilton Young, M.P., and the other members of the Indian Currency Commission last week arrived in Bombay from England.

The Duke of Connaught, as Grand Mark Master, has appointed Mr. Arthur Blake, District Grand Master for Burma and Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell, District Grand Master for Madras.

Sir William Beardsell and Sir John and Lady Kerr left London last Friday to join the China at Marseilles for Bombay. Sir Aurel Stein also embarked in the China at Marseilles for Bombay.

Dr. Dragutin Subotitch, Ph.D. (Munich), was appointed as from August 1, 1925, to the University Readership in Serbo-Croatian Language and Literature tenable at King's College, London.

Mme. Yovanovitch, wife of the Yugoslav Consul-General, left London last week for Monte Carlo. After proceeding to Italy she will return to London with Colonel Yovanovitch after Christmas.

After over a fortnight's stay, the Rev. P. T. B. Clayton (founder of Toc H) and the Rev. M. P. G. Leonard (chaplain of Toc H, Manchester) left Calcutta for Bombay on November 18, on the penultimate stage of their tour.

The King has, by Letters Patent, conferred the dignity of a Baron of the United Kingdom on the Right Honourable Sir George Ambrose Lloyd, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., D.S.O., and the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten, by the name, style, and title of Baron Lloyd, of Dolobran, in the country of Montgomery.

Owing to the death of Queen Alexandra the E.E.F. dinner, which was to have been held on November 24, with Field-Marshal Lord Allenby in the chair, has been postponed.

Sir Alfred Davies, Permanent Secretary to the Welsh Department of the Board of Education, and Lady Davies, sailed last Friday in the s.s. Lancashire on a visit to Egypt and Palestine. They expect to be away six months.

At the University of London, King's College, Strand, two Public Lectures will be delivered to-day (November 26) and on December 3, at 5.30 p.m., by M. Beza, on "The Story of the Creation and the Flood in Roumanian Folk-lore." Admission is free.

The Secretary of State for India has appointed General Sir Claud W. Jacob, K.C.B., K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., to be Secretary in the Military Department, India Office, in succession to General Sir A. S. Cobbe, V.C., K.C.B., K.C.S.I., D.S.O., who has been appointed General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, India.

A public lecture will be delivered at the University of London, King's College, Strand, on December 2, at 5.30 p.m., by Dr. Edward Benesh (Foreign Minister of the Czecho-Slovak Republic since 1918). His subject will be "The Rôle of Small Nations in Europe Since the War," and the lecture, which is to be delivered in English, will be presided over by Viscount Cecil of Chelwood.

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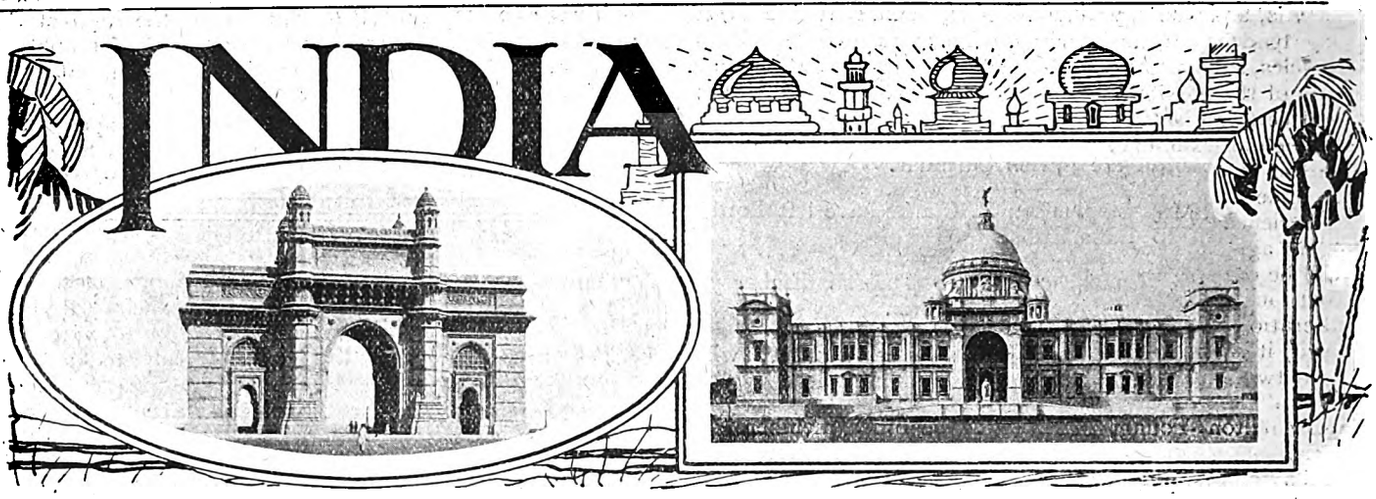

THE NEXT STEP.

Mr. Archbold's article on "The Next Step in India," in the *National Review* for November, gives expression to a point of view that is becoming increasingly vocal. The article argues that the Montagu-Chelmsford scheme has failed, and that something quite different is required for the next step in the Reforms. If "the leaders of the educated portion of so many millions of people" refuse to work the scheme, they must have some real reason for their refusal: and Mr. Archbold believes that the reason is that they did not and do not want it. In politics, he says, it is a fatal mistake to give people something they do not ask for: it is unreasonable to bother India with things that she has no real use for, and then to blame her for not liking them. The late Mr. C. R. Das said, shortly before his death, that what he wished to see established was not a democratic form of government, but bureaucracy: and this is what the Indian politician wants—a bureaucracy, largely Indian in composition, and one in which Indians will hold positions of real responsibility. Mr. Archbold thinks that nothing but a Federal scheme can meet the difficulty, and that it must be one in which the Native States, as well as British India, will be included.

If this is to be acepted as a sound view—and it is one that seems to be obtaining an increasing number of adherents—it is worth while to consider how it could best be brought about. The "Montford" scheme apparently looked forward to a time when the Englishman in India would be there merely in the capacity of an adviser, holding much the same position in regard to the Indian rulers of British India as the Political officers now hold in regard to the Indian rulers of Native States; but without the real power that the latter wield owing to the presence, in the background, of the British Government of India to whom they can appeal in case of necessity. A Federal Government that would include the Native States as well as British India, and that would give real responsibility to Indians in the latter as well as in the former, would necessarily be one whose component parts would be relatively small. About twenty years ago, a series of articles appeared in an Anglo-Indian periodical, advocating the Federation of India on the basis of a number of large Indian Native States: the author suggested the creation of new States after the model of the creation of the State of Mysore, under the rule of descendants of the original rulers, where they could be found, and, where they could not—or where they were unsuitable—by selection of suitable Indian noblemen as rulers. In addition, he advocated the union of existing Native States, which are in many cases too small to form separate entities in any reasonable scheme of Federation, under one ruler selected from among those of the States to be united: his general idea being that this should be a gradual, not an arbitrary, process: to be brought about by a reintroduction of something analogous to Dalhousie's doctrine of lapse—the lapse to be in favour of a neighbouring State of similar racial characteristics, instead of, as in the former case, in favour of the British Government. Apart from the inherent improbability of any such scheme being practically possible within any reasonable limit of time, this was very generally held to be a proposal tending in the wrong direction: modern ideas demanded that the goal ought to be to bring the Native States into line with British India, rather than the reverse.

Those who maintain that the "Montford" scheme is on the wrong lines, may reasonably be expected to suggest an alternative. If the "Native States" scheme is impracticable, what is the alternative? One that has been suggested is, that the existing Provinces of British India should be recast, into a smaller number of (in most cases) larger Provinces—perhaps five: Northern, Southern, Eastern, Western and Central, covering respectively the Punjab, with the Frontier Province, Baluchistan and Sind; Madras; Bengal with Bihar and Orissa, and Assam; Bombay, with part of the Madras Deccan and part of the Central Provinces; and the United Provinces, with part of the Central Provinces: and that each of these Provinces should be subdivided into a number of sub-Provinces, on a racial, linguistic and religious basis. That the Governments of the sub-Provinces should—with a few obvious exceptions—be mainly Indian, but should be subject to general control by the Provincial Governments, which should be partly British and partly Indian: and that the latter should, in turn, be subject to the control of the "Federal" Government of India, which should be preponderatingly, if not entirely, British. In this way, it is argued, the Indian would learn real responsibility, in a limited sphere with the idiosyncracies of which he was fully acquainted; while his British adviser—if it should be decided that he should have one—would, as in the case of the political officer in the Native States, have the authority of the Provincial Government behind him, in case he thought it necessary to interfere, to prevent mistakes or abuses. It is further argued that such a scheme would fully satisfy Indian politicians, in that it would give Indians the opportunity of "running their own show" on a comparatively small scale: and that the desire for the wider responsibility of participation in Provincial or Central Government would appeal to but few of them. For those to whom it did appeal, there would always be a certain number of administrative posts, at any rate in the Provincial Governments, to which they could aspire. And, finally, it is argued that the general continuity of policy, and the responsibility for the government of India as a whole, would rest in the hands of a strong Central Government, which would ensure stability and confidence: on it would fall the duty of adjusting such differences as might arise between Provinces, just as Provincial Governments would adjust differences arising between sub-Provinces. Moreover, the scheme would not involve any new departure, but only the extension of a method already in existence: that of the "sub-Province" of Sind, which is ruled by an official styled the "Commissioner in Sind" who, though under the orders of the Government of Bombay, enjoys, in fact, a very considerable measure of independence. As for the Native States, they would remain in direct relations with the Central Government; but the similarity between the constitutional form of rule, prevailing in the sub-Provinces of British India, and their own

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form of personal rule, would be much greater than it now is, and would be likely to lead, in time, to an increasing tendency to assimilate the latter to the former. If articles, such as that by Mr. Archbold, lead to the examination of the possibilities of some such scheme as this, they will certainly serve a useful purpose, whatever the result of such an examination; for 1929 is not far off, and it is certain that an important step will have to be taken then; if, indeed, it is not taken earlier. In the light of the experience gained since the inception of the Reforms seven years ago, it seems almost equally certain that that step will be decisive: that the decision then reached will be one that, in its results, will be final. If there is to be any alteration in the lines along which the Reforms are to proceed, it must be decided on, for good or evil, within the next two or three years. The dictum that in politics, it is a fatal mistake to give people something that they do not ask for, is an unimpeachable one; though this, of course, is by no means the same thing as saying that it is good policy to give people everything that they do ask for. Parliament will have to make up its mind what it is that Indians really want: and see to it that what it is prepared to give is in consonance with, and not in opposition to, their real desires.

CURRENT TOPICS.

A Business Man's Impressions.

A recent issue of the *Glasgow Herald* contained an interesting account of the impressions of "a man of business visiting post-War India on his lawful occasions": one of a class less vocal than that which ordinarily presents its impressions of India to the public. As the writer says, such a man does not go there with the express purpose of forming views or collecting opinions; but, as he goes about his business, he comes up against facts, and cannot help forming impressions. The things that seem to have struck him most are, the small extent to which Government interferes in the life and business of the ordinary citizen, whose spirit remains strongly individualistic while the theory of government becomes more and more Socialistic: the total absence of even the smallest germs of national life in a congeries of peoples where "a Simla hillman differs as much from a Madrasi Brahman as a Montenegrin shepherd from a London bank clerk," and where a Hindu philosopher will discourse on the profoundest mysteries of metaphysics while, in a neighbouring street, a humbler devotee acquires merit by rolling sideways round the outskirts of a temple: the curtailment of official pomp and circumstance which to-day results in the Collector "driving himselfe about in a dingy American automobile" instead of touring his district "at the head of a retinue of horses, elephants or camels": a realisation of the truth of Mr. Lloyd George's statement that the British element in the Indian Civil Service is the steel framework of Indian Government—"whenever there is a difficult job to be done, an Englishman is called upon, almost by common consent, to do it"—while the result of increasing the proportion of Indians in the Service has been "an indubitable deterioration in the general standard of administration": and the fact that the aim of helping Indians to govern themselves means, to different people, two entirely different things—to well-meaning folk in England it means the gradual introduction of representative institutions; while, to the average educated Indian, "it is not unfair to say that its most important aspect is the admission of Indians to a share in, and eventually to the monopoly of, the power and emoluments of Government." or that he is more interested in the prospects, offered by the Reforms, of place and its perquisites for himself or his family, than in their power to improve the lot of the people of India.

The British politician on a cold weather tour generally seeks and meets Indian politicians. The Englishman who visits India on business comes into contact with the large, important and growing middle class of business and professional men, on whom the future prosperity and progress of Indian greatly depend. Considering that this is the very class from which most of the politicians are drawn, the writer was surprised to find how little interest the individuals, whom he met, appeared to take in politics. Their attitude of mind seemed to be that "the politician was a rather dangerous kind of pet of the British Government, which had an amiable weakness for playing with him, but could be trusted to see that he did not break his chain and become a serious nuisance to his neighbours. It is not their business to interfere, and the instinct, inherited through centuries, is to leave such matters for the Government to deal with." Large quantities of Indian Government stock are now held by the middle class, and the writer suggests that not a bad test of their real views on any measure of political reform would be to watch the effect of its enactment on the prices of such stocks. His general conclusion is that, though the converse is broadly true, it would be untrue to say that no Indian politician has an eye for anything but his own advantage, or that there is no popular sentiment against British rule. Racial antipathy does exist, and is fostered by all the arts of the mob-orator and the pamphleteer. When the simple Indian peasant is constantly regaled, by politicians who seem to him endowed with profound education and high social standing, with virulent abuse of the Englishman, some of the mud is bound to stick. It is impossible, and it would be useless, for the English official or merchant to go on the stump in a campaign of contradiction: they know that such things must be, and that the true aims of the agitators do not come from the heart of the people. It is their duty to disregard them unless they become dangerous, and then to suppress them.

These impressions coincide, in a remarkable degree, with the view generally held, and voiced, by thoughtful and unprejudiced commentators on the present state of affairs in India: and the testimony of a business man who, as the writer says, belongs to a class that is seldom vocal, is valuable evidence in favour of its accuracy. Mr. Lloyd George's speech about the "steel frame" aroused strong resentment among Indian politicians; but their objection to it lay not so much in the use of the phrase itself as in the implication, which they read into it, that it was to be permanent—that, at no future period, would it be possible to imagine an India that could be governed except through its support. With negligible exceptions, all shades of opinion look forward to the time when India will stand alone; but, while that time is being worked up to, each individual part of the "steel frame," as it grows thinner, must grow stronger. In the process, even "the dingy American automobile" can play its part, though its advent is not an unmixed blessing. As work grows more exacting, so does the necessity for rapid movement increase, even at the loss of some of the prestige that the old-time "retinue" advertised: and a busy official can now cover distances that, a generation ago, were unthinkable. But it must be remembered that the motor car is useless except on a decent road: and its general use tends to reduce to a minimum the intercourse of the official with the most important part of his clientele—the peasant who lives in the small villages at some distance from any main road. Nowadays, if the inhabitants of such a village wish to interview a superior officer, they have to journey to a main road and take their chance of meeting him there: an expedient which is of much less value, to both parties, than the old-time method of personal visits to the peasants in their own villages.

Swarajist Dissensions.

The acceptance of office under Government by the Central Provinces Swarajist, Mr. Tambe, has brought to a head the revolt against the official policy of the Swaraj Party which has long been smouldering among the rank and file. The division between the leaders of the All-India party, who stood for "non-co-operation within the Councils"—opposition to all Government measures, good, bad, or indifferent, and support to all anti-Government resolutions, with a similar breadth of qualification—and some of the Provincial leaders, who advocated "responsive co-operation"—the consideration of, and support or opposition to, all measures on their merits, irrespective of

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whether they were promoted by Government or not—has been growing more marked for some considerable time past: and Mr. Tambe's action has been the spark that has fired the tow. Mr. Jayakar and Mr. Kelkar, the leaders of the Swarajists in the "Congress" Provinces of Bombay City and "Maharashtra" respectively, have resigned from the Executive Committee of the Party, on the ground that Pandit Motilal Nehru, the President, is openly preaching against the doctrine of "responsive co-operation" while insisting on their silence. Their resignation is intended to give them freedom to reply. Two important Mohammedan members of the Party have also resigned; though, in their case, the claims of business and failure of health are the reasons alleged, and differences of political opinion have not been mentioned, thoug they are generally believed to exist: and a meeting of Berar Swarajists, though condemning Mr. Tambe's action, has passed a resolution urging a change of Swarajist policy to "responsive co-operation."

One of the main complaints made against Mr. Tambe by the Swarajist newspaper is that he was an entirely undistinguished member of the Party, who owed his political existence entirely to the fact that he had adhered to it, and would otherwise never have had the chance of achieving the distinction to which he has now attained. If this charge rankled in Mr. Tambe's bosom, he at least has the satisfaction of knowing that, even if it had once been true, it is true no longer: and that the great split, which now seems imminent in the Party, will always be dated from his action, and will always be associated with his name.

It really looks as if Lord Birkenhead's demand for co-operation is on the point of receiving a real response: and that, in spite of Pandit Motilal Nehru's brave words about a fresh campaign in opposition to it, and the belief that he was about to start "civil disobedence" in a new and compelling form, "responsive co-operation" will carry the day, and Motilal will have either to come into line with it, or resign himself to ploughing a lonely furrow, the goal of which can only be the cold shades in which other dethroned leaders, such as Mr. Gandhi, are already seated. And it looks as if Lord Reading may yet be hailed, before he hands over his office, as the Viceroy who transformed contumacy into co-operation, and guided Reformed India into the true path. If such should be the fortunate result of the present crisis in the fortunes of the Swaraj Party, while we acclaim the name of Lord Reading, do not let us forget that of Mr. Tambe.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, November 5.

The New Viceroy.

The appointment of Mr. Wood as successor to Lord Reading has come as a surprise to India, despite the *Pioneer's* assurance that the name has been mentioned in well-informed circles for months past. The news has been well received on the whole, but disappointment exists that the choice did not fall on Lord Ronaldshay, whose strength and experience, coupled with his charm of personality, have won for him a deep respect from a large section of Indian opinion.

In a leading article dealing with Mr. Wood, the *Pioneer* is non-committal. The new Viceroy's hereditary claim to a connexion with India is emphasised, also the fact that his task is no so difficult as that which confronted Lord Reading some four and a half years ago. The *Bengalee* is frankly pleased that the honour has not gone to Lord Birkenhead or to Lord Peel, and says that Mr. Wood will bring with him a freshness of outlook and a healthy freedom from preconceived notions. *Forward*, following its usual practice, has waited for the comments of other papers before expressing its opinion, and has seized upon the *Pioneer* and some of the Home Press, each of which it proceeds to reduce to ribbons, leaving the idea that India would be much better off without any Viceroy or other governing authority. So little is known of Mr. Wood by the masses that the appointment has been generally received with Oriental fatalism; his connection with Agriculture and Fisheries presents a difficulty; they cannot quite understand how this qualification affects his capabilities for the Viceroyalty, and discussion of the topic has given rise to some chaff as to the size and price of *bekhti* (an Indian fish) which may be expected on his assuming office. Behind all this, however, there is a growing movement which holds the opinion that the Government is to blame for the state of India to-day. Leniency is not universally understood, and is accepted by many as a sign of weakness; it is not to be inferred from this that a reign of terror is wanted, in which political opinion would be suppressed, but it is felt that most of the extremist agitation is nothing more than mischief, and should have been put down once and for all on its first appearance. "If, on seeing a seedling, it is plucked up with the fingers, it is done for; but it takes many coolies to remove a full-grown tree," is how a Marwari merchant expressed it: and a Viceroy who will take real steps to preserve peace will earn the gratitude of the majority of Indians to-day.

The Central Provinces.

Certain politicians in the Central Provinces, in showing signs of thinking for themselves, have been a thorn in the side of Pandit Motilal Nehru in particular and the Swaraj Party in general. In staging the meeting of the Executive Council of the All-India Swaraj Party at Nagpur, the worthy Pandit sought to revive an interest which was waning, and the occasion was taken advantage of in passing important resolutions. The suggestion that the present time was one when the Party should change its tactics of non-co-operation and obstruction for responsive co-operation was deprecated; there was no reason why the policy should be changed in any way. Thus the Berar Provincial Swaraj Party were put in their place, but even in an atmosphere rendered almost sacred by the presence of the Pandit and Sen Gupta, some ten members had the temerity to dissent from the opinion of the remainder in this particular. Mr. Tambe's treachery was condemned; he must be getting used to votes of censure, now that fifteen or sixteen have been passed upon him; but, for accepting his resignation without reference to the Executive Committee of the General Council, the Berar party received another reproof.

It will be interesting to see what will become of the resolution of adherence to the Swarajists' policy of non-co-operation. In Madras, the Andhra Provincial Congress Committee has passed a resolution not only in favour of civil disobedience, but in favour of the complete independence of India, whatever that may mean. This has probably forestalled the Pandit's dire threat, which was to be given effect to at the Cawnpore Congress; but, while civil disobedience shows promise of being an effective medium for the raising of sensation throughout the country, it is a movement which can only be taken up if it is agreed to *nem. con.* by the whole of India. But public opinion is veering round to regard the empty claptrap of the Swaraj leaders without passion, and the Pandit will shortly be lamenting the lack of faith of his country.

The Political Situation.

Two pronouncements on the political situation have been made during the week, and these have been represented in the Extremist Press as being of widely divergent views. In addressing the Calcutta Branch of the European Association, Sir Frederick Whyte, the first President of the Legislative Assembly, pointed out that democratic ideas were not of Oriental origin, and it remained to be seen whether, in fundamental principle, the idea of self-government, as it was known in Europe, particularly in England, was natural in India. Politically minded Indians were committed to the conception that what they called self-government was a practical possibility: but those who had been working Institutions set up by the Government of India Act, 1919, realised that there were grave difficulties in the way. In his opinion, if Government were going to impose the test as to whether Indians could carry on their own government, they must allow the experiment to go

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on longer, and they must carry it out on a more generous scale. More responsibility must be given, to determine whether the responsibility was there at all: and he felt that the time had not come when it could be said either that the Reforms had succeeded or that they had failed. Referring to the test imposed by the Secretary of State, he said that in his opinion this had been met by the first Legislative Assembly. Sir Frederick is no pessimist, and his speech is full of common sense views; but, at the same time, it cannot be said that the Swarajists have been evidencing their capacity for further responsibility. The joint resolution in connexion with the Muddiman Committee Report leaves little doubt of their destitution of even the elements of statemanship: and would scarcely serve as an inducement to Government to increase the measure of autonomy.

On the other hand, Lord Sinha, writing in the *Indian Daily Mail*, takes a view which will not meet with the approval of the extremists and will be resented by many of more moderate views. In his opinion, constitutional advance depends upon the ability of those, who demand it, to show that they are fit to receive a further measure of self-government: and it is idle for Indian politicians to imagine that it is possible for them to enforce their views on the British Parliament. Lord Sinha declares that India is not ripe for self-government: and as for Bengal, which is his own Province, he says that it should not be entrusted with provincial autonomy—to say nothing of anything higher.

Into these opinions of long-sighted men may be read a grave warning. Although taking an optimistic view, Sir Frederick Whyte expresses a doubt as to the feasibility of the idea of self-government by Indians; Lord Sinha states that India is not ripe for self-government. Is it not time that the Swarajists changed their policy, and concentrated on demonstraing India's fitness for the attainment of the great task she has set out to accomplish in true Swaraj?

Markets.

After opening very steady, the Jute Market became quieter at the close and prices were inclined to ease; less interest has been taken by the mills and, with sellers willing to deal only at full prices, business has been on a smaller scale. Gunnies have reacted to a greater extent and, even at a lower level of prices, few transactions are reported. The piece-goods market remains featureless. Although the tea market both here and in London has been described as irregular, it is not anticipated that there will be any appreciable drop in prices: and, as soon as the outtturn figures are to hand, a hardening in rates is expected. A firm opinion still prevails that the figures will show stocks down a further ten million maunds, as a result of which the surplus will be almost entirely wiped out.

The only department to interrupt an otherwise dull week on the Stock Exchange was the rubber market, where a strong tone continued to prevail: and, but for the reserve shown by sellers, a considerably larger turnover in the shares would have resulted. Jutes, but for a small business in the more speculative counters, have received little support, prices fluctuating within narrow limits. Cottons are higher on the week, but inquiry has been restricted to the better class shares; coal shares show no change, and teas have been quiet with only a few dealings taking place. Sterling rates remain steady but the money market has been dull with little business passing.

BACK TO SHAHJAHAN.

By Janus.

A few weeks ago I was privileged to discuss in these columns the report of the Committee on External Capital for India. Since then I have been occupied in absorbing another report which appeared almost simultaneously, that of the little Committee appointed to clear the ground for an economic inquiry and the contrast between the two documents is rather startling. The former Committee, dubious as was its origin and composition, produced an excellent report: one which, if the dissenters' notes could have been eliminated, would have deserved to rank with the work of Select Committees of Parliament. The latter, unexceptionable in point of personnel, and assigned a simple and straightforward task, seems to me to have gone clean off the rails: and the comments I have seen in the Indian Press show that, for once, I am not alone in my opinoin. At the outset, however, I must distinguish between the majority and the minority. The Committee consisted of two Indian administrators of repute, and one Englishman, a Professor of Economics at Allahabad; but they never got together as a team, and eventually the Professor went his own way. His note of dissent is sane, if not always convincing, and it suggests to me that, in other company, he would have done much better: but, in this review, I must confine myself to the report of the majority. The first impression it produced on me was as if a steady-going Indian bullock-cart had suddenly taken to stunting, and had come to grief in a spectacular attempt to loop the loop, but further study showed that it is not just so modern as all that; in essence it belongs to the seventeenth century rather than the twentieth and, on purely internal evidence, I should be inclined to date it in the palmy days of Shahjahan. The despot expresses a hasty wish, his loyal henchmen go far beyond it and, in their efforts to please him, design something of which he never dreamed, something to be carried out at a huge cost to be borne by other people and, of course, to the merry cracking of the sjambok. In the good old times it might have worked, but to-day I fear it must be accounted an anachronism.

The despot of this parable is of course the Legislative Assembly, which, in response to a rather widespread demand, asked recently for an enquiry into the present economic condition of the people. The Government was uncertain how to meet the request, so it told the Committee to find out what relevant information was already on record, and how it could best be supplemented. The Committee thereupon outline a grandiose scheme for transforming and enlarging the Indian statistical machine so that, at some not very definite period in the future, it may begin to turn out periodical reports which will, in time, meet the demand. To put it more shortly, the despot asked for a photograph, and the Committee in reply propose to build a new and greater Hollywood, which, when the actors have been found and trained, will eventually give him films galore. Now I am not concerned to argue that such an institution would not be useful, supposing it could be afforded. My point is, that it is not what the despot asked for: and I should not be greatly surprised if he, being in a violent hurry, as despots usually are, is rather seriously annoyed by the reply. The report gives only vague indications of the forces that have led to this curious result: but I think I can detect two of them, a possible verbal confusion, and a clear hypnotic influence. As to the former, the Government really began it, because, in their resolution appointing the Committee, they passed from the word "inquiry" to the word "survey," used obviously as a synonym. The Committee, however, seem to have been more or less unconsciously influenced by the technical sense of the latter word, denoting an organisation for producing surveys: and what they offer is, not a survey, but a Department of Surveys. This idea, however it originated, clearly becomes fixed under the influence of those attractive year-books of statistical information which some of the Dominions issue, mainly for export. The report comes back to the Dominions again and again: if they issue year-books, India must obviously do the same. Now this is sheer hypnotism, not logic. If the analogy be tested in the light of reason, it becomes clear that, in this matter, the Dominions should serve as warnings rather than examples. A homogeneous community like Australia, negligible in point of numbers, but standing exceptionally high in point of wealth, literacy, and technical efficiency, produces a book designed to tell the world in general, and its creditors in particular, how it is getting along: how can such a production be relevant to the case of India, a jumble of heterogeneous communities, united mainly by the common poverty, illiteracy and inefficiency, and now wanting to know what is the matter with it?

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The majority, however, ignore such considerations, and set out to frame a scheme which shall give India year-books and publications on Dominion lines.

They find it will cost a good deal of money: to be precise, 32 lakhs for the start, and then 57½ lakhs year by year. The latter figure is, of course, under-estimated: and, following a widely accepted practice in such cases, we may double it, and put the annual bill at a crore of rupees for a beginning, but rising rapidly, as such administrative expenditure always does. Naturally, the despot is not asked to find this money: the Provinces are to provide about 97 per cent of the cost, and the suggestion, put forward with great deference, that the Central Government might meet them half-way for the first five years, ignores the hard facts of the budget. The Provinces, again, are to squeeze as much as possible out of municipal and local boards, while a sort of pious hope is expressed that even individual villages may come forward to pay for their own anatomization. Anyway, the despot will get his films for practically nothing, but the question remains whether the films will be worth having even as a gift. Now the majority recognise that the facts needed for the year-books will not always come out voluntarily: there must be "legal powers of compulsion, howsoever mild"; the law must have penalties attached; and the investigators must have a backing of authority from those admirable officers, the tahsildars. Very possibly their schemes of investigation could have been carried out more or less effectively in the Mogul days, at least in those regions where the Emperor's writs ran, and the people were kept in strict discipline by the sjambok; but nowadays tahsildars are not allowed to use the whip, and the milder substitutes in vogue would certainly fail to extract the truth from unwilling witnesses, though they would doubtless stimulate imaginations to produce acceptable romance. It seems to me as certain as anything can be, that the methods of investigation proposed by the majority, costly as they are, would result merely in the production of an enormous mass of crude lies and vague guesses, tabulated in columns and therefore masquerading as ascertained truths. The year-books will not nourish the student, but they are likely to drug him—to sleep or to madness, according to his individual diathesis. The new Hollywood, like the old, will deal in fiction, not in facts.

I asked a United Provinces man what ought to be done to such people, and he suggested that they should be made to experiment with their own proposals, by investigating the real wealth and income of half a dozen villages of Meerut Jats. To this I objected that the case did not really call for capital punishment, and that, anyhow, to be torn in pieces by infuriated Jatnis would be an altogether excessive penalty. He then proposed that their energies might be devoted to the members of the Indian Merchants Chamber, who are comparatively peaceful folk, though rather noisy at times; but finally we agreed that the best thing would be, that they should be set to follow up a hint in the note of dissent, and make a careful examination of the huge masses of data already available for the serious economic inquirer, material of which the report scarcely glances at the surface. Let them forget for a time all about Canada and New Zealand—about Abanah and Pharpar—and let them bathe in the Jordan flowing past their doors. One good dip ought to be enough.

THE INDIAN MAIL.

The Currency Commission.

The question whether the Currency Commission shall or shall not be boycotted was still being agitated among the members of the Indian Merchants' Chamber at Bombay, when the mail left. A number of members of the Chamber had, after full discussion, unanimously resolved "to strengthen Sir Purshottamdas Thakurdas' hands"—he being a member of the Commission, as well as the representative of the Indian Merchants' Chamber in the Legislative Assembly—by placing before the Commission "overwhelming evidence to help it to make recommendations in favour of an effective gold standard as the soundest currency system for India." They felt that the opportunity for such a departure was favourable, owing to the large imports of gold bullion into India during recent years, and the fact that the balance of trade had lately been strongly in her favour. Among the concrete recommendations made by them were, that additions should be made to the currency, not in rupees or rupee notes, but in gold notes or gold certificates: that a gold coin—to be called a mohur—of the same weight and fineness as the sovereign, should be made the standard gold coin for India: and that its relation to the rupee, preferably as one to fifteen, should be defined by law.

On the other hand, it was understood that a fresh requisition for a public meeting of the Chamber was in course of preparation, in continuance of the campaign, which has so far proved abortive, for persuading the Chamber to boycott the Commission and to call upon Sir Purshottamdas Thakurdas to resign his membership of it. A public meeting, under the presidency of Mr. Jinnah, the Bombay member who leads the Independent Party in the Legislative Assembly, was also to be held, to endorse the Assembly's condemnation of the constitution and personnel of the Commission.

The experiment of coining a "gold mohur" has been tried once, in recent years, but without success. It was made on a small scale, the number issued, if memory serves, being only three millions. The instant the coins were issued, they disappeared, and they have never been in circulation. The English sovereign circulated freely before the War, but the absence, for the past eleven years, of current gold coins of any denomination in India would probably lead, if such coins were issued again, to a similar prompt disappearance, at any rate at first. It might be a good thing, if it were decided again to attempt to introduce gold currency, that the Mint should be opened for the coinage of gold bullion offered for the purpose by private holders, either into sovereigns or "mohurs," on their account. The result might be, not only to tap the very large stock of gold that has been unproductively accumulating in India for several years past, but also gradually to re-introduce gold coins into the country, where they achieved considerable popularity before the War, passing current at fifteen rupees: any Government Treasury would give sovereigns for rupees, or rupees for sovereigns, at that ratio. At the present exchange value of the rupee, the pound sterling is worth about 13 1-6 rupees. The Indian merchants of Bombay have always strongly supported a return to the pre-War standard ratio of fifteen rupees to the sovereign; and it will be noted that they still adhere to this, though they advocate the name of the gold coin being changed to the recognised Indian one of "mohur." Gold coins, under that name, were issued by the Moguls as well as by other Indian rulers: and the term "a gold mohur" is still current among Europeans to denote what the old coin used to stand for—sixteen silver rupees. Some of the old coins still exist, though only as curiosities: they are often presented as a gift of welcome to officials—who, however, are not expected to keep them, but only to "touch and remit."

Gold Coins in India.

The suggestion, by the Indian Merchants' Chamber of Bombay, that gold coins should be specially struck for India, at a fixed ratio with the rupee, recalls the almost forgotten fact of the popularity of the English sovereign before the War. After the inevitable initial period of distrust, the general public took to it whole-heartedly, in particular the Punjab wheat-grower, who preferred to receive payment for his crop in sovereigns, rather than in any other form of currency. There were exceptions, of course, among the elderly or old-fashioned. A few years before the War, it happened that a servant of the writer of these notes died while in his employment; and the servant's old mother arrived one day, in a curtained palanquin, to receive the credit balance of her son's estate. The cash that was handed in through the curtains included two sovereigns; but, when the palanquin started to leave, these were found lying on the ground beside it. The procession was stopped, and the coins handed in again, only to be promptly thrown out once more. Argument ensued, and it was explained that the coins were of gold, and were worth fifteen rupees each; but the old lady would have

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none of them she had apparently originally supposed them to be copper—and her departure had to be delayed until the sovereigns could be changed into silver rupees, the only form in which she consented to receive them.

With the advent of the War, gold immediately went out of circulation, though considerable stocks of sovereigns remained in the Government Treasuries. As the War progressed, the people began to get nervous about accepting notes, and to insist on receiving silver: which they promptly proceeded to hoard. The first move in this direction took the form of the dispatch by rail of chests of specie, to the homes of the owners. This traffic speedily attained large dimensions: and Government countered it by prohibiting the dispatch of current coin by rail, except under licence. The senders then had recourse to the Post Office. The maximum weight that may be sent by post in India is 800 tolas—a rupee weighs one tola, approximately one-thirty-ninth of an English pound: and, when nervousness was at its height, the General Post Office at Bombay was a curious sight. The entire available floor space was occupied by Indians sitting in the midst of nests of boxes each of which contained about 750 silver rupees—the balance of the maximum weight being made up by the box and the packing—waiting their turn at the counter. As much as eight tons of rupees were being sent daily, from Bombay alone, by this method: and Government found it necessary to prohibit it also. But the hoarders were not to be defeated: and arrangements were made by which a number of them should hire a motor vehicle, load it with silver coin, instal an armed guard of servants of their own, and send it off by road. The enormous withdrawals of rupees from circulation, consequent on these proceedings, forced the Government of India to have recourse to special measures for obtaining silver; for, in default of such measures, they were faced with the alternative of declaring currency notes inconvertible—a necessity which would have had a disastrous effect on the public confidence. They accordingly arranged to purchase a very large quantity of silver from the United States, in the form of melted dollars: and this began to arrive before the motor transport device of the hoarders had made more than a beginning: its advent was well advertised, and the panic ceased.

As an interim measure, before the arrival of the American silver, Government appealed to a number of Indian Princes, and other important magnates, for silver rupees: offering, in exchange, sovereigns from the Treasuries at the pre-War rate of fifteen rupees each. As a sovereign, when obtainable at all, fetched anything from eighteen to twenty rupees in the open market, the generosity of this offer is apparent. A number of Princes took advantage of it, and accepted payment: but one—the late Maharaja Scindia, whose name deserves to be recorded for many reasons, not least for this—produced a large sum in rupees—it was said to be thirty lakhs—but refused to take payment in sovereigns: desiring that the transaction should be treated as a loan until it could be adjusted at par. One magnate in Northern India—not a ruling Prince—whose name deserves to be recorded also, though it would probably be libellous to give it—adopted a very different policy. When approached by Government, he offered to provide seventeen lakhs of rupees by a given date. The offer was accepted; whereupon he arranged for a number of agents to present currency notes at the various Government Treasuries in his Province, and to get them exchanged for silver. This silver was collected by him, and handed over to Government in fulfilment of his contract: so that, in fact, he made over to Government 1,700,000 of their own rupees and claimed (and obtained), in return, gold worth something over two million.

Trade Returns for September.

As compared with the figures for last August, the September returns show very little variation in the total trade of India: for, while the value of the imports of private merchandise fell from 1880 to 1853 lakhs, and that of the exports of produce and manufactures from 2830 to 2719 lakhs, the net imports of treasure rose from 338 to 462 lakhs, while the value of re-exports remained practically stationary. The visible balance of trade in favour of India was 514 lakhs, as against 713 in the previous month.

Under imports, the figures for food, drink, tobacco and raw materials show a rise in value of 25 lakhs, but there was a fall of over 50 lakhs in manufactured articles, the decrease in the import of cotton goods being larger still: as the yardage fell from 140 to 117 millions, and the value from 494 to 418 lakhs.

Under exports, the value of raw materials and produce increased from 1157 to 1254 lakhs, but that of manufactured goods decreased from 829 to 784 lakhs, and of food, drink and tobacco from 820 to 660 lakhs. The exports of raw jute amounted to 86,000 tons, valued at about 440 lakhs, compared with 37,700 tons, valued at 194 lakhs, in August. Of this quantity, the United Kingdom took 25,000 tons and Germany 22,600 tons: France, Italy, Belgium and the United States took amounts varying from about 9½ to about 7 thousand tons. The exports of raw cotton amounted to 24,000 tons, of a value of 320 lakhs—which denotes a heavy fall, both in quantity and price, since the previous month's exports of raw cotton were valued at 550 lakhs. In manufactured goods, the largest decrease was in gunnies—bags falling from 51 to 40 millions in quantity, and from 322 to 267 lakhs in value, and cloth from 122 to 106 million yards and from 250 to 227 lakhs.

Railway Advertising.

One of the points to which Sir Charles Innes, the Member for Commerce and Railways, in his speech before the Indian Railway Conference Association at Simla, drew the attention of the Conference was that of publicity and advertisement—could not the Indian railways do more, by judicious advertisement in London, to attract tourists to India? Tourists brought money to the country and custom to the railways: and he believed that it would be a paying proposition of they could be attracted in greater numbers than at present. Sir Charles' championship of advertisement in London is one that naturally appeals to any newspaper publisher there; but, to have any great effect, it would seem that it should be accompanied by a campaign for reduction in steamer fares—Indian railway rates are among the lowest in the world; but passenger fares to Indian by sea are among the highest; so much so as to be almost prohibitive to the ordinary tourist. Anything that would sensibly increase the number of first and second class passengers on Indian railways would be a great boon to them; for, at present, all the passenger traffic on Indian railways rides on the back of the third class customer—the first and second accommodation often runs practically empty: and even when it does not, it never really pays. This is, perhaps, inevitable in a land of vast distances like India; but, if loss there must be in this department, even at the best of times, it would certainly be a good business proposition to do all that is possible to reduce it.

Improving Prospects.

In a lecture delivered at Bangalore on October 13, Colonel Crawford, the Secretary of the European Association, urged Europeans in India to take a live interest in the public affairs of India, which are now progressing in the way in which they wanted them to go: it was therefore necessary that Europeans should study the politics of the country and make themselves heard. Answering a suggestion that the Association was spending a disproportionately large sum on establishment, Colonel Crawford said that it was not economical to employ cheap men: and defended the recent appointment of an Assistant Secretary, on the ground that it would relieve the Secretary of urgent matters and leave him free for propaganda work. He added that politics had always had a fascination for himself and that it was this that had caused him to relinquish his army appointment, which was financially more advantageous than his present position: he had been "a fool to chuck up the Army to take up the work of the Association."

By this last remark, the speaker gave an unsolicited, and possibly inadvertent, testimonial to the recent improvement in the prospects of the British official in India, the recognition of which has had such a striking effect on

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recruitment during the last few months. For, in one of the first addresses delivered by Colonel Crawford after entering on his present appointment, he explained that he had left the Indian Army, in spite of the opinion of his friends that he had a promising career before him, because he had made up his mind that it was no longer good enough to stay in it. That he now regrets his decision, and publicly announces that it was a foolish one, is an example of the change of view that has occurred to many: one to which Sir Edwin Atkinson gave eloquent expression in his speech at the recent farewell dinner to Lord Reading at the Simla United Service Club.

Catch Phrases.

Pundit Motilal Nehru's words, quoted in last week's Calcutta letter, by which he meant to convey that the Swarajists had done their best to meet Lord Birkenhead's views on co-operation—"We have sailed as near the wind as we possibly could. We can sail no nearer"—show the difficulty that even the best educated Indian is likely to find in English phrases. The Englishman in India is inclined to laugh at "Babu English"; but the wonderful command that English-speaking Indians have, over what is to them a foreign tongue, should be a matter of admiration rather than of laughter. The number of Englishmen who could express themselves with anything like the same fluency, and with so few mistakes in phraseology, in any foreign language, must be small indeed. The phrase brings to mind a case in which an Englishman ingeniously utilised the difference between the real and (to an Indian) apparent meaning of one somewhat similar. Every time a servant quits one's service in India, it is necessary to give him a testimonial—even if he has only served for a few days. If this is uncomplimentary, he either destroys it or arranges for the manufacture of a more satisfactory one. It was the spacious sound of the critical words, and his knowledge of their separate meanings, that induced an Indian servant to show, with pride, a reference which ended, "I can confidently recommend anyone, who seeks a thoroughly capable, industrious and honest servant, to give Eli Bux a wide berth."

Indian Irrigation.

The appearance of the Review of Irrigation in India for the years 1921-24 is specially noteworthy because it is the first of these (triennial) reviews issued since irrigation became a Provincial subject under the Reforms. The Review gives the average area irrigated annually by Government works as 27½ million acres, an advance of ¾ million acres on the average for the previous triennium. It states that, during the last of the three years under review, the area cropped in British India was 223¼ million acres, and that the area irrigated by Government works amounted to nearly twelve per cent. of this total; also that the estimated value of the crops in the irrigated area amounted to one and a half times the total capital expended on the works. About 38 per cent. of the total irrigated area of British India is to be found in the Punjab, the irrigated area of which forms the same percentage of the total cropped area of the Province. Three irrigation works of the first magnitude were initiated during the triennium covered by the Review: the Sukkur Barrage in Sind—the greatest ever undertaken in the history of India—the Sutlej Valley scheme in the Punjab, and the Sarda project in the United Provinces. These three great projects, when completed, will together add nearly fifty per cent. to the irrigated area of British India, besides adding largely to that of several of the Indian States.

When Indian politicians denounce the British Government and all its works, they never mention this subject of irrigation: and even Mr. Gandhi, who preached that such things as railways and hospitals were Satanic inventions which the Indian people would be better without, in the Golden Age to which he desired them to return, seems to have approved of the existence, and even of the extension, of canals; since he taught that every peasant, who needed water for his fields, should be entitled to receive it—though as a free gift and not in return for payment, after the custom of the soulless British Government in India.

INDIAN EXCHANGE.

London, November 23.

A little more activity has been manifest in markets during the past week, and rates have become a shade firmer, although quotations in Calcutta and Bombay still stand at 1s. 6 5-32d., with sellers throughout the week at 11-64ths cash. T.T. has been obtainable off and on at 1s. 6 3-16d. in Calcutta, where Government have also been called upon to a small extent, and they are reported to have purchased £300,000 at 1s. 6 3-16d. for immediate delivery. Rates to-day are cabled steady at 1s. 6 3-16d. T.T. in both places, with buyers' requirements satisfied for the moment.

In the earlier part of the period under review, three months' credits were placed at 1s. 6 13-32d. for delivery three or four weeks ahead. Towards the close, however, the rate has stiffened, and we understand that it is difficult to place good commercial paper at better than 1s. 6 7-16d. Forward rates are slightly firmer at 1s. 6 3-16d. T.T. from December to February; March 1s. 6 11-64d., and April 1s. 6⅛d. No animation is shown, however, in forward quotations, and operators take little interest in rupee exchange beyond a month or two ahead.

The London Market has been a trifle firmer, with T.T. generally quoted at 1s. 6 7-32d., although some amounts were fixed earlier in the week at 1s. 6 3-16d. for ready and near delivery.

In the last weekly report of the Imperial Bank of India, money has been flowing out more freely again for trade purposes on the Calcutta side, while in the other centres business has been dull. This is especially the case in Bombay, where the positon of the Cotton Industry shows little improvement.

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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

170, *Strand, London, W.C.2.*
Tuesday Morning.

Good Balkan Harvests.

It is a most happy circumstance that at a time when the omens generally are propitious to a trade revival, when the Locarno Pact has brought within realisation that stabiliation that Europe so badly needs, the Balkan countries generally should have been able to revel in good harvests. The main obstacle to commercial development in South-East Europe has been the absence of adequate purchasing power, and no better and more immediate tonic could be devised than a plentiful yield of agricultural produce, on which in the main these countries depend. The fact that this year the fields have "laughed with corn" means for the British trader increased outlets for his manufactures and commerce less hampered by the handicap of adverse exchanges, for increased exports naturally mean that the exchanges will improve. It may be hoped that he will take full measure of the opportunity that the kindly soil has thus unfolded for him. A few details regarding the crop in two of the Balkan countries, Roumania and Yugoslavia, will serve to indicate the outlook. Roumania has had the best wheat harvest since the War, amounting to roughly 2,900,000 tons, and this despite the fact that the crops in Bessarabia and Moldavia were a failure. It is estimated that this will leave 600,000 tons available for export. Then the yield of oats and barley together totals 1,880,000 tons, while the maize crop has been excellent. Then Yugoslavia, which had good harvests in both 1923 and 1924, has this year had one which far surpasses them. The yield of wheat is put at 2,240,000 tons, as compared with 1,650,000 tons for 1924 and 1,684,000 tons for 1923, while the yield of barley and oats is placed at 982,000 tons, as against 630,000 tons for 1924 and 743,000 tons for 1923. The surplus of wheat available for export is estimated at 400,000 tons, while that of maize is put at double that figure. It scarcely needs emphasis that the realisation at good prices of surpluses such as those indicated must make an immense difference to the economic situation in South-East Europe. 1925-26 may well prove the turning point in reconstruction, pointing the way to a period of prosperity such as the Balkan countries have not hitherto known.

Currants and Currents.

These days it is not enough to think Imperially; we have also to eat Imperially. This particular current is now set in the direction of the Christmas pudding, to say nothing of the cakes and penny buns that fill in the time and appetites in between. On this subject I find it difficult, as a loyal Briton devoted to the Near East, to write, shall I say, *currente calamo*. I certainly want to see the Australian dried fruit trade forge ahead, but what is one to do when the geniuses who preside over kitchens take sides against those who preside over advertisements? The opposite to a seedless raisin is not necessarily a seedy one; yet the man who first applied the word "pip" to express dissatisfaction must have been fond of dried fruit. A solution of the problem might be found in the establishment of a world-wide Jack Horner Association for the creation of a corner in currants and raisins. The nations and the currants-cum-raisins could then be graded; the nations of most use to the trade would receive the best fruit from the top of the other heap; those who consume the smallest quantity would come in for the under currant, without knowing whether it came from down under or elsewhere. Competition would be stimulated among consumers and producers, and neither the shadow nor the substance of the Christmas plum-pudding of Great Britain need ever grow less. New countries, be it noted, are already entering the lists. One of the first results of the recent signing of a commercial treaty between Great Britain and Bulgaria is to be the inauguration of a regular service of direct steamers between Bulgaria's Black Sea ports and London, which is to coincide with a special effort to place the Bulgarian currant on the London market. The British housewife will soon be starting a rough-and-ready grading of her own for currants, as she has done in the case of eggs, unless the corner idea can be adopted.

Cotton Supplies.

The latest American Bureau Report, while showing a slight decrease on the previous estimate, may be said to have left the position materially unchanged, though, as was to be expected, it has not been without its effect on prices. The estimated yield per acre is 165.5 lb. as compared with 166.4 lb. on October 31, and with the final yield last year of 157.4 lb. This estimate means a crop of 15,298,000 bales exclusive of linters, which compares with 13,639,000 bales for 1924, and as anything over 14,000,000 bales must be regarded as satisfactory it will be evident that if the estimate is borne out—and it may, of course, well be exceeded—there is no need for anxiety as regards cotton supplies for Manchester for the next twelve months. The present prices of cotton are more satisfactory than the industry has experienced for a very long time, and in default of an overwhelming demand for cotton goods there appears no reason why they should not continue to obtain throughout the season and possibly even reach lower levels. And as each year that passes brings about an extension of cotton growing in the Empire and as we are now reaching the juncture at which this development will tell in the world's cotton statistics, it is clear that the stage should not be far removed when the possibility of undue prices for cotton is out of the question. The desired end is a price which while giving a reasonable remuneration to the grower will not handicap the manufacturer. How far it will be possible in the future to achieve some measure of stabilisation must remain to be seen, but it is certain that the nearer that ideal is attained to the better it will be for both the grower and the consumer.

Roumania's Finances.

The provisional arrangement for the settlement of Roumania's war and relief debts to Great Britain, which amount to £28,000,000, and the negotiations now in progress for the settlement of her debt to America reflect the improvement that has taken place in Roumania's position in recent months and at the same time afford proof

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of the country's determination to put her financial house in order. The failure of Roumania to make progress commensurate with that of other countries despite her great resources has been remarkable, though the fact must not be overlooked that the difficultes with which she has had to contend have been greater than those of other countries in South-East Europe. Now, however, marked progress is being made, revenues are rising—for the first nine months of this year they totalled 23,585,943,490 lei, which is considerably in advance of the estimates—the harvest has been good, and provided that the transport is equal to the task the exports of oil and agricultural produce during the next year should bring about a great change in the situation, which will be reflected in a marked appreciation of the leu. The trade figures for this year have not been satisfactory so far, this being due to the decline in the export of cereals and other produce, but it is probable that the leeway will at least be made up before the end of the year, as recent measures that have been taken are calculated to give a great impetus to the export trade. The Budget for the coming year, which has now been drawn up, provides, it may be noted, for a considerable excess of revenue over expenditure. Including the separate railway estimates, revenue is estimated at 38¼ milliard lei, while the expenditure, including the payment of inter-Ally debts is put at 34¼ milliard lei. If these estimates are borne out, and judging by results of the current year the revenue may well yield a greater surplus in consequence of developing trade, Roumania's financial postion will be immensely strengthened.

Cotton-Growing in Armenia.

It is very interesting to note, as indicating the realisation of the value of cotton-growing to a country, that outside the Empire just as within it, various schemes are under consideration having as their object the development of cotton cultivation. I have already dealt with the efforts that Turkey is making to increase cotton-growing and apparently with considerable success. In Armenia also various irrigation scheme are under contemplation to enable the cultivation of various crops, among which cotton would figure prominently. In this connection, it may be noted that the reports submitted to the League of Nations in regard to the settlement of Armenian refugees, for which purpose it is proposed to raise a loan of £900,000, dealt with the question of carrying out irrigation works in Armenia, and the scheme which is favoured provides for the irrigation of about 50,000 acres near Erivan. The work, it is understood, would only entail canal construction, and could be finished within a comparatively short period, and the land would be utilised in the main for cotton-growing. How far the scheme is practical must, however, remain to be seen, for the terrain in Armenia as a whole does not offer the advantages for the cultivation of this crop that is the case in other countries.

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The Rubber Boom.

If I had written a little later last week than I did I should not have referred to the present movement in the rubber market as a boomlet, for it very evidently merits the stronger term. Yesterday, indeed, the scenes in the market were unparalleled since the War, and brought back memories of 1910. The position has arisen, of course, as a result of the continued and increasing strength of the raw commodity. Last week 4s. 8d. was touched for spot for the first time since 1913, and while the price is a shade lower at the time of writing, the quotations are quite firm, and there is no visible reason why a higher price than 4s. 8d. should not be reached for a time. Naturally the share market responded valiantly to such encouraging strength, and with Vallambrosas declaring an interim of 75 per cent. it is small wonder that there has been a general upward movement. As usual, I suppose, it will go on for a little time, and I would say here that I look for renewed strength in the first week of December whatever may happen in the intervening days, but there will be the inevitable decline, followed after an interval by another upward movement. In the prevailing circumstances a serious slump is out of the question unless the high price of the commodity should have the effect of checking consumption. It has to be admitted that that is possible, and that is the only fly in the ointment in the immediate future.

COMMENTATOR

COMMERCIAL BOOKSHELF.

A Useful Year-Book.

"The International Mercantile Diary and Year-Book" 1926. (Syren and Shipping, Ltd., 7s. 6d., post free.)

This is the tenth annual issue of this well-known year-book which has deservedly earned for itself a special niche among the reference books of business houses. Its outstanding feature is an international section giving in concise form those particulars regarding foreign countries and every part of the British Empire which are likely to be needed in commerce. The details given in respect of each region include currency, weights and measures, shipping facilities, and a great variety of commercial information. In addition to the diary there is also a general section giving the tables required in offices which do foreign business. This feature alone makes the year-book invaluable to commerce.

The Motorists' Vade Mecum.

"On the Road," vol 6. (Ed J. Burrow and Co., Ltd., Cheltenham, 6d.)

This is the sixth volume in the series of the pictorial road plans issued by the Dunlop Rubber Company. Among the routes that have been dealt with in the previous volumes are these from London to Brighton, Eastbourne, Hastings, Folkestone, Dover and Margate, from London to Bournemouth, Weymouth and Exeter, from London to Aberystwyth, and from London to Glasgow. The present volume covers the London, Grantham, Doncaster, York, Durham, Edinburgh road, together with the alternative route via Boroughbridge. This road, 384 miles in length, is described in forty-five "strip" maps, while a comprehensive and most interesting introduction tells the potential traveller of the outstanding features along the route. The "strip" maps themselves are models of what such things should be with the way most clearly marked out, while inset are illustrations of the features that the tourist, as distinct from the traveller whose first consideration is speed, would not wish to miss.

International Combustion Ltd., announce that their associated Company of New York, the Combustion Engineering Corporation, received orders during September for one complete "Lopulco" pulverised fuel plant for the Canadian International Paper Company, including three air heaters and three fin furnace walls, also other contracts including 33 boilers totalling 127,000 square feet together with combusion equipment.

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The Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes

AREA

96,133 sq. miles

POPULATION

(1921)

12,020,000

IMPORTS, 1924

Dinars

8,221,743,552

EXPORTS, 1924

Dinars

9,538,774,432

Rate of Exchange £1 = 270 dinars approx.

Monthly Supplement of "The Near East" : No. 10.

THE PIG-REARING INDUSTRY.

Opening for British Stock.

At one time Serbia was the centre of the pig-rearing industry in south-eastern Europe. The Serbian breed of pigs, known as *srpska mongolica*, which originated in Shumadia, proved so excellent in the production of lard that it spread westwards, almost to the Adriatic, and northwards beyond the southern frontier of Czecho-Slovakia. In Hungary also, the *srpska mongolica* was reared so extensively that it ousted all other breeds, and in the decades before the War Hungary became Serbia's competitor in the production of lard. This competition was well known to have been one of the chief causes of the customs war between the old Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and the Kingdom of Serbia. Serbia was compelled to work up her industry of meat products, in order to export them via Salonika, inasmuch as by the closing of the Austro-Hungarian frontier, pig-rearing, which had been the peasants' chief industry, was seriously affected. Not long afterwards the Serbian meat industry found itself confronted with changes in the world market, which began to demand better quality meat rather than lard. American competition in the production of lard also brought about a constantly increasing depression in the price of lard on the European market.

A few years after the War, this depression in the price of lard created a crisis in the pig-rearing industry, from which Voivodina was the greatest sufferer last year, owing to the losses incurred by a heavy mortality from swine fever. Pig breeders began to realise that fat pigs could not fetch good prices, in spite of the fact that the fever had reduced the number by more than half. In an investigation of conditions, the writer of this article came to the conclusion that infectious diseases are rife among pigs as a result of too much in-breeding, the lack of preventive measures against infection, and the absence of vaccination. Pig breeders in the district of Sombor have, therefore, decided to remedy this state of affairs by the formation of the first pig-rearing co-operative association. Its tasks are: (1) to stamp out infection by strict preventive measures; (2) to have regular protective and curative measures against illness by means of cheap co-operative purchase of serums and medicaments as well as of co-operative veterinary assistance; (3) to improve the breed of pigs for the production of first-class pork by the introduction of *British medium and large white breed pigs;* (4) to keep strict records and thus prevent in-breeding, which decreases resistance against plague; and (5) to introduce strict selection according to the productive value of the pigs bred by crossing with English breeds.

This first pig-rearing co-operative at Sombor should be the pioneer in removing many deeply-rooted prejudices, to which veterinary surgeons and experienced stock-breeders have testified. The chief prejudices were that the introduction of white English pigs may increase the liability to infection, inasmuch as English pigs, being better bred, are more delicate in constitution, and that the Serbian Mongolica breed cannot be improved by crossing with English pigs, because crossing does not produce a homogeneous type.

The prejudices are supposed to be the result of practical experience, but have never been confirmed by objective and scientific experiment. The first prejudice has been actually disproved in practice by some of the western provinces (Varazhdin and Belovar), which twenty years ago gave up the crossing of home breeds for British white pigs, and did not suffer any greater losses from infection than the parts where the pure Serbian Mongolica was retained. The second was disproved by the experiments of the writer of this article, by the crossing of a western variety of the Serbian Mongolica called *Turopoliska* with a medium English white. Unfortunately, the success of these experiments could not be popularised, for the writer of the article had to give up his work.

This work can only now be resumed by the foundation of the first pig-rearing co-operative. The Chief Federation of Serbian Agricultural Co-operatives has also introduced into its test farms English white pigs, in order to continue the experiments mentioned and to improve the pure Mongolica breed by crossing.

This undertaking has met with sympathetic response from the Ministry of Agriculture, which has assisted the first pig-rearing co-operative by a subsidy for the purchase of British hogs. The Ministry has even assisted the carrying out of this programme and a special commission will shortly leave for England to purchase white Yorkshire

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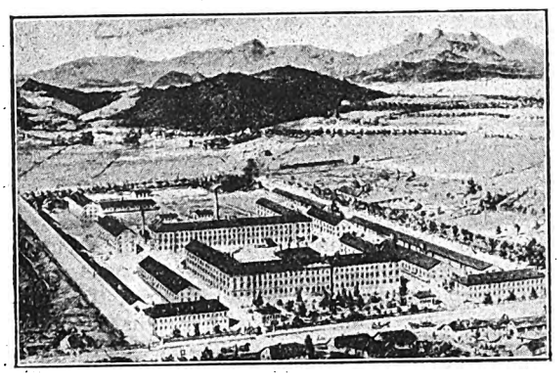
State Monopoly Administration of the Kingdom of Serbs Croats & Slovenes



State Tobacco Factory in Liubliana.

Tobacco Culture

The 1924 harvest will yield about 27.000.000 kgs. of leaf. Of this amount about 10.000.000 kgs. will be set aside for export. The tobacco is from Serbia, Macedonia, Herzegovina and Voivodina.

Fermentation and preparation of the crop will be completed in October, when negotiations for sale will begin.

All information can be obtained from:—

The State Monopoly Administration, — BELGRADE —

breed pigs for the State experimental farm. A nucleus of English animals will give breed boars and serve, by crossing, to improve breeds generally.

The work of improving the breed of Serbian Mongolica by crossing with English Yorkshire has hitherto been attended by many and great difficulties. The First Pig-Rearing Co-operative at Sombor and the Chief Federation of Serbian Agricultural Co-operatives were anxious to get their first breed hogs from England. The great distance, the high cost (on account of currency), the risk and the cost of transport, however, made it impossible, in spite of the efforts of Mr. Murray Harvey, the British Vice-Consul at Belgrade, and the writer of this article. Reasons of distance and price made it necessary to buy the first breed hogs from Hungary, from various estates, and even in transport from Hungary, which is so near, there was much difficulty and loss. In order to reduce the difficulties to a minimum, there will have to be set up sooner or later an *acclimatisation centre*, where pigs imported from England will have to be kept until they are sold to breeders and co-operatives. Such a centre is necessary for several reasons. With rational care and feeding imported pigs would recover from long and distant transport, whereas this would take much longer, if after their long journey the animals went straight to the farms of their purchasers. Most of the buyers are peasant breeders, who would be incapable of giving the necessary care and feeding, even if they were supplied with proper instructions. This the writer has proved from his own experience. Without such an acclimatisation centre the risk attendant on the import of pigs from England would be so great that breeders would be reluctant to undertake it.

The difficulties have already proved prejudicial to the import of English pigs into the S.H.S. Kingdom. Germany is on the way to supplanting British export of breed pigs to this country with her Hanoverian pigs, which were originally bred from the British white. This Hanoverian breed is penetrating into the country in two directions, for it is being adopted in Slovenia and Voivodina. Two factors facilitate the penetration:—First, these provinces are the nearest to Germany, and transport is consequently cheaper and less risky. Hanoverian breeds have spread all over Germany, as far as the eastern extremity of Bavaria, and thence into Austria and still more extensively into Hungary. The fact of the proximity serves as an argument that Hanoverian white pigs acclimatise better on the Continent than the original English white. It is also affirmed that the Hanoverian pigs are more robust and suited to primitive "peasant" breeding and attention and for putting out to pasture, because, being less pure in breed, they are hardier.

These widely accepted opinions were not confirmed by the first import of pure breed English and Hanoverian pigs from Hungary for the first S.H.S. Pig-rearing Co-operative; for the losses and difficulties with both breeds were the same. On the contrary, it has been proved that the first cross-breeds of English with Serbian Mongolica gave much better results in size, appearance, fattening and fertility than the first crossings with Hanoverians. This is recognised by the opponents of the import of English pigs, who say, nevertheless, that such success is only in the first generation, but that disturbance and instability of form and characteristics ensue later.

This notion is the result of lack of control of breeding, improper selection and absence of plan in crossing.

I am convinced that much greater and more rapid success would be obtained by the import of original English pigs for crossing with the Mongolica, and by progressive improvement and co-operative selection than by the import of Hanoverian pigs.

Zoo-technical prejudices against the import of English breeds are quite unfounded, but the following technical difficulty must be solved:

The imported English pigs must be kept at an acclimatisation centre, whither they could be sent regularly and consequently in larger batches, i.e., at reduced freights, and whence they could be sold.

State import from England will not be able to solve this

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problem for some time, because it will not produce sufficient breed boars for sale.

Acclimatisation centres will be the best method of combating prejudices directed against the import and improvement of the Serbian Mongolica with English white breeds.

The writer of this article is willing to give information concerning the possibility of setting up such centres for the use of English breeders.

DR. LJUDEVIT PROHASKA,
Secretary, Chief Federation of Agricultural
Co-operative Association, S.H.S.,
Frankopanova, 15, Belgrade.

YUGOSLAV EXPORTS.

Expectations that Yugoslavia would have considerable quantities of agricultural produce available for export this year have been fulfilled by the harvest results. The year has been excellent as regards weather, the surface of land under cultivation has been steadily increasing since the conclusion of the War, communications are improving, and credit is stimulating production. Last year for the first time since the War, export exceeded import, this year also the harvest seems again to promise an active trade balance. It is estimated that this year's export will exceed 10 milliard dinars (about 40 million pounds sterling). From the Armistice onwards, Yugoslavia's export has moved as follows:—

1919	686	million	dinars.
1920	1,321	,,	,,
1921	2,461	,,	,,
1922	3,072	,,	,,
1923	8,048	,,	,,
1924	9,538	,,	,,
1925 (estimate) ...	10,000	,,	,,

Import on the other hand remains fairly steady at 8 to 8.5 million dinars.

At the end of September a congress of exporters was held at Belgrade—this congress is now held every year at the opening of the export season—and the following estimates were calculated for the chief articles of export:—

Corn—(wheat and maize, the chief cereals) together with haricots, potatoes, etc., over 120,000 trucks, valued at 10 million pounds.

Fruit and fruit products, dried fruits, preserves, wine, spirit, about 6,500 trucks valued at 2 million pounds.

Cattle and cattle products (meat, lard, cheese, leather, poultry and eggs), about 10 million pounds.

Wood and minerals, about 7 million pounds.

Industrial products, about 3 million pounds.

Various (tobacco, silk, preserved fish, opium, medicinal plants, etc.,) about 8 million pounds.

On these estimates are based many hopes for the further settlement of State finances, and the stabilisation of the currency, etc. Considerable discussion is taking place regarding the return to the gold standard. Abroad, too, attention is being paid to these questions. One section of foreign bankers is buying large amounts of dinars, reckoning on a certain rise. Further, large quantities of State 2½ per cent Reparation Bonds and 7 per cent. Railway Loan Stock are being bought for foreign accounts, again reckoning on a rise in value. These hopes have not been disappointed; the Reparation Bonds have risen 100 per cent. in value during the summer and the 7 per cent. loan by 30 per cent. Recently there have been visiting the country American bankers, economists and other well known persons, as well as many distinguished personages from European countries, all of whom have shown a keen interest in the economic circumstances of this country. Very often no pains were taken to hide the purpose of these visits which were for the investigation of conditions for possible investments, or the acquirement of concessions over certain natural sources of wealth, such as petroleum, forests, mines, etc. Many eyes, too, are watching the economic development of Yugoslavia and calculating her future capacity for the payment of War debts.

In the export estimates there is one point on which discussion has by no means finished. That is the estimate of the value of wheat allotted for export. The appearance of Russian wheat has brought about a great disturbance of prices on the markets frequented by Yugoslav exporters. The fall in wheat prices is still continuing, and almost all exporters are refraining from purchase. On the Bourses of Yugoslavia and neighbouring countries advance buyings have not been introduced since the war. The absence of advance buyings makes it difficult for merchants to know what to do now, with a fall in prices and uncertainty in the near future. Exporters, therefore, mostly prefer to keep their capital free at the banks (where deposits have grown to formerly unheard-of amounts), or to invest them in paper of value. This has brought about lively business in securities on the Stock Exchanges and a sudden rise in State bonds and bank shares.

Many agricultural experts, following the development of Russian agriculture and foretelling the return of wheat prices to pre-War level, recommend Yugoslav farmers not to increase their wheat production, but to undertake rather the cultivation of industrial plants (hemp, flax, hops, tobacco, opium, etc.), or of maize which is used in the country for the fattening of swine and the production of alcohol for industrial purposes. This advice will very probably be followed, especially as regards the cultivation of maize, which is popular here. Finally, the position of wheat in our export trade is relatively unimportant (under 10 per cent.), compared with other agricultural, stockraising, forest, mining and industrial exports.

Nevertheless the fluctuations in wheat prices on the world markets have brought many surprises and upset many calculations. But while merchants and farmers are disappointed, the townsfolk, and workers and officials in particular, for whom life is always hard, are very thankful for cheaper bread.

PROF. DR. MILORAD NEDELJKOVITCH.
General Director Postal Savings Bank.

IRON IN SERBIA.

It is a matter of general knowledge that there are important iron fields in Yugoslavia; among the better known being the mines at Varesh (Bosnia), with their smelting works, and at Ljubia, the famous iron mine in Basanska Kraina. There are, however, numerous iron outcrops in Serbia, which have been practically untouched for want of capital. The only exception is the mine at Maidanpek, where iron as well as copper ore is mined and sent away for manufacture. Practically nothing beyond a preliminary investigation has been done in the case of the largest iron mine in the country at Vlasina, 20 kilometres from the Belgrade-Salonika Railway, although in Turkish times up till 1875 primitive mining and smelting were carried on. The ore, which is found in the Vlasina Lake, is magnetite in crystallised slate Its presence has been determined for a length of about 30 kilometres, with a width of about 10 kilometres; there are two main sections; the primary outcrop found in crumbled mica-quartz, containing 2 per cent. of magnetite, and secondary outcrops in the Vlasina lake.

In the Middle Ages, ore was worked both from the primary and secondary layers, where the magnetite was washed. It was then conveyed to neighbouring rivers, where sufficient water power was obtainable for smelting and forging. Mr. J. Drashkotzi, mining engineer, estimates from the borings made in 1913 that the mine has a cubic content of 6,000,000,000 cubic metres. In these 6 milliard it is reckoned that there are about 194,028,000 tons of magnetite, with an average content of 32.3 kilos of magnetite per cubic metre. The magnetite yielded 68.55 per cent. of iron. According to the same authority its estimated value is 4,268,616,000 francs. It may also be mentioned that there are about 130,000 tons of slag left from the old furnaces in the mining sphere.

Other mines of less importance but hitherto not sufficiently investigated, are those of Kopaonik and Boranya. Here also the ore is found in crystallised formation, as well as in serpentine rocks. In addition to its occurrence in

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crystallised rocks, ore is to be found in sedimentary formations, as e.g. at Markova Crkva, near Valyevo, and around Petrovatz.

The importance of the Vlasina mine lies in the fact that its position near the railway and its size gives a reasonable prospect of successful exploitation.

DRAG. R. STEPHANOVITCH,
Chief of Department.

ECONOMIC NEWS AND NOTES.

Rescinded Customs Duties.

The Tariff Section of the Legislative Committee has unanimously resolved to abolish customs duties on agricultural products (corn, maize, rye, etc.). In the case of the export of pigs, it was decided that white and so-called cross-breeds should not pay duty when weighing seventy kilograms. For other breeds the old prohibition of export of animals up to seventy kilograms in weight remains in force.

Customs duties on eggs are also removed, and those on wood reduced. The Minister of Finance has been asked to publish a decree confirming these resolutions as soon as possible.

New Commercial Treaties.

The conclusion of a Commercial Treaty with Austria is to be followed by similar treaties with Czecho-Slovakia and Albania. These countries are of special interest to Yugoslavia in the matter of imports and exports. Particular interest is being displayed in the possibilities of these negotiations as regards conditions and concessions. The Central Office of the Industrial Chambers of Yugoslavia has, therefore, drawn up a detailed proposal for a commercial agreement with Czecho-Slovakia, paying special attention to the protection of home products.

The Central Office has also undertaken the study of the problem of the first Yugoslav commercial treaty with Albania. Economic and commercial relations between Yugoslavia and the neighbouring republic are of particular significance, since Albania is obliged to import industrial and other products from farther distant countries. In the negotiations therefore, Yugoslavia should not lose sight of the possibilities on the one hand of obtaining predominance in regard to Albanian imports, and on the other hand of satisfying the widest needs of mutual trade. The Central Office of the Industrial Corporations has, therefore, drawn up a special proposal which, together with expert recommendations, has been sent to the Minister of Commerce and Industry.

On the conclusion of these treaties, further commercial treaties will be considered with the following countries:—Germany, Turkey, Great Britain, and Greece.

The Price of Agricultural Products.

The fall in prices which has occurred in all agricultural products and in cattle, was brought about in Yugoslavia by an abundant harvest and by the effect of world prices. Prices of all corn have fallen by 30 to 50 per cent. as compared with last year.

"Futures" in Foodstuffs.

Voivodina, the province of Yugoslavia most interested in the placing of its agricultural products, has broached the question of the introduction of advance business (futures) in foodstuffs at its goods exchange at Novi Sad. Inquiries in this direction are being made by Bratislava and Budapest, and these have to some extent started the discussion here. All the exchanges in the Kingdom sent their representatives to the conference called at Novi Sad by the Novi Sad Exchange. The latter explained the need for advance business as follows:—

1. Advance business allows the producer to sell his goods at a more convenient time;

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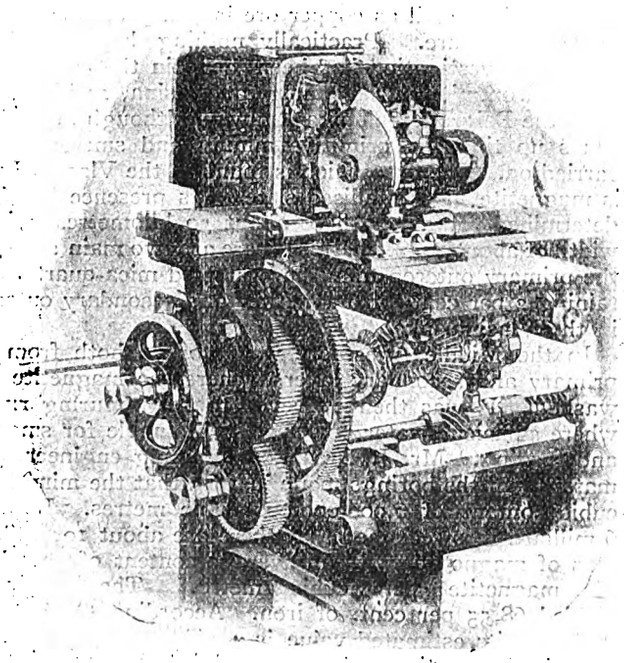

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2. It gives a guarantee that business will be transacted only between merchants.

3. It excludes the possibility of speculative tendencies regarding food prices, and also precludes extreme fluctuation in prices, either up or down.

The conference concluded with a resolution admitting the advantages of the introduction of advance business, in spite of all objections to the contrary, but recognising at the same time certain difficulties, and handing over the question to the investigation of a special committee, which is to prepare a scheme for the introduction of advance business at a convenient time and as advantageously as possible.

Danubian Freights Tariff.

Since certain foreign shipping companies have been conveying goods on the Danube to Vienna for 33 per cent. less and to Braila for 30 per cent. less than the Yugoslav Shipping Syndicate, the latter has decided to reduce freights on the Upper Danube by from 5 to 10 per cent. according to distance, and on the Lower Danube by 5 U.S.A. cents per 100 kgs., irrespective of distance. These reductions came into force on November 1.

Coal.

A livelier demand for coal is being felt on the home markets. Private mineowners are finding buyers through experienced agents and by means of reduced prices and other facilities. State mines on the other hand are not so well and so practically organised, and consequently have very large stocks on hand.

The import of foreign coal into this country has been made more difficult by the import duties and the increase of railway freights. For this reason, British coal imported via Sushak is now 1,200 dinars per truck more. The same increase applies also to Czech and Polish coal. In spite of this, foreign coal is still endeavouring to penetrate here. The competition of Polish against British coal is succeeding, since the former quotes 650-720 dinars per ton franco Belgrade, as against 680-750 for British coal.

Reduction of Railway Freights.

In spite of the average reduction of 20 to 25 per cent. on freights introduced by the new transport tariff of the Ministry of Communications, it is felt still that economic needs have not been satisfied. The reduction of prices is felt only over greater distances, whereas for smaller journeys it remains practically the same, and in some cases is even somewhat higher. It is, therefore, expected that the Ministry of Communications will very soon correct these discrepancies of the new tariff.

Butter Production at Belye.

The State domain of Belye possesses 1,500 milch cows which give daily 10,000 litres of milk. This milk is prepared by modern methods and yields 400 kilograms of the finest butter.

Export of Prunes.

In spite of the good crop of plums, earlier calculations of plum drying have not been realised. Large consignments at the beginning brought down the price per set to 4.20 dinars, and this made the peasant undertake brandy distilling rather than prune drying. Later on prices became considerably firmer, which put the advance sellers in difficulties and forced them to cover themselves at any cost. Germany has not appeared as a buyer this year. About 300 trucks of conserves have been produced, and sold mainly to Austria and Czecho-Slovakia. It is interesting that the prices of conserves is higher than that of prunes.

Customs Duties Before Parliament.

The Finance Committee Section is continuing to discuss the Customs tariff. It was resolved to increase the duty on stone, and to decrease duties on gum arabic by 25 per cent., on flour by 20 per cent., on cocoa by 30 dinars. It was also decided to decrease the duty on sugar, since it was the unanimous opinion of all parties that it is too high.

National Exhibition at Belgrade.

The Society for the National Exhibition at Belgrade has concluded an agreement with the Belgrade municipality for a fifty years' lease of fifteen hectares of land (37 acres) on Topchider Hill. Preparatory work for the exhibition will occupy two years, as, although the site is not far from the centre of Belgrade, it must be connected with the latter by new tram and railway lines.

Payment of Coupons of War Reparation Bonds.

According to the official statistics of the State Debts Management, 3,526,930 No. 1 coupons, representing a total value of 88.173.250 dinars, have been paid out between February 11 and October 11 this year as interest due on the 2½ per cent. War Reparations Bonds.

Payment of coupons continues until February 1, 1926.

MONOPOLIES IN YUGOSLAVIA.

The following statement of revenue and expenditure for the month of July and for the first four months (April-July) of the current financial year has been issued by the Autonomous Administration of Monopolies of the S.H.S. Kingdom:—

REVENUE.

	Dinars.	Dinars.
MONOPOLY REVENUES.		
Tobacco	147,514,738	
Salt	32,811 086	
Kerosene	2,029,259	
Matches	12,620,056	
Cigarette Paper	12,198,581	
Other Revenues	703,255	
		207,876,975
OTHER PLEDGED STATE REVENUES.		
Customs	146,432,210	
Stamps and Registered Stamp Duties	111,368,368	
		257,800,578
Total for July		465,677,553
REVENUES from April 1—June 30, 1925.		
Monopolized articles and other Revenues	589,126,070	
Customs	411,488,979	
Stamp and Registered Stamp Duties	298,929,279	
		1,299,544,328
Total		1,765,221,881

EXPENDITURE.

	Dinars.	Dinars.
SERVICE OF THE PUBLIC DEBT.		
Pre-War Loans (Société Financière d'Orient)	12,645,000	
5 per cent. Loan (1902) (Société Financière d'Orient)	2,329,841	
Remitted from April 1—June 30, 1925	28,424,824	
		43,399,665
Interest and Commission Blair Loan	11,988,154	
Remitted from April 1—June 30, 1925	12,282,468	
		24,270,622
Total		67,670,287
Administration Expenses (July) ..	65,104,463	
Administration Expenses (June payments	171,923,771	
		240,028,234
Total		307,698,521
Current Account with Ministry of Finance ...		1,436,676,980
Sundry current a/cs and Cash in Hand ...		20,846,380
Total		1,765,221,881

NINE MONTHS' EXPORTS.

Yugoslav exports during the month of September last amounted to 421,812 tons, of a value of 79,840,196 gold dinars, as compared with 384,596 tons valued at 66,905,171 dinars in September, 1924, an increase of 9.67 per cent. in weight and of 19.33 per cent. in value.

Exports for the first nine months of the current year amounted to 3,229,823 tons, valued at 581,435,102 gold dinars, as compared with 2,695,149 tons, valued at 456,043,829 gold dinars, for the corresponding period in 1924 an increase of 534,674 tons, or 19.83 per cent. in

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weight, and of 125,391,273 dinars, or 27.49 per cent. in value.

The chief articles exported during these nine months were :—

Article	Unit	Amount	Paper dinars (millions)
Corn : wheat ...	Tons	45 761	125,8
other corn ...	,,	7,623	16.1
Maize	,,	53 695	104.7
Woods : for fuel ...	,,	31 399	7.2
timber ...	,,	83,500	79 5
Hops ...	,,	926	74.1
Eggs	,,	187,2	52.0
Live Cattle ...	Head	13 968	51.9
Wheat flour	Tons	6,346	29.2
Meat : fresh ...	Tons	1,069	19.2
products ...	,,	64	2.3
Beans ...	,,	6,170	18 9
Fresh fruit ...	,,	9,153	15 7
Prunes	,,	2.719	15,2
Pigs	Head	7,628	14 5
Small cattle ...	,,	68,434	12 7
Raw Copper	Tons	500	12 5
Lamb and goat skins ...	,,	350	12.4
Cement	,,	27,856	11.7
Live horses	Head	2.967	10.7
Calcium cyanimide ...	,,	3,296	10 1
Sheet lead	,,	805	9.5
Hemp...	,,	774	9.3
Various	,,	129 660	152.4
Total	Tons	421.812	867.6

During September wheat was the most important article of export, while during the preceding months maize had been taking the first place. During the period November 1, 1924-October 1, 1925, there were exported of last year's harvest: 101,817 trucks of maize, worth 2,144.3 mil. dinars. From January 1 the amount of maize exported amounts to 87,151 trucks, worth 1,832.8 mil. paper dinars.

The chief countries to which Yugoslavia exported during the third quarters of 1925 were (in order of percentages): Italy 24.02, Austria 21, down the Danube via Braila 15.34, Greece 8.31, Czecho-Slovakia 7.55, Germany 6.49, Switzerland 4.35, Hungary 4.35, France 2.88, Poland 2.10, and all other countries 3.91.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF THE S.H.S KINGDOM.

Belgrade, November 8th, 1925.

ASSETS		
Cash—		
Gold	74 591,427 —	
Silver	17,484,182 —	
Foreign Bank Notes	1.760,148 —	
At Call in Foreign Countries	401,903,265 —	
		495,739,022 —
Portfolio Bills	1,074.626.244 —	
Advances on Securities	163,632,829 —	
		1,238,259,073 —
Account for the Conversion of Crown Bank Notes		1,186 367,907 —
Account of the Prov. Exchange		368.092,181 —
Advances to the State—		
Treasury Bonds discounted for Budgetary purposes	966,355,034 —	
Extraordinary advances guaranteed by Treasury Bonds	2,000,000,000 —	
		2,966,355,034 —
State Domains—		
For cover of Bank Notes issued for conversion of Crown Notes		2,138.377,163 —
Sundries		1,041,471,354 —
		9,434 661,734 —
LIABILITIES.		
Capital — Dinars 50,000,000 in gold of which paid up		28,046,800 —
Legal Reserve		6.475.042 —
Bank Notes in Circulation		6,137 482,150 —
Account of the Prov. Exchange		368,092,181 —
Government's Accounts—		
Sundry Accounts		50,233,645 —
Sundry Obligations—		
Current Accounts	501,002,977 —	
Special Accounts	130,333,298 —	
		631 336,275 —
Account of the State Domains		2,138,377,163 —
Agio for the purchase of gold for capital and funds		74,618,478 —
Sundry Accounts		
		9,434.661,734 —

Under the heading "Cash" a gold dinar is reckoned as a dinar, an English pound as 25 dinars, a dollar as 5 dinars, an Italian lira as one dinar, a Swiss or French franc as a dinar, a coined silver dinar as one dinar, etc.

Discount rate: 6 per cent. Loans on securities: 8 per cent.

GREEK MARKET FOR ELECTRICAL HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES.

Electric fans are used extensively in most of the larger cities in Greece during the long hot season (says an American Consular report). Almost every office is equipped with fans in such cities as Athens, Piræus, Salonika, Patras, and Volo. Both ceiling and desk types are used, but there is a preference for the latter, in medium and small sizes. In the case of ceiling fans, the large sizes are used and wall-mounting regulators are desired. There is no marked preference in colour or finish. Very few exhaust fans are used. Germany, Italy, and the United States furnish most of the electric fans, the former being preferred owing to their low price.

Rugs and carpets are found in almost all of the better houses, but they are taken up in April and put down again in October. Waxed or varnished wooden floors are found in about 25 per cent. of Greek homes. Heavily upholstered furniture is common. Almost no power-driven vacuum cleaners are in use, and hand-operated ones are unknown.

Most houses the provided with laundry facilities. No power washing machines are used, but electric flatirons, most of which come from Germany, are common.

Practically no electrical cooking equipment is used in this country. The electric plants in most of the Greek cities are overloaded, and the price per kilowatt-hour for electric energy is high. As a result electricity is little used in homes for other than lighting purposes. It is estimated that cooking by electricity would cost at least twice as much as by coal and three times as much as by gas. Virtually no electric cooking equipment is on sale.

About 25 per cent. of the better class Greek homes have refrigerators, as do many of the shops and cafés. Approximately 50 per cent. of the better homes use ice from May to October, but no electric refrigerators are seen. Electric heaters are seldom seen, and the few headlight and radiator types used in hotels and luxurious homes in Athens and Salonika are of German or British make. No electric curling irons, heating pads, immersion heaters, or vibrators are used. Three or four hospitals are equipped with violet-ray machines.

Local dealers usually buy electrical appliances direct from the foreign manufacturer, and desire ordinarily an exclusive agency for the entire country. Electrical appliances are not sold on the instalment plan, largely because the market is too small, nor are they rented.

TURKISH MARKET FOR MOTORS.

The Turkish motor market has been improving steadily for some months and distributors appear to be satisfied with future prospects (says an American Report). This satisfactory condition is owing primarily to the improved general economic situation resulting from last year's crops. Since the beginning of this year 750 cars were sold, of which 490 were American. Open cars comprise about 75 per cent. of local sales, but dealers express the opinion that there is a decided tendency towards the adoption of closed types. Practically no demand has been noticed for lorries, except for a few of the lighter types for which the sales outlook is good. Motor-cycle sales at present hardly amount to 50 units annually. A British make is said to be the most popular, but even its sales are not very satisfactory.

Mr. Francis Thureau Dangin, Hon. D.Litt., Curator of the Assyrian Department of the Louvre, Paris, has been elected to an Hon. Fellowship at Queen's College, Oxford.

A Bucharest message states that an arrangement has been reached with representatives of Messrs Baldwin, of America, for the payment of 2,000,000 dollars for locomotives to be supplied to Roumania. A contract was signed on November 16 by the Minister of Finance, under which this amount will be remitted in instalments spread over five years, the first of which will be included in the next Budget.

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Near East Markets.

SUDAN TRADE PROGRESS.

The figures for the trade of the Sudan for the first eight months of this year make a very favourable showing. The total volume of trade amounted in value to £E7,003,409, as compared with £E6,423,405 for the corresponding period of 1924, and an increase is recorded in respect of all the items except Government imports, which at £E1,069,897 show a decrease of £E199,126. Public imports are £E154,752 up at £E2,363,960, there being thus a slight decrease in the total imports. Exports show an increase of £E476,462 at £E3,254,788, re-exports are £E63,184 up at £E192,117, while transit trade has expanded from £E37,915 to £E122,647.

Government imports, which cover a wide field, including iron and steelware, sugar, machinery (excluding motor cars), coal and oil fuel, timber and railway sleepers, and cement, to take some of the leading items, show large decreases in respect of two items. Imports of machinery are £E76,015 down at £E117,761, while timber and railway sleepers figure at £E36,215 as compared with £E103,638. In public imports the principal increase is in respect of cotton piece-goods, the value being £E843,718 as against £E699,706. Here also a marked decrease is to be noted in respect of machinery, the value of the imports being £E93,628 as against £E136,736.

Cotton, of course, heads the list on the export side. The amount exported was 164,809 kantars, as compared with 174,546 kantars, but the value rose from £E1,387,919 to £E1,602,630. Othere notable increases in value were in respect of dura, sesame, ground nuts, cattle, and hides and skins. Gum and cotton seed both show more or less substantial decreases, the figures for gum being £E599,282 as against £E642,975, and those for cotton seed £E117,616 as against £E153,865.

SUDAN GUM EXPORTS.

The exports of gum from Port Sudan during September amounted to 951 tons of the value of £E37,296. This brings the export for the first nine months of this year to 15,114 tons of the value of £E636,845. For the corresponding period in 1924, the exports were 15,114 tons of the value of £E697,650.

SPECIAL MARKET REPORTS.

Hamadan, October 24.—The price for sugar per batman is: Belgian 10.85 krs.; Russian, 10.25 and 10.75 krs.; soft sugar, 9.50 krs. There is a very good demand for soft sugar, but there is no stock in hand.

Tea has been selling at 43.44 krs. Stocks are very short. The market in Manchester and Bombay cotton goods is firm. Matches are selling at 460 krs. per case. The market is firm. The market in spices is improving. Dates have realised 600 krs. per khalvar, but the market is falling. The market for gall nuts at 1,300 krs. per khalvar, is firm.

Mosul, October 24.—The rain which fell abundantly during the week encouraged cultivators to continue the sowing of their land which they had neglected this year.

The sheep market remains uncertain owing to the fact that Syrian merchants have not returned to Mosul. Some lots offered during the week for sale have been bought by native merchants.

National Insurance Companies.
"BALKAN FIRE AND MARINE"
(ESTABLISHED IN 1895)
"BALKAN LIFE AND ACCIDENT" and
General Re-Insurance Company, "BALKAN."
Capital - Leva 5,000,000 each.
Total Guarantee: Leva 100,045 000.
HEAD OFFICE:—SOFIA, BULGARIA

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street. S.W.)

THE SUDAN.

Hull and Cabin Work.—The Inspector-General of Irrigation, Sudan, Khartoum, invites tenders for the supply of hull and cabin work only for two launches. January 25.

Supplies.—The Inspector-General of Irrigation, Sudan, Khartoum, invites tenders for supplies required for the Floating Workshop "El Nasheet": (a) Electric generating set and fittings for electric light—supply only. (b) Oils and paints. Contractors may tender for one or both of the above groups. December 7.

EGYPT.

Clothing, Etc.— The Chief Inspector, Customs Administration, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of clothing, boots and tarboushes required during the year 1926-1927. February 5.

Water Supply Works.—Tenders are invited for the installation of water supply works for the Zifta Municipality. December 1. (D.O.T.)

Clothing, Etc.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lights, Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of clothing, tarboushes and boots required during the financial year 1926-1927. February 1.

Water Pipes.—Tenders are invited for the supplying and laying down of water pipes of various diameters and accessories at Zifta. December 3. (D.O.T.)

Hose Pipes.—The Superintendent of Stores, Saptia, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 1,250 hose pipes without couplings, 1,000 rolling rings and 9,060 joint rings. December 15.

Lock Bridge.—The Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, invites tenders for the construction of the new lock bridge over the Mahmoudia Canal at Alexandria. This bridge is designed with a superstructure for two railway tracks and a road bridge. It will be built on the existing masonry which will have to be modified in consequence. Tenderers may submit such offer as they deem best according to the information they may obtain from the general drawings of the Administration, suggesting three solutions of swing bridges and a solution of a lift bridge. February 16.

Paper and Stationery.—The Central Stationery Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of paper and stationery required for the year 1925-1926. January 9.

TURKEY.

Tenders are invited by the Chemin de Fer d'Anatolie-Baghdad for 3 crane wagons. December 31. (D.O.T.)

634 tons of senna were exported from the Sudan during the first nine months of this year as compared with 856 tons for the corresponding period of last year.

The Dublin Dockyard Co. (Messrs. Vickers-Ireland, Ltd.), has secured a contract for the construction of a tug and pilot vessel from the Bluff Harbour Board, New Zealand. The dimensions of the vessel will be 135 ft. by 30 ft. by 20 ft., and she will be fitted with twin-screw semi-Diesel machinery by Messrs. Vickers-Petters, capable of developing 1,200 b.h.p. Her speed on service will be 12 knots.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97⅛	97½
Athens	Drachmæ to £ ..	25 22½	366
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	273⅛
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.34½
Berne	Francs to £.....	25.22½	25.12 –15
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 3/16 –7/32
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	106.75—107.05
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	1.075
Budapest	Kronen to £	24 02	345-347,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 3/16—7 32
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	870—885
New York	Dollars to £	4 86 2-3	4.84½
Paris	Francs to £.....	25.22½	123.40—124.25
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	163½
Rome	Lire to £	25 22½	12'¼
Sofia.....	Leva to £	25.22½	665
Teheran	Krans to £	50	43
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	34.38½
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	32

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BULGARIAN NOTES.

(From Our Bulgarian Correspondent.)

Sofia, November 18.

Last week, the British Legation and the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs exchanged Notes, the tenour of which is that pending the signature of a commercial treaty, existing commercial relations between the two countries will continue as heretofore.

Bulgarian Exports for England.

Details have been published in the local Press of a scheme whereby vast quantites of Bulgarian dairy produce will be exported to England. The Ministry of Commerce has actively interested itself in this scheme which provides for 100,000 pigs being exported the first year, rising to half a million in the fifth year. An English company, whose capital, it is stated, will be over a million pounds sterling, will be formed to buy the pigs and other animals. The company will build slaughter-houses throughout Bulgaria and will arrange for a weekly service of ships between Varna and Bourgas and the principal British ports.

Such a scheme is greatly to be commended but there are several difficulties still to be surmounted, notably the question of granting credits to pig breeders and other farmers. In any case, as the newspapers say. "Once upon a time geese saved Rome. To-day pigs may perhaps save Bulgaria!"

GREEK REFUGEE LOAN.

Hambros Bank states that the revenues for the nine months ended September 30, assigned to the service of the Greek Government Seven per Cent. Refugee Loan, 1924, are as follows:—

	1925. Jan. to Sept. Drachmæ.	1924.* Whole year. Drachmæ.
New revenues (a) ...	530,360,573	541,397,112
Old revenues	1,196,787,798	1,428.681,881 and £14,982
Old revenues surplus (b)	(c)	735,819,000
Average approximate exchange drachmæ per £1	296.18	248.17
Nine months' service of loan at above exchange requires	204,919,538	—

* Adjusted definite figures. (a) The loan has a first charge on (b) these revenues and surplus. (c) No actual figures can be given until after the end of the year.

The Greek Government has given an order to Krupp Works, of Essen, for the minting of small coins to the value of 65,000,000 drachmæ. The alloy will consist of 70 per cent. copper, 20 per cent. nickel and 10 per cent. aluminium.

ANCHOR LINE

LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.

KARACHI via Bombay, calling at Gibraltar and Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS UPPER DECK CABINS.
MODERATE FARES.
RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT
Indian Government Vouchers accepted.

Passenger sailing dates:—

*SCINDIA, Nov. 27.	*SCINDA, Mar. 4.
*MASSILIA, Dec. 11.	*BRITANNIA, Mar. 16.
*ELYSIA, Dec 29.	*MASSILIA, Mar. 30.
*CIRCASSIA, Jany. 12, 1926.	*ELYSIA, April 13.
*CASTALIA, Feb. 2.	*CIRCASSIA, April 30.
*OLYMPIA, Feb. 19.	*CASTALIA, May 14.

*First class passengers only. Specially low fares.

ANCHOR LINE,
48, FENCHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

Shipping Intelligence.

NEW ELLERMAN LINES STEAMER.

The launch took place recently at the Central Shipyard of Messrs Wm. Gray and Co., Ltd., of the finely modelled, single-screw steamer, City of Leicester, built to the order of the Ellerman Lines, Ltd., Liverpool.

The vessel is of the one deck and shelter deck type, with tonnage opening, and is built to Lloyd's highest class. She has a cruiser stern, and is of the following dimensions: length, overall, 359 ft. 3 in.; breadth, extreme, 47 ft. 6 in: depth, moulded, 26 ft. The hull is built with deep bulk angle frames, cellular double bottom, and after and fore peak ballast tanks.

The cargo gear is of strong, up-to-date type for the rapid handling of cargo, consisting of fourteen derricks, ten 7 in. by 12 in. steam winches, a warping winch aft, and fitted for auxiliary steering, steam windlass, stockless anchors, steam steering gear, and telescopic topmasts.

SHIPPING AT PORT SUDAN.

The rapid expansion of the traffic at Port Sudan is borne out by the figures for September. Fifty-eight merchant vessels entered the harbour, their net tonnage being 196,404. The figures for the corresponding month in 1924 were 49 and 133,027, while for 1923 the figures were 39 and 96,664.

INDIAN SHIPPING.

The tonnage of vessels entered into British India and cleared outwards with cargoes from and to foreign countries and British Possessions during September amounted, respectively, to 583,000 and 615,000 as against 517,000 and 614,000 in August and 510,000 and 644,000 a year ago. The tonnage entered into and cleared from British India during the six months ending September was 3,363,000 and 4,029,000 respectively, as compared with 3,281,000 and 4,601,000 in the same period last year.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Massilia for Bombay (Liverpool, December 7). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mandasor for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, November 28).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Yorkshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, December 2).

British India Line.—S.s. Hatimura for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 5); s.s. Gharinda for Bombay and Karachi (London, December 19).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Brescia for Patras, Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Swansea, December 14).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Canton for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 1).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 5); s.s. Quenmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 26).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Ranchi for Bombay (London, December 11); s.s. Nankin for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 12).

Prince Line.—S.s. Tartar Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, and Beyrout (London, December 4).

The Delhi Umballa Kalka Railway Company has declared an interim dividend of 6 per cent., together with a bonus of 1 per cent. on the Ordinary stock, payable, less tax at 2s. 1d. in £, on January 25.

An Athens message states that an agreement has been signed between the Minister of Marine and a French group for the construction of three submarines of 710 tons each, delivered in two years. The price is £115,000 each.

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Motors and Motoring.

By G. B. B.

Need for Garages.

Leaving for a time the subject of overseas trade, one of the most burning questions of the day and one which must, sooner or later, be answered in a proper manner, is as to where the motorist, in London, can leave his car whilst paying a brief business visit, and, further, where he can leave the car during the day if he uses it merely to bring him up to town and to take him home at night. Unless the motor is to go largely if not altogether out of use as a means for travelling up to town and back, something will have to be done to solve the at present serious and daily growing more serious—problem of garaging.

There is a further aspect to the position. The comparative scarcity of garages is having a bad effect on the development of our light car industry, in that it is having a deterrent effect upon buyers. It must be remembered that a very considerable number of middle-class people to-day live in flats, half houses and apartments. There is no possibility of a garage being built as an adjunct to such premises in most cases. The result is that many thousands of potential car purchasers are debarred from buying even the lightest of light cars and, instead, depend on the various public service vehicles.

It is true that in many parts of the London suburban area great garages, capable of accommodating many dozens of cars each are springing into existence and, as fast as they are erected, they are filled with regular customers. With them, the idea is twofold. In the first place those people who motor up to town in the morning and go back at night can garage their cars, and in the second place the car-owners in the vicinity who have no garage of their own can make use of the accommodation thus provided. These big suburban garages are a great stride in the right direction, but they do not go far enough and I do not think they ever can go far enough. At the outside they can only deal with a comparatively few vehicles, and they do very little to mitigate that congestion, that over-crowding of vehicles due to the small amount of vehicular storage space available, which is so noticeable in London itself. What is wanted is a number of garages, in London, built on the plan which allows of the storage of motor-cars on any of a dozen floors or more, with lifts to hoist and to bring down the cars.

Hire Purchase.

Although this is not a system of purchase which is liked by the older school, there is no doubt it has come to stay and, equally, there is nothing unbusinesslike about it, carried out on proper lines, any more than there is about discounting a bill. There are a number of factors in the system which have to be taken into account, but provided they are properly considered and such allowances made as have to be made, the hire purchase system is as fair and equitable a system of buying as is the payment of spot cash. Quite a number of firms are open to sell their products on this system; indeed, I have the impression that any and every make of light car, at any rate, can be bought in this way, either direct from the makers or through an agent.

Further, it is by no means certain but that the immense development of hire purchasing has not had one good effect in that, in spite of the impression so many people have regarding it, it really teaches thrift. A man or woman buys a car by paying a certain sum down and promising to pay so much a month for a certain time. There is no getting away from the payments short of forfeiting the car or a portion of the money paid. Consequently the payments are kept up and in a year or so the purchaser finds he owns and has paid for, something that has an actual selling value of some few hundred pounds. Without the compulsion of keeping up his payments to the hire-seller, the man or woman in question would probably not have saved so large a sum in his lifetime!

Money for Nothing.

There is nothing at which the evil-minded small boy casts such envious eyes as he does at some one else's cherries. Just now the Chancellor is looking covetously at the monies of the Road Fund, a fund which consists of money taken from motorists for the express purpose of maintaining our present roads and building new ones. We were definitely and categorically promised by the Government when the motor taxes were imposed that the cash received should be used for certain clearly defined purposes, and knowing the money would be well spent in carrying out such purchases and relying on the common honesty of a Government, we paid the money. Now one of the most versatile of Chancellors tells us that no fund, no matter how many pledges have been made regarding it by Prime Ministers and Cabinet Ministers, is sacrosanct, and complains that as soon as he wishes to effect a national economy by taking the Road Fund money for other purposes, somebody starts grumbling. Of course any statement that would represent the using of the Road Fund money for anything other than that for which it was intended would be merely a terminological inexactitude. No housewife would think she was effecting a saving by taking money out of the bank to pay the butcher's bill. Any Chancellor who considers that he is effecting a great economy by laying hands on Road Fund monies could say regarding his office, in the words of one who, with all his faults, was a statesman: "I am a child in these things!"

This proposed misappropriation of the Road Fund, as of a part of it is not alone a motorists' matter. It affects every person in this country, in that the proper upkeep of the roads is essential to cheap transport. It affects cyclists, charabanc and motor omnibus passengers, shopkeepers, wholesalers, manufacturers and even statesmen who wish to go, by road, to spend week-ends in Bucks. Unless we keep up our roads our internal trade must decay.

Miscellaneous.

It is announced that the Coventry Chain Co., Ltd., has entered into an arrangement with Messrs. Brampton Bros. Ltd., the well-known chain manufacturers, by which subject to the approval of the shareholders concerned, the C.C.C., as it is generally called, will purchase all the ordinary shares of Brampton Bros., at an average price

INDIAN AFRICAN SERVICE.

Regular Passenger and Freight Service from

RANGOON, CALCUTTA, and COLOMBO

To BEIRA, DELAGOA BAY, DURBAN, EAST LONDON PORT ELIZABETH, MOSSEL BAY, and CAPE TOWN.

Excellent Passenger Accommodation.
Wireless Telegraphy.

ORIENTAL AFRICAN SERVICE

Passenger and Freight Service from

HONG KONG, BANGKOK, SINGAPORE & MAURITIUS To SOUTH AFRICAN PORTS.

Excellent Passenger Accommodation.
Wireless Telegraphy

Information for Freight and Passage may be obtained from the following:—

RANGOON—J. & F. Graham & Co.
CALCUTTA—Andrew Weir & Co.
COLOMBO—Skrine & Co.
BEIRA—Beira Shipping Agency.
DELAGOA BAY—John T. Rennie & Sons
DURBAN—Andrew Weir & Co.
EAST LONDON—Messrs. Dunn & Co.
PT. ELIZABETH—Mackie, Dunn & Co.
MOSSEL BAY—Messrs. E. Searle & Co.
CAPE TOWN—Thomson, Watson & Co.
HONG KONG—The Bank Line, Ltd.
BANGKOK—Siam Forest Co., Ltd.
SINGAPORE—Huttenbach Bros. & Co.
MAURITIUS—Adam & Co.

LONDON—ANDREW WEIR & CO., 21, Bury Street, E.C.3.

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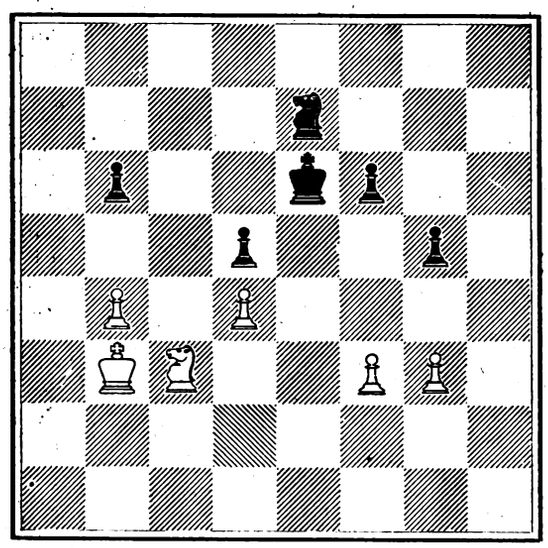
of £1 18s. 1d. per share; payment being partly in cash and partly by the allotment of C.C.C. shares.

In his recent speech at the All British Motor Show in Adelaide, the representative of the Association of British Motor Manufacturers said that no British manufacturer would hesitate to build for a Colonial market, but that it was hardly to be expected that he would build for one market alone. British manufacturers, he said, are now endeavouring to standardise a Colonial model which would also suit the home market.

Which manufacturer was it, I wonder, who first suggested a vehicle which should be equally suitable for Park Lane, London and the journey from Basra to Kut?

CHESS.

By "CARO-KANN."



Problem No. 23.

Black to play and win.

Solution to Problem No. 22:—1 . . . P—K5; 2, BxKt, PxP; 3, B—Q2, PxP; 4, K—B3, P—B5; 5, K—K2, P—B6; 6 B—B, P—Kt7 and wins.

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TURKEY.
Constantinople: H. D. Marianopoulos, Librairie Mondaine, 280, Grande Rue de Pera.

Cotton and Cotton Goods.

MANCHESTER COTTON MARKET.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Ottoman Bank for the week ending November 21, states:—

An exceedingly quiet week has been experienced in this market. Most transactions have been of a retail description and a feeling of disappointment prevails that the abundant supplies of raw cotton which are now assured have not produced the expansion in business which was so confidently expected.

Another report is due from the American Agricultural Bureau this afternoon and perhaps, in the absence of any better explanation, the hesitant tone of the market may be ascribed to that fact.

Yarn.—The imminence of the ballot on the question of increased short time appears to have encouraged spinners of American cotton to take a firmer stand on the matter of prices and quotations have been steadier than for some little time past. There is no improvement in the turnover.

There has been possibly a little more animation in the section using Egyptian cotton.

Cloth.—Business in piece-goods has been on a restricted scale and for none of the larger consuming centres has any exceptional business transpired. Such sales as have taken place have been usually for very small quantities. Some of the prices offered from India are said to be absurd. Only a moderate business has been done for China. The Near East and Egypt have contributed little to the week's total but on the other hand a fair amount of support has been received from Home trade.

Raw cotton.—Quotations for Americon cotton are very little changed on the week and fluctuations also have been within a narrow range. The Bureau Report to be published this afternoon is awaited with interest, but is not expected to record much change from the figures last published. There is only one further report to be published, due on December 8, and the markets will probably feel relieved when this also is out of the way.

Reports received regarding the Egyptian crop continue to be good and a very large yield seems to be assured. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows:—American Middling 10.60; Egyptian Fully Good Fair 20.00.

SUDAN COTTON GROWING.

The report of the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government, dated October 25, gives the following particulars:—

Blue Nile Province.—Prospects of the cotton crop in the Sennar and Hag Abdalla Districts are above the average. No cotton has been shown in Kamlin District and the areas sown in the Hassa Heissa, Rufaa and Wad Medani Districts are much less than the 1924 areas.

Kassala Province.—Southern District: Rainfall is still considerably below the average, but prospects are on the whole very fair, except within certain limited areas. The cotton crop at Mafaza is satisfactory. Gash Delta: Sowing is general.

The Fung Province, October.—A telegraphic report forecasts the cotton yield at between 19,500 and 22,500 kantars.

Mongalla Province.—Rejaf District: The crop, approximately 300 feddans, is reported as very fair, but backward. A report on the east bank areas states that some of the cotton has been sown on too light soil which, though suitable for dura, is too sandy to support much cotton. It also states that the natives are good tillers and remarks on their skill in utilising small plots of good soil lying between outcrops of rocks.

Red Sea Province.—The total area in Tokar watered by this year's flood is 31,000 feddans and it is estimated that 22,000 feddans will be under cotton. Of this total 12,000 feddans are sufficiently well watered to produce a normal crop without rain in the near future. This is the smallest flood for many years.

Upper Nile Province.—The inland Dinkas of the Melut District, who had not started cotton cultivation last year,

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have this year disposed of 49 sacks of seed and the crops are reported to be very promising. It is expected that the yield of this district will be about 310 kantars compared with 160 kantars in 1924. This is the first instance of inland cultivation in the Province and it will be interesting to see how the cultivators overcome the transport difficulty. It is considered that the cotton of Gelhak is the best in the Province.

Cotton Grown on Pumping Stations.

Berber Province.—Gendettu: Cotton is looking very well and some picking started on September 23. The plants are sturdy and well laden with bolls. There has been practically no boll shedding. Picking should be fairly general in the first decade of October on the north part of the station and towards the end of October on the south part. Kitiab: The cotton crop promises a fair yield. Picking started in the Gezireh on September 29, but no cotton has been brought into store yet. Bouga: The cotton crop is satisfactory and picking should commence towards the end of October. Mikeilab: All cotton has germinated very well.

Dongola Province.—Nuri: Cotton looks promising and is flowering very well. Gureir: Cotton on the whole is looking very good indeed. It is now flowering and, on the earlier sown, bolls are well formed. It gives every promise of being a very good crop except in very exposed places where plants have been destroyed by "haboobs." Ghaba: Cotton is looking very well; most of it is in flower and some bolls have formed.

THE EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company in their report for the week ended Novembre 12, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has been rather erratic; at the close Sakel showed great weakness, while Ashmouni finished relatively firm. The net changes on the week are the following: Sakellaridis, 2.19 dollars down for November, 1.71 dollars down for January, 1.70 dollars down for March, 1.80 dollars down for May, 1.80 dollars down for July, 2.10 dollars down for November 1926; Ashmouni, 0.18 dollars up for December, 0.10 dollars up for February, 0.10 dollars up for April, unchanged for October 1926.

The period under review opened with fairly quiet markets. On the 9th instant, a new estimate of the American crop was published, the figure given being 15,386,000 bales against 15,226,000 bales a fortnight ago, and as this figure was distinctly larger than the market expected heavy selling, both speculative and commercial followed.

The relative firmness of Ashmouni must be attributed to the recovery of New York during the last two days, and to the fact that at the decline the trade came in and bought heavily, apparently in cover of sales, especially to America, made during the last few weeks and left unhedged until now.

The demand from abroad has been fairly good, and whereas up to now the proportion of sales of Ashmouni has been larger than that of Sakel, we think that the reverse has been the case this week. The drop in Sakel prices seems to have re-awakened interest, as considerable purchases have been made by spinners during the last few days. On the second tender day of November 500 kantars dockets were issued.

The Government has bought a further few hundred bales of Sakel, but what is incomprehensible is the fact that they bought when prices were fairly firm and withdrew when the market became demoralised. Nothing further has been heard about the projected restriction of acreage.

Our opinion on the market is that prices have now reached fairly reasonable levels, and we would advise caution. Concerning Sakel, one must not lose sight of the fact that spinners' purchases to date have been very small, that the Government may continue and even increase its purchases of the better qualities and, finally, that there is a considerable proportion of "mixed" cotton which is untenderable against contracts, all of which factors should tend to prevent any further serious decline in prices. The week's receipts amount to 338.072 krs. against exports 312,432 krs.; the stock stands at 1,752.260 krs.

Spot: Minet Bassal has been fairly busy this week and sales amount to about 27,700 bales of which we estimate 14,300 bales Sakel, 19950 bales Uppers, 1,800 bales Zagora, 400 bales Pilion, 50 bales Brown and 200 bales White. The Egyptian Government has bought during the week about 1,100 bales Sakel from Fully Good Fair to about Good.

Sakellaridis: A good business has been done and all styles have been dealt in, with medium grades attracting most attention. With the exception of cotton below Good Fair, which is not yet in plentiful supply, spot differences are generally rather easier.

Ashmouni and Zagora: have been in good request and all grades have changed hands. Spot differences are without change.

Pilion: has been in fair demand for all grades without any change in spot differences from last week's rates.

Brown: A retail business has been done at last week's rates.

White: A fair business has been done without much change from last week's parities.

Crop 1925: Picking having been completed, there is nothing further to say under this heading.

The October report on the state of the river published by the Ministry of Public Works states:—"Everywhere the river is very low and the prospects for next low season are very poor." Although the low state of the river is not cheering, we think that it is premature to predict a shortage of water during next summer.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

ANGLO-BELGIAN OF EGYPT.

An extra-ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Belgian Company of Egypt has been called for December 1, when the directors will propose the reduction of the issued 69,138 shares of £5 each by £2 10s. per share. Upon the reduction being made, the capital will be increased by the creation of £1,000,000 by additional shares of £2 10s. each.

TEA COMPANIES.

The Chargola Tea Association announces an interim ordinary dividend of 3½ per cent. (less tax).

The Jaipur Tea Company has declared an interim dividend of 7½ per cent., less tax.

The Baraoora (Sylhet) Tea Company has declared an interim dividend of 5 per cent., less tax.

The Jhanzie Tea Association has declared an interim dividend of 10 per cent., less tax.

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Rangoon and Ceylon Tea has been registered as a private company with a captal of £500, in 1s. shares. The objects are to carry on the business of cultivators of tea, coffee, cinchona, rubber and other produce, etc. The regist ered office is at St. Stephens House, Westminster, S.W.

The second rice crop estimate for Burma shows an increase of 565,000 acres over the corresponding acreage of last year, but a decrease of 230,000 on the actual matured area of last year.

Bonds drawn for repayment and coupons falling due December 1, of the Roumania Four per Cent. External Loan, should be presented for payment at the counting-house of Helbert Wagg and Co., Ltd., 41, Threadneedle Street, E.C.2.

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The NEAR EAST AND INDIA

A Weekly Review of the Politics and Commerce of the Balkan Peninsula, Turkey, Egypt, and the Sudan, Syria, Palestine, Arabia, Iraq, Persia and India

No. 760.—Vol. XXVIII. Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1925. Price 6d. Postage 1d.

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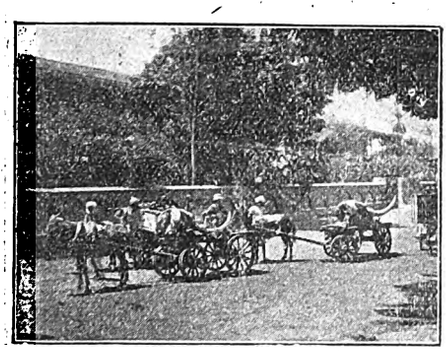

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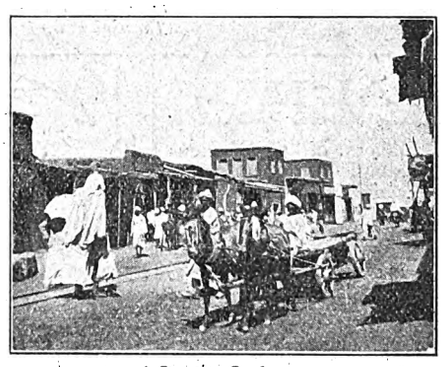

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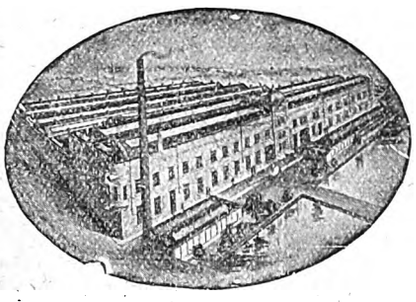
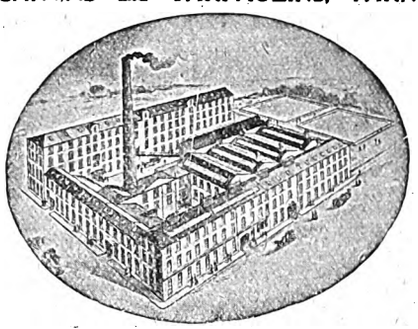
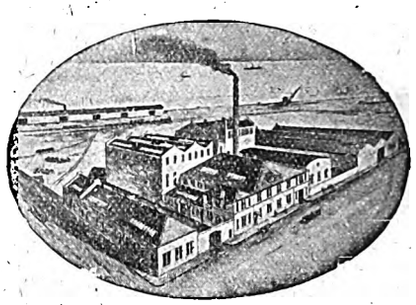

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THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

No. 760.—VOL. XXVIII. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1925.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	Page
NOTES OF THE WEEK	673
SPECIAL LETTERS—	
Egypt	676
Albania	677
Yugoslavia	678
Iraq	679
Persia	680
Cyprus ...	681
LEADING ARTICLE—	
The Situation in Egypt ...	675
THE WEEK AT HOME	684
PERSONAL AND GENERAL ...	685
BOOK REVIEWS	686
INDIAN AFFAIRS—	
Hindu Moslem Antagonism ...	687
Current Topics	688
Special Letter : Calcutta ...	689
Indian Mail	690
Commercial Notes	692
Indian Exchange ...	692
COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
Notes and News	693
Shipping Intelligence	696
Company Notes and Reports ...	696
Cotton and Rice in Iraq ...	698
Near East Markets	699
Motors & Motoring. By G. B. B.	697
Chess	701
Cotton and Cotton Goods ...	700

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

Sir Austen Chamberlain, K.G.

The exceptional honour conferred on the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs is a merited tribute not only to his success in connexion with the Locarno Pact, but also to the strength of character and tact that he has shown in the exercise of the wider duties of his post. In no part of the world does personality count for more than in the East, and we look confidently to his tenure of office to mark the complete restoration of British prestige in the Near and Middle East.

Turkey and Iraq.

The final stages in the protracted negotiations between Great Britain and Turkey over the Iraq frontier will be reached next week, when the Council of the League of Nations will have to deliver its verdict. For a definite delimitation it will be necessary that the members of the Council—representatives of France, Italy, Japan, Belgium, Sweden, Czecho-Slovakia, Brazil and Uruguay—should be unanimous; if they cannot achieve unanimity, they will be obliged under the ruling of The Hague Tribunal to refrain from delivering judgment on the question, and the controversy will continue, with Iraq, supported by Britain, on one side of the Brussels Line and the Turks on the other. In the light of the Turkish attitude towards the arbitration a Brussels Line decision or the announcement that the members of the Council are unable to agree among themselves would have practically the same result. Turkey will protest that she must have Mosul and will continue to spread abroad reports of her preparations for war. The hard logic of facts, however, will be against her. The most interested spectators of these warlike measures will be the Kurds, recently reduced to submission, and the people of Erzeroum, where it has been necessary to proclaim martial law. There must have been very bad staff work in Moscow to allow Russian spies in Erzeroum to attract the attention of the Turkish authorities to their activities at a moment when the Soviet Government was encouraging Turkey to push her quarrel with Great Britain to extremes. This outbreak in a fanatical district will have occurred opportunely, we may hope, to prevent the Turks from committing themselves irrevocably as the catspaws of Soviet intrigue. Even if a campaign for the conquest of the Mosul vilayet were an easy matter at this season of the year, there would be no enthusiasm in Turkey for the war, and the least mischance would certainly have unpleasant consequences for the Angora Government. It will have done its best to obtain Mosul; but if the fates are against it on this point, it is surely better to bow to the inevitable with as much grace as possible, and to turn the controversy to some profit by enlisting the help that Britain is willing and anxious to give the Turks in other directions.

Turkey in Transition.

Although there would seem to be no real reason for investing the Mosul controversy with all the terrible consequences that have been predicted for it in some quarters, the protracted negotiations over this question are to be doubly deplored, if only on the ground that they have prevented the very considerable amount of good will for the Turks that exists in Great Britain from being mobilised at this time on their behalf. Had it not been for the largely artificial fuss made in Angora over Mosul, which has not been under Turkish jurisdiction for over seven years, the occasion would not have arisen for the reversion to the cold-blooded cruelty of pre-Republican days as exemplified in the treatment of the luckless inhabitants living near the Brussels Line. Almost simultaneously with General Laidoner's report on these outrages the world is informed that a Bill is to be submitted by the Cabinet to the Turkish Parliament embodying the most up-to-date provisions of labour legislation on the lines that commend themselves to the League of Nations. It is difficult to reconcile two such contradictory aspects of

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the Turkish character. The outbreak of trouble in Erzeroum and the Black Sea littoral shows that the path of reform is not to be trodden easily and that Turkey needs complete respite from external complications as well as a helping hand from foreign capital. Unless, however, the Angora Government can make up its mind to close the Mosul incident and to take definite action in restoring friendly relations with Great Britain, the long furrow that it has set itself to plough in embarrassed isolation may prove too much for its resources.

Assyrian Refugees in Iraq.

Although the Turks refused to allow the representatives of the League of Nations to visit villages on their side of the Brussels Line, General Laidoner's Mission has been able to obtain a clear view of what has been happening across the border from the victims who have escaped from Turkish attention and taken refuge in Iraq. Nothing in the attitude of the Angora Government during the whole Mosul controversy has been so inexplicable as its treatment of Assyrian Christians at the very moment when the attention of Europe was fixed on this part of the world, and a Commission of the League of Nations had virtually suggested that, whatever else might be taken from them, the Turks might be trusted with jurisdiction over the Assyrians. The effect of this sudden act of persecution must have been foreseen, unless indeed the Angora authorities were so ignorant of the terrain that they imagined that a clean round-up of the people could be effected without the chance of any escaping. For the moment, however, Great Britain's concern is more for the fate of the Assyrians in Iraq than for an explanation of Turkey's strange behaviour. A fortnight ago it was reported that provision had to be made for more than five thousand destitute Nestorians and three thousand destitute Chaldaeans, with refugees still arriving daily. An appeal comes from Iraq, endorsed by Sir Henry Dobbs, British High Commissioner, for £100,000, as in addition to the food required for nine thousand or more people for five months, money is needed for clothing and shelter.

Compromise in Greece.

A fortnight ago the basis of a possible working agreement between Venizelists and Anti-Venizelists in Greece was outlined in these pages, and it was suggested that the only practical way of arriving at a solution of the political tangle was a round-table conference of the party leaders. This gathering has since taken place under the auspices of General Pangalos, the Prime Minister, and the attitude of the Anti-Venizelists towards the Republic was defined on the lines that we then adumbrated. It was hardly to be expected that a political alliance between the two parties would be reached at the first conference, but some useful ground was covered. General Pangalos appears to have been so far satisfied with the progress make towards reconciliation in Greece that it is announced that the freedom of the Press is to be completely restored and that those arrested for political offences will be released. The Venizelists set store on having the elections of the Chamber before those of the Senate, which has been called into existence again by the new Constitution after an interval of sixty-three years, during which period Greece has been content with a single-Chamber Parliament. On this point, however, General Pangalos refused to yield and let it be known that the elections would take place on the dates fixed, those for the Senate on January 10, those for the Chamber on March 7.

Italy and Yugoslavia.

In spite of the treaty that, by settling the Fiume question, was supposed to place the relations between Italy and Yugoslavia on a permanently satisfactory basis, it is evident that there is a quantity of inflammable material on either side of the Adriatic, towards which excitable people in each country make a point from time to time of directing their oratorical fireworks. Immediately after the settlement of the incident arising out of the attack on the offices of the Slovene paper in Trieste and the subsequent anti-Italian demonstrations in Yugoslavia, M. Stephan Raditch, the new Minister for Education in the Yugoslav Cabinet, made some unflattering references to Fascism in a speech that he delivered in Liubliana. Now whatever the advantages of Fascism to Italy, it has never been at pains to adopt a conciliatory attitude towards Yugoslavia, if every now and then what appears to be semi-official expressions of Fascist opinion in regard to international affairs grate on their nerves. Thus, when the Prefect of Zara declares that all Dalmatia must ultimately come under Italy, and the Fascist Press, both semi-official and unofficial, implies the same and worse, Yugoslav public opinion not unnaturally takes offence, and verbal retaliation is bound to follow. It was unfortunate that M. Raditch should have exposed the Yugoslav Government to any legitimate protest from Italy; but in matters of this kind the peace can be kept only by rigorous self-restraint on both sides, and Europe has the right to expect that an example will be set in the highly disciplined forces of Fascism.

Britain and the Hejaz.

The letter that we published last week from the Prime Minister of Great Britain to ex-King Hussein was a reply to the communication from the latter, which was published in full in our issue of September 10. Perhaps the most interesting part of Mr. Baldwin's reply is the statement that the British Government asked the Sultan of Nejd whether he would accept its good offices in an endeavour to reach a settlement of the differences between the Hejaz and Nejd. Sultan Ibn Saoud rejected this offer, and nothing more can be done in the matter, as far as Great Britain is concerned, unless and until both parties spontaneously invite her mediation. The attitude of the ruler of Nejd is that he will not make peace so long as a member of the Shereefian family holds power in the Hejaz. He appears to be in no hurry to conclude the "war" between the two countries, relying on the state of stalemate that has existed for some time to work the undoing of King Ali. In the meantime the negotiations undertaken by Sir Gilbert Clayton for the delimitation of the frontier of Nejd and Transjordan on the one side, and of Nejd and Iraq on the other have been carried to a successful issue, and Sultan Ibn Saoud's quarrel with King Ali has not impaired his relations with Great Britain. Unless King Ali's resources give way or his followers take the bit between their teeth, the most likely agent for bringing the comparatively peaceful war to an end would be united action on the part of Islam, if that could be contrived.

Owing to the rising of the River Save floods have been caused in the neighbourhood of Brod, and 200 families have been rendered homeless. In the Zagreb area dykes have been broken and considerable damage caused.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1925.

THE SITUATION IN EGYPT.

That at this particular season of the year there should be a "certain liveliness" in Egyptian politics is not to be wondered at. The close season that normally coincides with the long Egyptian summer is over; the Prime Minister himself has only recently returned from a tour in Europe extending over several months, during which important Ministerial changes took place as a result of the withdrawal of the Liberal Constitutionalists from the Coalition Government, and the rearrangement of the Cabinet that followed was necessarily of a tentative nature. Ziwar Pasha would hardly have taken office when he did, if he had not been a man of strong character, and he could be relied upon to form his own judgment on what had been done while he was out of the country, and, if action were necessary, to take it. Zaghloul Pasha, on the other hand, with his ever ready battalions behind him, is too shrewd a politician not to make a point of testing the strength of the Prime Minister's position before he has time to consolidate it. The opportunity was the more favourable, because the Liberal Constitutionalists had broken with the Government and a sound stroke of policy might definitely aline them with the Zaghloulists in formal opposition to the Unionists. There could be no more suitable ground for joint action than in defence of the Constitution, which in the opinion of both parties had been violated, in general by the Government's apparent resolve to dispense indefinitely with Parliament, and in particular by the recently promulgated Law of Political Associations. While, however, the intention of the Liberals was to defend the Constitution constitutionally, the Zaghloulists considered themselves hampered by no such restrictions, and Zaghloul Pasha himself has made too much use of mob pressure in the past to be able easily to abandon it as a political weapon. The decision, therefore, to hold in public on the day when Parliament ought to have met a meeting of the Assembly that had been dissolved may be attributed to the Zaghloulists. It was a clear challenge to disturbances, and if the plan had been carried out, it could hardly have failed to lead to grave disorders. The Government, however, proved true to its reputation. It prohibited the meeting, and, by leaving no doubt as to its determination to prevent it by force, convinced Zaghloul Pasha that he stood to gain nothing in that direction. The public demonstration was abandoned, but a private meeting of Zaghloulists was held and was attended by the Liberals. This meeting, although at one in its denunciation of what was considered to be the Government's unconstitutional tendencies, could not agree upon a common formula of protest, and it was left to the two parties to draw up separate resolutions on the subject.

On this first trial of strength between the Zaghloulists and the Ziwar Government the honours seem to rest with the latter. The Prime Minister, however, can hardly be satisfied with the position. With the Liberals against him he cannot pretend to be governing the country otherwise than by a minority, and, if in these circumstances he appeals to the country, he cannot hope to survive the first meeting of Parliament. Whatever may have been the truth regarding the experiences of the members of the Liberal Constitutionalist Party who served in the Coalition Ministry under Ziwar Pasha, the official basis of the Party's antagonism to-day is the dissolution of Parliament without provision made for the holding of fresh elections. If, as is expected, the Government can reassure the Liberals on this point and disabuse their mind of any desire on the Part of Unionists to govern unconstitutionally, it might yet be possible for the breach to be healed. The folly of the quarrel between the two parties who combined to save Egypt from the evil effects of Zaghloul Pasha's crazy policy is so great, that it is little wonder that so many Egyptians are ready to attribute the breach to some sinister influence actively engaged in creating open sores in the political world. In matters of this kind many allegations are likely to be made that have no foundation in fact. If, however, Hassan Pasha Nashaat, King Fuad's chief adviser and political confidant, has gained a reputation for interference in the political affairs of the country, it will be only because he has lent himself to the accusation. There can be little doubt that his actions, or rather the activities popularly attributed to him, are widely resented, although politicians out of office will not protest against them so long as they are directed to the inconvenience of the Government. His high position at Court almost precludes the possibility of his being able to interfere in politics of his own accord, and the inference is left to be drawn that King Fuad must be ill-served by his advisers if he has not been informed of the prejudice done to the Throne by allowing the impression to gain ground that Egyptian politics are again, as in the days of the Khedive Ismail, to be at the mercy of a Court camarilla.

It must be admitted, however, that the situation presents some baffling features. The Ittehadists, or Unionists, who form the present Government, are usually regarded as owing the formation of their party to the prompting of Court circles, and it seemed as though their breach with the Constitutionalists was designed to give them a free hand in the government of the country. It has, as we have seen, strengthened the Opposition, and at the very moment when as a result the Government is embarrassed, come reports that all is not well between the Cabinet and the Court. To the outside observer it will seem, if these reports have any foundation in fact, that the tendency of any direct participation that there may have been in Court circles to interfere in Egyptian politics has been to promote political discord by playing off one party against another. History is full of instances of the danger attaching to this game for those who indulge in it. Apart from Egypt's own experiences, it will be recalled that one of the rulers who lost his throne as a result of the War had previously earned an unedifying reputation for this particular method of trying to keep both the politics of the country and the politicians subservient to himself. He was credited with the possession of a dossier of the records, compiled with the most intimate details, of every politician, and of using his knowledge when occasion arose. Certain it is that in that State political stability was a thing unknown. Both from a personal point of view and for the injury done to the country the system is not one to be imitated in Egypt. If, on the other hand, it is not the case that differences of opinion have arisen between the Egyptian Government and the Court, then the action of a number of Princes of the Royal House in presenting a memorial to King Fuad in support of the resolutions against the Government passed by the protest meeting of the Opposition on November 21 acquires special significance. The manner of their reception by King Fuad suggests that the Princes are not lending themselves to political intrigue, but are genuinely concerned over the trend of events in Egypt. The capacity already shown by deputies elected to Parliament for changing from one party to another is a further indication of the risk that a Sovereign may run by identifying himself with one political party. Three years ago it was an open boast of the Zaghloulists that one of their first acts on obtaining power would be to bring about a change in the occupancy of the Throne. This attitude was abandoned when the time came, for Zaghloul Pasha's followers obediently took up a different cry. What once has been, however, may be again. On one point Zaghloulists, Ittehadists and Constitutionalists would be agreed, that the only way in which the Throne can be sure of keeping intact the esteem and loyalty of the Egyptian people is by holding itself severely aloof from all party politics.

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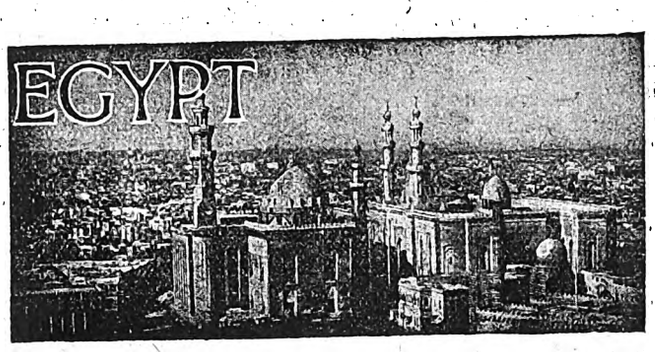

Cairo, November 22.

Governmental Precautions.

Taking a walk round Cairo streets yesterday morning one was surprised to find that the Government apparently thought the peaceful city to be on the brink of revolution. Extraordinary precautions had been taken to prevent the Opposition deputies and Senators from carrying out their proposal to meet and discuss the present political situation. "Opposition Deputies" is, of course, not a strictly correct term, because since the late Chamber was dissolved, these are merely ex-Deputies. But the Opposition refuses to consider the second dissolution as legal, and therefore maintains that Parliament has existed continuously, but has been prevented by force from assembling. Article 96 of the Constitution lays down that "Parliament is convoked each year by the King in ordinary session before the third Saturday of November. In default of being summoned to meet, it assembles by its own right on the latter date." It was in declared conformity with this Article that the Opposition arranged their meeting.

The Government, as already mentioned, took extraordinary precautions against disorder. The proposed assembly was declared to be illegal, whether held inside or outside of Parliament House, and the Minister of the Interior announced that he would, if necessary, employ military force to the utmost to prevent the meeting from being held. On Friday afternoon two battalions of infantry were moved in from Abbassia and camped in the grounds of Abdin Palace. A strong military guard was posted in the Parliament grounds, the buildings themselves being locked and bolted, and the keys, placed in a sealed bag, handed over to the Commandant of Police. On Saturday morning other powerful detachments of troops took up positions completely surrounding the Parliament area, which was forbidden to the public, some nine or ten streets being closed to traffic. The grounds of the Ministry of Public Works fairly bristled with bayonets of the reserve, held in readiness to proceed to any point attacked. Most of the police and Buluk Gaffar had been concentrated in that quarter of the town, and patrols, mounted, in motor-cars and on foot, were constantly passing and repassing through every street within a mile of Parliament.

The Opposition Deputies.

And while all this imposing display of force was vastly interesting American tourists, vainly trying to understand the position from the explanations of dragomans who themselves had only the vaguest ideas of what it was all about, the real business of the day was quietly going forward in quite another part of the city. In the Continental-Savoy Hotel the whole of the Opposition Deputies, some 170 in number, and approximately sixty Senators, had gathered without let or hindrance from the police outside, and had proceeded with their business in exactly the same way as if they had been a normal, lawful combined session of the two Chambers. Zaghloul Pasha had left his house, surrounded by troops who had made no attempt to stop his going out, and had joined his supporters and temporary allies, who immediately elected him President of the Assembly, appointing as Vice-Presidents Mohammed Pasha Mahmoud, one of the Liberal Constitutional Party's leaders, and Dr. Abdel Hamid Bey Said, a prominent Nationalist, thus emphasising the unity of the gathering to be a lawful assembly, expressing complete lack of confidence in the present Government which was described as having consistently flouted the Constitution, which the gathering pledged itself to defend "with our lives and blood, if necessary," and agreeing to meet again at a time and place to be communicated secretly to those present.

The Government's Embarrassment.

In a way, therefore, the Opposition has scored heavily over the Government. The prohibited meeting has been held, despite threats and a great display of force. The Government's policy has been discussed and condemned and unity, at least for the purpose of the present movement, has been attained between the three Opposition Parties. Yesterday's gathering has declared its intention of meeting again, and no doubt it can and will reassemble, and again advertise its defiance of the Government, unless the Cabinet decides upon the drastic course of arresting all those who participated. This might in a measure re-establish the Ministry's prestige, but it would be a most embarrassing decision to have to take and would certainly play into the Opposition's hands by investing all the defiant deputies and Senators with the brightly luminous haloes of political martyrs. There is nothing that Zaghloul Pasha and his friends would like better at the present moment than to be arrested, and for that reason it may be supposed that they will be left at liberty. But, clearly something ought to be done, for a Government cannot allow itself to be frequently flouted in the manner

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of yesterday. What actually will be done is a matter of unprofitable speculation.

Tutankhamen Again.

In between political excitements there have been the thrilling descriptions of the latest finds in the tomb of Tutankhamen. The Ministry of Public Works, after at first displaying an undue reticence in its bulletins has during the past week issued a series of excellent statements, giving full descriptions of the new discoveries, and there is no doubt that this new method of keeping the world informed of the progress of the work is much to be preferred to the intense inter-newspaper rivalry of past seasons. From hints dropped by earnest archæologists, it looks as though the centre of popular interest in Egyptology may shortly be moved from Luxor to nearer Cairo. Despite difficulties presented by the dangerous nature of the shaft leading into the tomb of the Seneferu period which Dr. Reisner discovered near the Great Pyramid, work is being resumed there, and a gang of a hundred sturdy workmen from Thebes has arrived to help with the excavations, for which sufficient skilled labour cannot be found in Lower Egypt. Everyone expects that this tomb is going to rival in historical if not spectacular interest that of Tutankhamen, while there are also rumours of other important discoveries that may be made in the near future. One way and another, politically and archæologically, Egypt seems to be in for plenty of unpaid advertisement.

ALBANIA.

Tirana, November 19.

The Political Situation.

The political situation remains stationary. All hope of reconciliation between Ahmet Bey Zogu and the extreme Opposition Parties (the groups led by Mgr. Fan Noli and M. Mustapha Kruja on the one hand, and by MM. Petsi and Ali Klissura, known as the "National Union," on the other) has become out of the question. And the fault is entirely with these groups. Ahmet Zogu has shown himself ready to forget and to forgive. Nobody is more anxious than he to rally to the service of the State all men of experience and good will, from whatever party origins they may spring. He has held out the olive branch; and those who have disdained to accept it, will have only themselves to blame if, as a result, they are excluded from taking any part in the life of their country for many years to come.

Co-operation with Ahmet Zogu.

The more moderate elements of the Opposition are gradually coming to realise the advisability of recognising the present régime and of seeking to co-operate with Ahmet Zogu. Many of them—especially those belonging to the class of officials and school teachers—have already availed themselves of the recent armistice and have returned to Albania; and Ahmet Zogu has in many cases restored these to their former posts, thus showing his determination both to be generous and to put aside party considerations, in the desire to make as many competent persons available for the service of the State. It is interesting to observe how many of these returned exiles feel agreeably surprised at the condition of the country. They are discovering that Ahmet Zogu is not the blood-stained, unscrupulous tyrant they imagined him to be, but rather the strong man, with a gift for leadership, which their country requires. It is to be sincerely hoped that the remainder of the Moderates will follow their example and avail themselves of the terms of the armistice before the time limit expires.

The Problem of Reconciliation.

M. Eshref Frasheri, having failed in his attempt to reconstruct the Clique and having compromised himself in the attempt, since his friends in exile published their violent and ill-timed manifesto, has dropped out of the picture altogether. As for the efforts of M. Mehmet Konitza and M. Fasli Frasheri to arrange terms by which a definite reconciliation could be brought about between Ahmet Zogu and those who look to M. Faik Konitza as their leader, they may be said to have been allowed to slide. It is felt that with this group reconciliation will come gradually, and that it is wiser to leave it thus. Time is the best healer, where differences are not fundamental. Meanwhile, Ahmet Zogu appears stronger than before. He is gaining strength and prestige slowly but surely. His difficulties are immense, chiefly owing to the mutual jealousy which animates the vast majority of Albanian public men. There are few who can be trusted to co-operate with him loyally. There are few who can be relied upon not to play for their own hands (and to forget the interests of their country and their sense of loyalty in the process) whenever an opportunity presents itself.

This is the curse of the land, and there appears to be nobody except Ahmet Zogu who is able to make any headway against it. For the present, therefore, he is quite indispensable.

In this connection it is regrettable to have to announce the resignation from the Ministry of M. Tutulani, Minister of Justice, on the grounds of ill-health. The latter is a man of exceptional integrity. He is not a leader of men, but he is a conscientious and competent administrator, and his loss is generally deplored. No successor has yet been appointed.

Captain Shearme.

Universal regret is felt at Tirana at the news of the death of Captain Shearme, the Anglo-Persian Oil Company's representative, to whom the chief credit is due for the successful issue of the negotiations between the company and the Albanian Government. During the long months which he spent at Tirana, pressing the company's claims with infinite patience and consummate tact, he won the respect of all with whom he came in contact and made a great number of friends. The announcement of his death in London as the result of an operation came as a great shock; and widespread sympathy has been expressed for his charming wife, who spent some considerable time here with her husband.

German Air Service.

A German company, known as the "Aero Lloyd," has started a regular air service between Tirana and Scutari, Tirana and Koritza, and Tirana-Valona-Koritza. There are two machines in the service, which takes place twice weekly for each of the routes. Thus Koritza can now be reached from the capital within the space of one hour, whereas by road and mule track the journey takes four days! The machines carry the mails and four passengers each. On account of the great saving of time, the service has been largely patronised in spite of the high fares; and the company announces for next summer a considerably extended service.

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Liubliana, November 24.

The Prospects of M. Raditch.

While Dr. Koroshets, leader of the Slovene People's Party, was away on a propagandist tour in Croatian Dalmatia and Herzegovina in the hope of winning adherents from among M. Raditch's followers there, M. Stefan Raditch retaliated by paying a visit to Dr. Koroshets's domain of Slovenia for the purpose of waging a campaign there against the Slovene People's Party.

Who is likely to be the victor in this tussle? Dr. Koroshets's weapons are the Catholic idea and the mistakes of the centralist administration of Yugoslavia. M. Raditch is only a politician, and his one weapon is the peasant democracy, which is to bring harmony into the policy of the State and thereby render possible the wholesome development of all resources, mental and material, of the nation. Dr. Koroshets appeals to tradition, deep-rooted and strong; M. Raditch appeals to the soul of the people, and that in an exceedingly able manner. If, furthermore, one remembers that it is much easier for a Croat to speak in Slovenia than for a Slovene to hold an audience in Dalmatia or Herzegovina, it must admitted that on the whole M. Raditch's prospects appear to be better.

Of course, the victory will not be easy; there was probably never a politician so decried in Slovenia as M. Raditch has been. In almost all Slovene newspapers he was depicted as the worst of demagogues. No one had a good word to say for him. All Slovenia was prejudiced against M. Stefan Raditch, and herein lay the strength of his opponents.

A Man of the People.

By the speech he delivered at the *Narodni Dom* in Liubliana on Sunday, November 22, M. Raditch thoroughly dispelled this prejudice. The big hall was packed with members of all parties, among whom M. Raditch's own adherents formed an insignificant majority. M. Raditch's mere entrance furnished his opponents with the first surprise. It was so unaffected. Not a trace of any tendency to the theatrical was noticeable. The audience saw before it a man of the people, but one who has unsuspected depths of knowledge at his disposal and has the art of addressing himself straight to the mind of his listener.

Frankly and clearly M. Stefan Raditch explained the genesis of the Understanding between his party and the Radicals, and the impression produced by it abroad. He pointed out, emphatically, that the negotiations for this Understanding had passed directly between himself and M. Pashitch. So great had been the impression produced abroad, that the Understanding had been a necessity of State. No one would alter that policy, because no one could alter it. With practical examples quoted from everyday life he demonstrated the necessity of compromise—and the Understanding is a compromise urgently needed. The policy of the strong hand as advocated by M. Pribitchevitch was bound to suffer shipwreck, because no one can by force be constrained to love. It had also become evident that the opposition of the Croats could not be broken.

Supremacy of the Peasants.

An Understanding was the only way out—an Understanding based upon the political unity of the State and upon peasant democracy. Eighty per cent. of the population of Yugoslavia is engaged in agricultural pursuits. If the State is to live and flourish, it must pursue an agrarian policy resting on the following principles:—The foundation of all classes is the peasant class. By it the entire population is fed. It furnishes the men for the Army and preserves the national culture. The other classes are only helpers, whereas the peasant class must be the pillar supporting the State's policy. But this policy must follow a course which accords with the demands of Western culture. Pacifism, social justice, and the safeguarding of national rights are the chief demands of the new policy of the West. Therefore M. Raditch declared himself altogether in favour of the League of Nations, and of the work done by M. Albert Thomas at the League. The national principle as understood by M. Raditch is, of course, widely removed from chauvinism; it has, in fact, nothing in common with it. He demands only that all Yugoslavs be spiritually united (it is by this time generally known that Italy has deprived her Yugoslav subjects of all national rights) and that the policy pursued should spring from the soul of the people. The national will must be sung by the poet, but put into practice by the politician.

Relations with Italy.

In so far as M. Raditch's speech contained references to the relations between Italy and Yugoslavia, it led to a diplomatic protest on the part of Italy, but without any reasonable cause. M. Raditch dwelt upon the fact that Yugoslavia is allied by a pact of friendship with Italy: but that this pact must lose greatly in value if it is constantly reiterated in Italy that Dalmatia must become Italian and that Italy is too far from Zagreb and Liubliana. One does not think of encroaching upon one's neighbour's territory, said M. Raditch; but neither would one suffer encroachment of one's own on the part of Italy. M. Raditch spoke with sympathetic appreciation of the Italian people; that he could not praise the Fascists is only too easily understood. Let the Fascists but pursue a different policy, and the former sympathies with Italy will revive.

M. Raditch's Increased Prestige.

The impression produced by M. Raditch's speech was very great. Before his appearance upon the platform of the *Narodni Dom* there was plenty of jeering and whistling by adherents of the People's Party; after his speech there was no more of either.

As has been said before, M. Raditch has overcome the prejudice which existed against him in Slovenia. He has done even more. He has won the esteem of his opponents. He has become a political factor, and for a first appearance this means a considerable success.

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IRAQ.

Baghdad, November 19.

Parliament.

On November 1 the first ordinary session of the Iraq Parliament was formally opened by the Regent, H.R.H. the Emir Zeid. The House was crowded with Senators and Deputies, and a number of guests were present, including the High Commissioner, the Air Vice-Marshal, and the various Consuls. The Assembly rose as the Prince entered, and remained standing while the Iraq National Anthem was played. The Emir, in declaring Parliament open, informed the House that King Faisal, whose early return they were all anticipating, was now completely restored to health. He congratulated the deputies on the excellent work done in the preceding session, and remarked on the general satisfactory progress made throughout the country, the only disturbing feature being the uncertainty over the fate of Mosul. This question would be considered by the League of Nations in its coming session; in the meantime the thanks of Iraq were due to Great Britain for its continued support of her just claims.

On the departure of the Emir, Rashid Ali Beg al Gilani was by a very large majority elected President of the Assembly.

Review of First Session.

The Parliament of Iraq has made considerable progress during its first session, more in fact than its best friends had dared to hope. The session was an extraordinary one, called in order to pass the Budget for the current year. Financial matters have therefore been in the foreground, and a very real and general desire for economy has made itself apparent. The members of the Budget Committee at first talked determinedly of a 100 per cent. reduction on the Government's expenditure of 54 lakhs, and declared that they would rather cut off their right hands than see so reckless an extravagant a Budget passed. Hard facts, however, gradually convinced them that Government expenditure was not on so lavish a scale as their ignorance of the matter had led them to believe. Nevertheless, the committee's recommendations put before the House were of a fairly drastic nature, even the King's household not escaping the axe. The Chamber of Deputies showed its common sense by preferring the Budget as put up by the Ministry of Finance to the Committee's proposals, and passed it after embodying a few of the Committee's more reasonable suggestions. Unkind critics point out that the saving affected by Parliament barely meets the salaries of the deputies; but the House showed a commendable desire to economise as much as possible and that the saving was not larger is entirely due to the fact that Government had prepared a Budget which admitted of no further economy without prejudice to the administration of the country. Such savings as were made are to a certain extent more apparent than real, the safety margin in various estimates being dangerously low, and outstanding debts being transferred from this to next year's budget. It is noteworthy that though the house showed a real anxiety to set Iraq's finances on a better footing, reduction of expenditure was the favoured method, increase of existing taxes or the introduction of new sources of revenue meeting with a cold reception.

The session has revealed in the deputies a marked aptitude for Parliamentary procedure, unknown hitherto as it is to all of them; and though the legislature has at times trespassed on the executive, the resultant clash has been minimised by good feeling on both sides. Until towards the end of the session, the proceedings were orderly and the tone of the House good; it is hoped that the six weeks' vacation will restore the jaded nerves of deputies, and that they will return to Baghdad not in a bellicose mood, but ready to co-operate with the Government in the large number of reforms which the country so badly needs.

Adjournment of Parliament.

A special committee, presided over by Yassin Pasha al Hashimi, drew up the Address in reply to the Regent's speech from the Throne. This was submitted to the House on November 5, its brevity being perhaps a sign of fatigue on the part of the deputies. It ran as follows: "Your Highness,—Our Mejliss is very pleased to know that His Majesty (May God uphold his Kingdom) will shortly return to Iraq, enjoying the best of health. It also thanks your Highness for the statements contained in your speech.

"The Mejliss declares its readiness to support the Government particularly as regards any action it may take to protect our rights on the Northern frontier.

"May God make this inaugural opening of the Mejliss the beginning of prosperity and good fortune for our land!"

Opinion was strongly divided on whether the House, having met at the beginning of November as laid down by the Organic Law, should or should not have a brief vacation after the labours of the extraordinary session. Those members who lived in or near Baghdad saw no disadvantages in continuing the session, in fact rather the reverse, as they would be drawing their salaries; on the other hand, those who lived at a distance wished to be reunited to their families or to visit their estates, particularly as this month is the beginning of the normal agricultural year. Eventually an adjournment of six weeks only was decided upon. The reading of the Royal Iradé to this effect was loudly cheered by the Government's supporters; the Opposition remained silent, possibly because, thinking that their opinions were beginning to make headway, they regretted the breathing space which would allow their opponents to reform their ranks, in which some dissension had appeared towards the end of the extraordinary session.

At the last meeting the feeling of concern and apprehension over the fate of the Mosul Vilayet was much in evidence, and was given prominence by an attack on the Prime Minister for his failure to give the public fuller

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information as to General Laidoner's mission. The attack was unmerited, as all available information had been published in the local Press.

Mosul.

General Laidoner, who heads the Commission sent by the League of Nations to investigate the alleged Turkish ill-treatment and deportation of Christians living in the neighbourhood of the Brussels Line, has left Baghdad for Mosul. His personality, and the breadth of vision which he is bringing to bear upon the problems of Iraq, have created a most favourable impression. In a speech to notables and officials at Mosul he explained the task of his mission as follows:—

"As you know, apart from its own extreme importance, the question of the frontier is closely connected with the League's decisions in accordance with the Treaty of Lausanne, so that to bring it to a conclusion has needed much time. Disturbing incidents which have taken place on the frontier have caused a number of complaints from the British, Iraq, and Turkish Governments to be made to the League of Nations. In order to obtain certified information, the League decided to send me here as the President of the Committee and representatives of the International Court, with instructions to study all the incidents which have been reported on the frontier known as the Brussels Line.

"I know of what great importance it is to you to end this difficult question of your frontier, so that you can set Iraq on the path of progress, and this is the desire of the League also. Our task will be easy if no fresh disturbing incidents occur. My duty and that of my colleagues has been greatly facilitated by the Frontier Commission, which made it unnecessary for us to hold a plebiscite, or anything approaching a plebiscite.

The British and Iraq Governments long for a speedy settlement of this important question, and we hope that the Turkish Government shares this longing. The League also desires to end the question as soon as possible, but you must understand that time is necessary. It is for you to be patient, and await the final decision of the League, which will, I believe, be equitable and just."

Return of King Faisal.

His Majesty King Faisal returned to Baghdad on November 14, three days later than he was originally expected, owing to unfavourable weather conditions and to a break in the journey made at Amman to enable him to visit the Emir Abdullah. The aeroplane provided by the R.A.F. for His Majesty, with its escort of nine others flying in perfect formation, was sighted about 10.30. The High Commissioner, the Emir Zeid and the Emir Ghazi, the Air Vice-Marshal, and a number of Iraqi and British officials were assembled at Hinaidi to meet the King. His Majesty proceeded by motor car to Baghdad, where the decorated streets with their triumphal arches were lined with citizens. In the main street was drawn up a large contingent of the Arab Army, whose band played the Iraq National Anthen. The King, escorted by the Royal Bodyguard, proceeded to the Palace, where he held a reception of officials and notables.

Armistice Day.

On November 11 the High Commissioner unveiled the Cross of Sacrifice and the Memorial to the men of the XIII. Division, in the British Cemetery at North Gate. On the Memorial are four plaques bearing a list of the battles fought in Iraq by the Division. The inscription is as follows: "To the memory of Lieut.-General Sir Stanley Maude, K.C.B., C.M.G., and his comrades of all ranks of the 13th Division, who gave their lives for King and Country: Mesopotamia, 1916, 1917, 1918. Their name liveth for evermore." A guard of honour was provided by the 2nd Batt. Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment. A number of wreaths, including one from "Officers, Warrant Officers, and Airmen, British Forces in Iraq," were placed on the memorial. At the same time a combined Church Parade Service was held at the Aircraft Depot, Hinaidi.

The High Commissioner.

H.E. the High Commissioner has just returned from a brief tour to the Middle Euphrates. He visited the holy cities of Karbala and Nejef, and also met Sheikh Fahad of the Anaizeh tribe, who, though almost an octogenarian, still holds powerful sway over the desert between Iraq and Syria.

Sir Henry Dobbs is proceeding to England on two months' leave at the end of this month. In his absence the Counsellor, Mr. B. H. Bourdillon, will act as High Commissioner.

PERSIA.

Teheran, November 5.

The Kajar Dynasty.

For some weeks there has been a growing sense of tension and of approaching crisis. Telegrams from a Committee styled the Committee of the National Rising were received from Tabriz, in which the deposition of the Kajar Dynasty was demanded on threat of separation. These telegrams were very shortly followed by identical telegrams from Kerman, Ispahan, Shiraz, and even Khuzistan. For some days the matter was treated lightly by the public, but it was gradually realised that a serious movement was afoot all over the country. The matter was discussed in the Mejliss on October 29, but the session terminated hurriedly at the sound of a few shots fired in the vicinity of the Mejliss, and the members could not be reassembled to continue the discussion. Eighty members then assembled in private session and signed Articles for proposal to the Mejliss in open session on October 30.

Uncertainty and anxiety were terminated very dramatically on October 31, when at a special session of the Mejliss this Single Article was passed by 80 votes from a total of 85 present to the effect that:—

"The Mejliss in the national interest, notifies the deposition of the Kajar Dynasty from the throne, and, within the limits of the Constitution and National Laws, entrusts the temporary Government of the country to Reza Khan Pehlevi. Appointment of the final form of Government will rest with the National Council with Constitutional Power by change of Articles 36, 37, 38, and 40 of the Constitution."

The Crown Prince Mohammad Hassan Mirza left for Europe via Baghdad, and the end of the Kajar Dynasty was celebrated by a Royal salute. The city was illuminated for three nights, and receptions were held in all Ministries in honour of the event.

A Parliamentary delegation, led by Tadayon, the Acting Chairman of the House when the Single Article was passed, called on His Royal Highness the Regent to announce the decision of the Mejliss. At the same time they requested an amnesty for all political prisoners, and the continuance of their employment for all courtiers affected by the decision of the Mejliss. The Regent accepted both requests, as well as a request from the population of Teheran that the price of bread be reduced.

Orders for doubling the number of Parliamentary

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Representatives to be returned at the current elections at once issued, so that a Constituent Assembly of 272 members will be formed early next year to confirm the Single Article just passed, and to decide on the necessary alterations to be made in the Constitution.

Public Reception of the Change.

The above events were accepted very quickly by the people, the general attitude being one of relief at the quiet settlement of the tension and uncertainty of the past four months. There were no signs of regret or enthusiasm. Such opposition as was evinced in the Mejliss was chiefly from the clerical and legal representative, based on doubts upon the legality of any measure passed affecting the Constitution.

Pirniya, and Mustaufi al Mamalek, had declined election as Speaker just previously, and Tadayon, the Vice-Speaker, acted as Speaker in their place. The chief speakers in favour were Sheikh Jellal, Dawar, Seyed Yakub, and those against were Modarris, Taghizadeh, Dr. Mossadiq, Daulatabadi, and Malik as Showra.

General News.

The Agricultural Exhibition early in the week was well attended, though somewhat interfered with by rain. Great interest was taken in the display of ploughing by tractors provided by the various foreign firms, and in the various displays, undertaken by members of the Agricultural College.

The French aviator, M. Nogues, who recently completed the wonderful feat of flying from Paris to Teheran in 33 flying hours, has given several fine demonstrations of flying over the city and surrounding mountains. It is understood that Colonel de Renty, his companion during the flight, has made a very favourable proposition to the Government in regard to the Air Mail Services, and that his proposals are receiving favourable consideration by the Ministry.

Mr. C. I. McCasky, the Treasurer General, left for America on short leave this week. Major Hall, from Seistan, will officiate for him till his return. Mr. Homens has been appointed to Khuzistan Province, which has not previously had the benefit of a Financial Adviser.

Mr. McMurray, C.B.E., Chief Manager of the Imperial Bank of Persia in Teheran, leaves in the next few days for England on retirement after a long and active career in Persia, and will be replaced by Mr. Wilkinson. Mr. and Mrs. McMurray leave a great gap in the public, social, and sporting life of Teheran, and have been the recipients of many expressions of esteem and affection from a wide circle of friends of all nationalities.

November 8.

"Business as Usual."

Further details to hand regarding the change of Dynasty show that the news was quietly received everywhere and, as far as is known, without loss of life, except that of a Qasvin editor who was shot dead outside the Mejliss on October 29—apparently in mistake for a well-known opponent of the change.

The Crown Prince was quickly apprehended in his garden and instructed to leave Teheran within two hours. His suite and all remaining members of the Kajar Family were reassured and not interfered with. All Crown property was at once sealed.

In an address to the people, the Regent has reiterated his determination to complete his two chief aims of establishing law and order and introducing badly needed reforms. The sale of intoxicating liquors is henceforth prohibited, and the police have been instructed to act energetically against those who offend against Mohammedan Law.

No new appointments have been made pending the election of the Constituent Assembly, except that Zoka al Mulk, Minister of Finance, will officiate as Prime Minister, and Major-General Abdulla Khan as Minister of War.

Wathug ed Dauleh, who is now in Baghdad, is expected to arrive shortly after his three years' exile, and with Qawam as Saltereh his brother, who is now in Switzerland, may resume his part in Government affairs.

The price of bread has been lowered slightly, and all available transport commandeered to ensure a plentiful supply of flour for winter.

Beyond the consequent dislocation of traffic, business is proceeding as usual, and all conditions are normal.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, November 17.

The Situation.

Since, and even shortly before, the proclamation of Cyprus as a British Colony there has been and was a consciousness throughout the island, and among all classes, that the situation and outlook have changed, and that a period of transition is being ushered in. The alteration in the status of the Legislative Council, which increases the numbers of the elected non-Moslem and of the British Official Members by three respectively, coincides with this change, and the late elections have brought it into fuller notice. While it is far too early to mark any effects of the altered conditions, the line to be taken by the Greek elected members will be watched with new and growing interest.

One matter may be noted. In the speeches of newly elected Greek members, and of some candidates who were unsuccessful at the polls, there have been expressions of a desire for co-operation between Greeks and Turks in the Council. This, of course, may point to a wish on the part of Greek members that the elected members together may be able to outvote the British. Hitherto the Turks have almost invariably voted with the British, and, the High Commissioner having had a casting vote, Greeks could be outnumbered in their often obstructive methods, and their endeavours to intrude political matters into debates. Turks have no desire what-

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ever to change their lot, or to come under Greek control. Seeing that a return of the island to Turkey is out of the question, any political change would be distasteful to them. They have recognised the absolute justice of British administration, the impartial treatment of Moslems, and the steady, if slow, progress made in many directions. They now note that the Greek leaders say openly that they are resolved to maintain their struggle for union with Greece outside the walls of the Council, and they know that their resolution must inevitably influence their attitude in the Assembly. The Turks, while ready to vote with Greeks, even against the Government, if they are convinced that any proposed measures aim purely at the good of their island, will strenuously oppose any endeavour to introduce administrative changes, and will no doubt co-operate loyally, as heretofore, with the British in defeating disloyal tactics. One thing therefore is quite clear, that the character of the Council will remain unaltered so far as the reciprocal feelings of the Ottoman and Greek elements are concerned.

The draft reply to the Governor's speech has been fully discussed in Committee. It expresses the thanks of the Council for the promises of radical measures to improve the condition of the agricultural classes—to the distressed state of whom attention is specially requested—to aid cattle breeding, the creation of factories, development of mineral resources, and progress in general. As regards the lately established Agricultural Bank, both Turks and Greeks agreed (the British members dissenting) that the manner in which it work was carried on was not satisfactory, that its capital was insufficient, and the conditions under which loans were issued excessively stringent. They beg for the establishment of a Bank better adapted to meet the needs of the island. The Turkish members expressed satisfaction that political questions were avoided. As long, they said, as Greeks confine themselves to consideration of measures aiming at island welfare and progress they would have their support.

Among the petitions presented by members were many praying for the release of the island from any obligation to contribute to the Turkish Debt, and that a committee of British, Ottoman, and Greek members should be appointed to go exhaustively into the question of island water supplies.

A Naval Station for Famagusta.

It is stated that the small harbour at Famagusta will be converted into a naval station, and that a loan of £100,000 will be contracted, and that the work will begin shortly. While it is admitted that this will be of great benefit for the island, it is argued in the Press that the cost of the work, which will be undertaken for imperial purposes, or even of any part of it, should not be charged against this poverty-stricken island.

A CYPRUS MESSAGE.

We have received from the Greek Press Bureau at at Limassol, Cyprus, the following telegram:—"The newly elected Greek members of the Legislative Council have submitted to the Home Government a Memorandum emphasising the strong will of Cyprus for union with Greece."

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SARACENIC ARCHITECTURE.

At a recent meeting of the Société Internationale de Philologie, held at its house in Taviton Street, London, N.W., Abdul Haleem Bey, delivered an address on the Saracenic Architecture of Egypt. Sesostris Sidarouss Bey, Egyptian Chargé d'Affaires, occupied the Chair, and introduced the lecturer to his audience.

In the course of his address Abdul Haleem Bey, traced the history of Saracenic architecture, more especially in Egypt, illustrating his remarks by lantern slides. The term "Saracenic," which implied both Oriental and mediæval, was not exactly correct, he said, for the artists were not all Arabs or Moslems. The style was developed and brought to perfection is the Middle Ages; it was a remarkable one, recognised wherever it occurred from Alcazar of Seville to the Mosque of Samarkand and Gaur in Bengal. In the different countries which adopted it, it always showed local characteristics: Saracenic Egypt, the Barbary States and Morocco, Andalusia, Persia, India, Anatolia, Armenia and Turkey, had every one a special development of the style. This was in part due to the different elements found by the Arabs in their settlements. In some respects the Egyptian Saracenic was the most important; for the mosques of Cairo furnished a fuller, longer and more continuous record of arts employed in their construction and decoration than any other series of monuments in a single Moslem city. The simple lines and restrained decoration of the Egyptian artist exhibited the essential character of the style. From Alhambra to Delhi fanciful elements were added, but the purest style and most satisfactory to the eye was found in Egypt. The Mosque of Touloun, who in 768 founded a dynasty in that country, was the first and best in Saracenic art. He encouraged the arts. On his palace, mosque, hospital, and a ground for horse racing and polo he spent 300,000 dinars of gold. In this mosque the pointed arch was to be found; it did not appear in English architecture until three hundred years later.

THE KORAES CHAIR.

No appointment has yet been made to the Chair of Modern Greek and Byzantine History at London University, rendered vacant more than a year ago by the resignation of Professor Arnold Toynbee, but it is expected that an appointment will be made before the next academic session in October. Meanwhile, Professor Andreades, of Athens, an eminent authority on economic subjects, has been invited to deliver a series of lectures at King's College, and has accepted the invitation provided that suitable dates can be arranged. It is probable that these lectures will be delivered during January.

On November 24, Sir Herbert Samuel, ex-High Commissioner of Palestine, broadcast an address on the subject of the "Administration of Palestine," from the London Studio of the British Broadcasting Company.

The Czecho-Slovak Archæological Expedition in Asia Minor, says Reuter's Prague correspondent, has sent a telegram to President Masaryk, stating that it has discovered important Cappadocian archives near Caesarea. About 1,000 tablets and fragments have been unearthed in the excavations. They are 3,000 years old, and are covered with the Cuneiform inscriptions of the Hittites. The leader of the expedition is Dr. Hrozny, Professor of Cuneiform Research and Semitic Languages at the University of Prague.

The *Morning Post* Athens correspondent states that since the Revolution of 1862 abolished the Senate, which had existed under King Otho from 1844, Greece has had no second Chamber. The new Constitution has, however, established a Senate, and a decree has been prepared proclaiming the first Senatorial elections for January 10. The Senators, 100 in number, will be elected by a direct vote of all male citizens above 35 years of age.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY
December 3, 1925 (New Style).
November 20, 1925 (Old Style).
Jumada I., 17, 1344 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Kislev 16, 5686, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Aga Khan arrived in London last week from Paris.

Prince George of Greece left London last Monday for the Continent.

Sir Oswald Bosanquet will leave 1, Vicarage Gate about December 18 for India.

The Hon. Mrs. Gideon Murray will return to London from Malta on December 10.

Sir Charles McLeod, who is paying a visit to Bath, arrived last week at the Grand Pump Room Hotel.

Sir Francis Couchman, a former member of the Indian Railway Board, left London last Friday for Bombay.

Sir William M. Ramsay, D.C.L., is in London, on a visit to the Rev. Dr. Frew at 64, West Cromwell Road, S.W.5.

Lord Meston left London last Friday on a private visit to India. He expected to be back in England on January 25.

Mrs. and Miss Rogerson have left Kirkbank, Yorkshire, for Cairo. They expect to return to England in February next.

M. Nicolas Mishu, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, left London last Thursday for Bucharest to take up a new appointment.

Princess Andrew of Greece dined with their Majesties the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace on November 29.

Among passengers in the Rawalpindi, which left London last Friday, were Lady Gardner (for Port Said) and Lady McCracken (for Bombay).

Sir John and Lady Simon leave London for India to-day on a visit to the Viceroy and Countess of Reading. They will return to London at the end of January.

The Rev. A. D. Dixey, lately chaplain for the Sabsagar district of Assam, has been appointed vicar of Charlton with Standlynch, Salisbury—patron, the Vicar of Downton.

Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby and Viscountess Allenby left London last Thursday by the P. and O. special train to embark at Marseilles in the s.s. Mooltan for Sydney. They will spend the winter abroad, and will return to Deal Castle early in April.

Bt. Lt.-Col. D. E. Knollys, D.S.O., will lecture to the Central Asian Society on December 10, 5 p.m., on "Military Operations in Trans-Caspia." The lecture, which is to be provided with lantern illustrations, will take place at the Royal United Services Institution.

Bishop Gwynne, Bishop of Egypt and the Sudan, has appointed the Rev. Geoffrey C. L. Lunt, Vicar of All Saints', Northampton, as Chaplain-in-charge of All Saints' Pro-Cathedral, Cairo, and Archdeacon of the Church of England in Egypt. Mr. Lunt will be leaving for Cairo early in the New Year.

Mrs. Margaret Hasluck will speak to the Near and Middle East Association, on December 10, at 8.45 p.m., on "The Problem of the Dervishes," Sir Harry Lamb being in the Chair. The lecture will take place, by kind permission of Mrs. Beauchamp Tufnell, at 14, Queensbery Place, South Kensington.

Among the R.A.F. appointments announced by the Air Ministry is that of Air Commodore R. H. Clark-Hall to Headquarters, Mediterranean, to command.

Sir Henry Dobbs arrived in Cairo last week from Baghdad and left a few days later for London. While in Egypt he was the guest of Lord Lloyd at the Residency.

Among the appointments in the Royal Air Force by the Air Ministry are those of six officers to "Cairo-Cape Flight, Northolt," including that of Wing Commander C. W. H. Pulford to command.

The King has given Mr. Frank Rupert Jemmett, Director of Works, Egyptian Ministry of Public Works, authority to wear the insignia of the Fifth Class of the Order of the Nile, conferred on him by the King of Egypt, in recognition of valuable services.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

Queen Alexandra's Passing.

It was in such a snow storm as we have not had for years in London that Queen Alexandra went through the streets of the capital of the Empire for the last time. All that could be said on her passing has already been said. No more can be done. But the movement of that white cortège will surely and always be remembered by those who saw it, so beautiful and solemn appears to have been the ceremony, and certainly so unusual its setting.

The Queen Mother had such a popularity as is hardly comprehensible to the younger generation. How, one wonders, will historians explain the genuine grief and emotion of the people in Whitehall and in Westminster? Thoughts of mortality came tumbling fast about the assembled peoples like the snowflakes that were falling, yet thawed by the memory of immortal example and of queenly service. Only a Gibbon, and an uncynical one at that, will, from the musty records of our time a thousand years hence, be able to reconstruct this moving scene.

The Trial of the Communists.

Singularly little interest seems to have been aroused by the decision of a jury last week that the twelve Communists charged by the Public Prosecutor were guilty, the two main lines of comment being that if they were really guilty of what they were said to be doing, they deserved much more than one year or six months, or, alternatively, that though they of course were guilty, the whole trial was a grave political blunder. The latter seems to be the most generally accepted view. It is recognised that mere imprisonment will not stop the sort of folly which these Communists indulged, for their food was simply the bad trade conditions prevailing in Great Britain. While these endure, it is argued, one is bound to have Communists: remove them, and one removes Communists. To imprison them is to make of them just that kind of martyr which is revered and hailed by unbalanced minds.

And there is more than this about the trial, more, I mean, than the probable consequence of lifting these twelve Communists from the obscurity which hitherto had rightly and naturally surrounded them. For we have had before in this country an attempt on the part of politically minded people to seduce the loyalty of the forces of the Crown. No one who interests himself in the political trials can forget the circumstances enveloping the intention of Ulster, just before the War, to resist the decision of the British Parliament. Nor is the fact without significance that the men who have urged on this prosecution of the Communists are in part the same as those who were twelve years ago advising Ulster to disobey commands of lawful authority! The trouble is, of course, in the personality of the Home Secretary, of whom it is being said that there could not be a better publicity agent for the Communists. It is safe to say that no Home Secretary has brought more ridicule on himself since Mr. Winston Churchill called out the Guards for Sidney Street.

The Irish Imbroglio.

To no country but Ireland could the present crisis over the question of the boundary between the Free State and Ulster have occurred. As a matter of fact the situation is serious, and should not be flippantly referred to; in its essentials it is nevertheless typically Irish. Here we had a Boundary Commission, commonly supposed to be drawing up a frontier which would on the whole be favourable to the Free State at the expense of Ulster. It was, therefore, received with undisguised apprehension by the sturdy Protestants of the North, who, indeed, declared that it was an unjust Commission and that its findings were not necessarily to be obeyed. And, of course, the Free State people were in high glee.

But the tables are suddenly turned. For the Commission appear to have recommended a line that as a whole decidedly favours Ulster. Round, then, go the respective attitudes of the two Irish States towards the Commission. Now it is Ulster which proclaims that the Commission's findings must be carried out, and the Free State which bucks at that idea. Justice in Ireland is an elusive thing, for it is a country where the theory of relativity is very widely held.

The Dublin Government is really in a most unenviable position. The resignation of its nominee on the Commission, Dr. Macneill, seems not to have affected the authority of that Commission in the least, and all the cards are now out of the Free State's hands. The two Premiers in Ireland have been dashing to and from England, and it is thought possible that they may have agreed to the suggestion to leave the frontier between their respective States just where it is at present. Some hold, on the other hand, that Dublin should appeal to the League of Nations. That seems a most doubtful course, for there appears to be no question that the League would decide against it. On the whole it would seem that poor old England will have once more to attempt a settlement. She may even have to pass an Act of Parliament fixing another boundary than that of the Commissioners!

A Laboural Party?

Those political journalists who pride themselves on their prescience are trying at the moment to make capital out of a recent remark on the part of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald to the effect that the Liberals ought, in their own interests, to join the Labour Party—in other words, that there should now be a *bloc des gauches*. This speech was followed by the *Daily Chronicle's* responding in a generous spirit to Mr. MacDonald's invitation.

There is nothing more in it than that. Actually the Liberal Party and the Labour Party are as many miles apart as ever they were. Mr. MacDonald was not, it seems, speaking seriously but jocularly in thus addressing those who once were his bitterest enemies, and the *Chronicle's* words are not necessarily representative of Mr. Lloyd George's opinion. It is true that many advanced Liberals would like to see a closer *rapprochement* with Labour, but it is difficult to see the two parties uniting except possibly under the stimulus of a General Election and that would seem to be at last three years off.

Liberals and Party Funds.

What is probably more important than all these reported Liberal-Labour negotiations is the internal row that is going on inside the Liberal Party itself. I referred last week to the dispute that has arisen upon the power of Mr. Lloyd George over certain funds amassed during his period of office, and his refusal to hand them over to the main Liberal Fund until he has seen how his Land

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Scheme has taken on among the Liberal rank and file. This dispute has reached such serious dimensions that this week there is to be an executive meeting of the National Liberal Federation to discuss it. For Mr. Lloyd George has not only refused to part with this money—as is indeed his right—but, according to the *Westminster Gazette*, he has allocated £87,000 for the purpose of conducting propaganda in the provinces for his Land Scheme. More than this, he has told delegates to the Federation Conference in London that they will, if only they support the Land Scheme, have their expenses paid. The piper would indeed seem to be trying to call the tune.

This is all very nasty. It is true that the funds which Mr. Lloyd George controls were subscribed, not for the furtherance of Liberal principles, but for the furtherance of Mr. Lloyd George, and that, therefore, he has obviously a perfect right to dispose of them as he pleases. But what a use of these moneys!

Town and Country.

The by-election at Bury St. Edmunds is unusually interesting. For in this stronghold of agricultural Toryism there is a very definite tendency to break away from the loyalty which would normally be paid to a Minister of Agriculture seeking re-election. Farmers are obviously profoundly displeased with the present Government's agricultural policy, their degree of feeling on the subject being shown by the fact that many of them have come out openly against the Unionist candidate and are supporting the Liberal. This revolt is largely supposed to revolve around the question of a malt tax, but a friend of mine who lives at Bury tells me that the farmers are thoroughly disgruntled with what they consider the inaction of the Government. Particularly, they resent the extra fourpence that the rural labourers will shortly have to pay in insurance. The point that they make is that it is unfair to suppose that the labourer, who but rarely gets more than thirty shilings a week, should have to pay the same amount as a town labourer who is earning very much more. They also dislike the rumour that the rates are to make good the expenses that the Exchequer's reported raiding of the Road Fund will entail, for the country will thereby be paying for what the town-dwelling motorist enjoys. Upon the result of this revolt I have no ideas—it is said that Mr. Guinness is certain of election—but it is at least pleasant to see the country once more asserting itself in English political history.

Nationalising Broadcasting.

There is a rumour, so far, I believe, quite unsupported by official authority, that at the end of its period of monopoly next year, the British Broadcasting Company is to be taken over by the State, in the same way as some years ago the telephone service was taken over. To this proposal there has already been raised a good deal of opposition, even from unexpected quarters. Doubt appears to be very widespread of the Government's being able to provide better programmes than at present are being offered by the B.B.C. There have of course been many criticisms of certain features of the various stations' programmes, but these, generally speaking, cancel each other out. But just imagine what these complaints would be like if the service were under Government control!

Winter.

Winter, which our younger ones were beginning to look upon as a fabrication of senile brains, has once more come to England. Last week in many places it was blowing half a gale, and towards the end of the week the East and North-East Coast suffered very severely. Later on the north-easter tore inland, with the consequence that snow fell on Friday and has abundantly remained where it fell. The time is a trying one to many people, but for the majority it is a splendid tonic. There is something indescribably beautiful about an English winter, for on our small landscapes things are both merged and individualised. In town, of course, it is a different matter, but after all extremities of climate are not for those of the towns.

ALTER EGO.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

King Fuad returned to Cairo from Alexandria on November 26.

The mother of Ahmed Pasha Ziwar, the Egyptian Prime Minister, died on November 24.

The first Japanese Ambassador to Turkey, Mr. Obata, presented his redentials to Mustapha Kemal at Angora on November 24.

The Turkish Minister of Agriculture arrived last week at Moscow, and was received by M. Kalinin, President of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviets.

The annual report of the S.P.C.K. states that the sum of £500 a year has been granted for the production and distribution of Arabic literature in the Near East.

The President of the French Republic, M. Doumergue, has accepted the honorary Presidency of the "Organisation France-Palestine," which consists of French friends of Zionism.

The Air Ministry announces that as a result of an accident at Hinaidi, Iraq, to a D.H.9A of No. 30 Squadron (Hinaidi) on November 23, Flying Officer Joseph Albert Moore, the pilot of the aircraft, and No. 354,797 Aircraftsman Arthur Algernon Rickaby, were killed.

Of the three persons sentenced to death by court-martial in Athens on November 23 for the embezzlement of public funds, two were hanged last Thursday. One of them, named Zaphiropoulos, was the Chief of Police at Salonika, and the other, named Drakatos, was an officer. The third man, Aidinli, whose sentence was commuted, was not a public official.

The Greek Government has notified the Rumbold Commission that it claims £85,000 for compensation to the families of Captain Vassiliades and the 19 soldiers killed and 36 wounded during the recent invasion of Bulgaria, and £57,000 for the cost of the invasion, including wear and tear of transport.

M. de Jouvenel, the new High Commissioner of Syria, had an audience of King Fuad in Cairo on November 29. He also called upon Lord Lloyd and Ziwar Pasha. Afterwards he took tea with Prince Loutfallah, and met many Syrian notables, later attending a reception at the French Club. Last Monday he lunched at the Residency with the Maharao of Cutch and the French Minister to Egypt.

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BOOK REVIEWS.

SARAYEVO.

"THE SERAYEVO CRIME." By M. Edith Durham. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd.) 7s. 6d.

It is common ground that the murder of Archduke Franz Ferdinand at Sarayevo on June 28, 1914, supplied the immediate cause that led to the Great War, and it is a matter of general knowledge that sufficient responsibility attached to Serbia in connexion with the crime to prompt Austria-Hungary to impose some very exacting demands on the Serbian Government. Two of those demands were, to all intents and purposes, impossible of acceptance. The rulers of Austria-Hungary must have been perfectly aware of this fact. In any case, when Serbia undertook to comply with all the conditions imposed upon her except two, Austria-Hungary prepared for war. So did Russia and Germany, the precise order in which their respective mobilisations took effect being a matter of dispute. Hence the Great War. From that point onwards the world at large and all practically-minded people had neither the time nor the inclination to spare a thought to the murdered Archduke or to the Sarayevo crime. Not so Miss Durham. It is conceivable, rather, it may be taken from granted, that, if Austria-Hungary had given the world time to pass judgment on the Sarayevo crime, the verdict would have been an uncomfortable one for the Serbian authorities. The greater crime, however, swallowed up the lesser, and the four years of common suffering that followed for the Allies caused them to draw a veil over the beginnings of the terrible ordeal. Not so Miss Durham.

For the future historian it will be useful to have such evidence as exists regarding the murder of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand collected in an accessible form, as the author has done in this volume. Whether that historian will attach the same degree of weight as is attached in this book to the statements of prisoners at the Salonika trial, and to the unsupported testimony of various publicists is another matter. Miss Durham has been indefatigable in preparing her case, and in so doing has made her contribution to history. Her readers, however, are left with the uncomfortable feeling that this was not her purpose. A paragraph interpolated in the middle of the book reads: "Let us suppose that Mr. Baldwin told the Cabinet that some London University students had started for Paris in order to kill the President of the French Republic in three weeks' time, and that he and Lord Eustace Percy neither inquired at the colleges nor set the police in motion but merely waited to receive the news by telephone." But why suppose anything of the sort, unless the author wishes the reader to infer that the Balkans are in Western Europe, and that British and Balkan standards are identical? British opinion on the subject of political murder is so well known that the majority of people in Great Britain consider it superfluous to emphasize the fact that they have nothing but denunciation for such a crime as that committed at Sarayevo, for the actual authors and for the instigators. That particular crime was committed eleven years ago, and the toll of expiation will seem to most people to have been a fairly heavy one. The reader is left to infer that the author considers that further expiation is called for. Marshalled against her are commonsense, the Christian virtues and the interests of Europe. Unless she raises the banners of vindictiveness and blood-lust, she stands alone. In the book it is not made clear to whom she addresses her appeal: "Only by exposing the guilty and depriving them of power can the better elements of the South Slav lands arise and a new era for the Balkans and Europe begin." If, as has been inferred from Miss Durham's public utterances, the appeal is addressed to her own country, it is mere foolishness, born of the lack of political sense; if it be addressed to the people who are now making a great effort to heal their differences to bury the past and to work together for the material, if not the moral, uplift of their sorely tried land, it is, coming from a foreigner, an outrage.

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OLD AND NEW PALESTINE.

(From a Correspondent.)

M. L. Pilichowsky, who was commissioned by the Zionist Organisation to go to Jerusalem to paint the scene at the inauguration of the Hebrew University on Mount Scopus, remained in Palestine for six months after the event—during which time he painted some 130 pictures. These are being exhibited at his studio, at 7, Hill Road, St. John's Wood, until next Sunday. M. Pilichowsky has depicted the ceremony on Mount Scopus in an impressive manner, in keeping with the setting and the occasion. In the foreground a sea of faces gaze down upon the platform, the whole a splash of brilliant colour, while behind stretch the yellow pine-clad hills to the Dead Sea, and beyond the Hills of Moab outlined against the bright blue sky. Surrounding this picture in the exhibition are sketches, portrait studies, and impressions of the chief persons taking part in the University ceremony. Among those who gave the artist sittings, often of not more than half an hour, were Sir Herbert and Lady Samuel, Lord Allenby, the Bishop in Jerusalem, and Canon Danby.

It is obviously impossible to do justice here to all the pictures, but one or two, by reason of their subject, are of special interest. In a picture entitled "To Jerusalem thy city return, return in Mercy," M. Pilichowsky has presented that mysterious contrast of the two spirits, those of the Old and the New Palestine, which has been his chief inspiration. In the foreground are seen two Halutzim, sitting among the stones with which they are building the new Jerusalem, playing chess during the mid-day interval, while behind them rise the Tower of David and the walls of the ancient city. The same idea, treated symbolically, is the subject of M. Pilichowsky's other picture of Halutzim. Another picture to attract the attention of Zionists is the Town Hall, Tel Aviv, a fine building surrounded by spacious gardens of cypress trees and vividly coloured flowers where six years ago stood only sand dunes. It is worthy of mention, in passing, that M. Pilichowsky has been commissioned to paint for the Town Hall, Tel Aviv, the portraits of its four honorary citizens, Lord Balfour, Baron Edmond de Rothschild, Sir Herbert Samuel, and Professor Einstein. Of these the last two have been already completed and purchased. Of the portraits in the present exhibitions the most notable is that of the Chief Rabbi in characteristic pose.

The Exhibition Committee of the Palestine Pavilion at Wembley met at the London Office of the Economic Board for Palestine on November 24 to present to Mr. Walter S. Cohen, Chairman of the London Committee, a pair of silver entrée dishes, in appreciation of his work in connexion with the Pavilion. Among the speakers were Lt.-Col. H. J. Solomon, O.B.E., Major R. T. Little, Commissioner of the Pavilion. The presentation was made by Mrs. Friedlander.

Colonel W. S. Fergusson, late King's Dragoon Guards, Commandant of Jaffa and Jerusalem during Viscount Allenby's advance, and now a member of the King's Bodyguard, has been appointed by the Appeal Committee for funds for the distressed refugees in Iraq as special commissioner to administer the funds already collected, nearly £6,000 having been raised by the end of last week. The total amount asked for is £100,000. Colonel Fergusson left England last week for Baghdad and Mosul. He is hoping to be able to proceed by aeroplane from Egypt to Baghdad.

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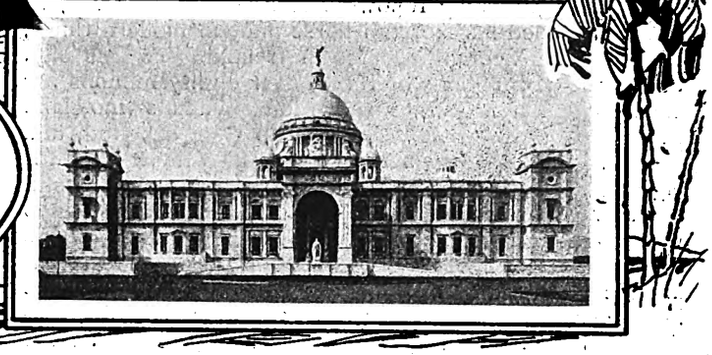

HINDU MOSLEM ANTAGONISM.

(By Major-General Sir George MacMunn, K.C.B., K.C.S.I., D.S.O.)

To those who are watching the policy of knocking away the props that have up to now made peace and prosperity in India possible, the constant outbreaks of fierce antagonism between Hindu and Moslem present a disconcerting phenomenon. To those conversant with the history of India, however, it is a perfectly intelligible one, while, to those who have been concerned with the internal management of India any time during the last two hundred years, it has always been known as the one outstanding political factor. To the genuine Indian politician it is a heart-breaking reality, which only in his most optimistic moods can he hope to see overcome within the near future. To those golden-hearted Englishmen who hoped that the reforms might yield so much, it is a bitter disappointment. To those of sardonic mind it is a matter perhaps of amusement, and to those who have experience of the normal Indian district it is but what they knew must be.

To understand it we must go far back into history, at the latest to the time of the Norman Conquest in England; nay, earlier, to soon after the evacuation of Britain by the Romans, when Mohammad fled from Mecca to Medina in 622 and the era of Islam began. At that period India was divided into many Hindu Kingdoms in which Rajput and other rulers carried on a continual warfare with each other, for no Hindu ruler, be he never so famous, had ever dreamed of ruling as one kingdom, or as one people, the Peninsula of Hindustan. Not even in the height of Mogul dominion did Aurungzebe, in the heyday of the Mogul power, rule as much of India as the British do. The rise of the faith of Islam (which means submission to God) that the Prophet Mohammad taught, soon resulted in a remarkable change among the races to whom it was preached. That part of the East was short of a faith. Christianity, by reason of its quarrels and shortcomings, made no appeal: Judaism could find no proselytes in Arabia: and yet mankind wanted something more compelling than the ancient pagan faiths of Arabia. With Islam, the tribes were to unite and carry their zeal and their teaching, and with them the power temporal, far afield. In a few generations the Arab Empire, comparatively short-lived though it was, became for a time the largest the world had seen. The faith soon spread beyond Arabia; it ran up into Persia, ousting the feeble Nestorian Church, it compelled or persuaded the Persians to join the great Submission. In 44 years only it swept into the tribes of what is now Afghanistan. It began to reach the rude pagan combinations of Turkish, Tatar or Mongol tribes that roamed the steppes of Central Asia, and had thrown out the hordes of Huns and the like who had swept in successive centuries from Europe to the confines of China. About the time of Mohammad, these Turkish or Mongoloid races were already invading India and fighting with the Rajput rulers of the Punjab. But it was not till 1001 that Mahmood, King of Ghuzni, first began the series of Turko-Mohammadan invasions of India that eventually resulted in the establishment of a chain of Mohammadan kingdoms over the length and breadth of India. An exception, however, should be mentioned, in the Arab conquest of Sind from Bussora, which men now spell Basra, in 711 and following years, a kingdom which left its mark on the people, but eventually died away.

Mahmood of Ghuzni and all his successors in their thrones of Delhi were, with the exception of one dynasty, Turks or Turki, using that word to denote the various Mongoloid races, whether Hun, Tatar, Mongoloid, or Mogul, that, led by Attila, Gengis Khan, Tamurlane or Baber swept the Eastern world for many hundreds of years. From the days of Mahmood of Ghuzni to the last of the Moguls in our own times, the rulers of Delhi, and generally of India, have been Turks, with the exception of the Lodi Dynasty at Delhi, who were Afghans and more probably of Semitic descent. It is well to remember this point when we are trying to visualise a united self-governing India. Always in the past ruled by invaders from the North, and almost always by Turks—those who, some say, are the descendants of Cain, on whom the twitched eyelids that give the almond eye were conferred by the Almighty, as that sign of exile by which men should know him. The almond eye and the curious monosyllabic or agglutinous tongue, so different from the rest of the world, distinguish these collections of cognate races, whose dominion at last disappears with the deposition of the Turkish Shah of Persia. The dynasty of Mahmood of Ghuzni ruled at Ghuzni and Lahore, to be succeeded by the more obscure but forcible race of Ghor who ruled at Delhi, and so on. The Mohammadan conquerors gradually spread south, establishing kingdoms that were sometimes independent, sometimes fiefs and provinces of Delhi. With them rode legions of horse from Central Asia, from Afghanistan, from Persia and even from Arabia. The leaders of horse, like the Norman barons, became lords of the manor. The Rajput kings and princes, driven from the Punjab with many of their followers, withdrew into the deserts and fastnesses of what is now Rajputana, and alone escaped the conquering Moslem; alone, that is to say, with those Rajput clans who withdrew to the foothills of the Himalayas and who were not worth interfering with. Now the earlier conquerors, especially Mahmood of Ghuzni, were zealous proselytisers. The faith or the sword was their motto, and to this day the broken Hindu temples and carvings bear testimony to the zeal of those who loved to claim the title of "idol breaker" among their sonorous distinctions. So Mohammadan rule spread from the Indus to Cape Comorin, and many millions of Hindus accepted the faith, many from terror of the sword, but many for the charm that this clean, clear teaching had for those who wanted something more satisfying to their religious instincts than popular Hinduism. Hinduism, it must be remembered, had almost died in India at one time, before the teachings of Prince Gautama the Buddha and his wonderful philosophy. Then slowly, through hundreds of years, the Brahmins reclaimed the land for the Hindu gods. So, when Islam came with its prestige of conquest, many a Hindu, no doubt little versed in the dogma of his

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cult, accepted the teaching of the Prophet for many and diverse reasons. The Lords of Iran and the Lords of Turan, as the conflicting racial parties and leaders were called, that is to say those of Aryan and those of Turkish stock, brought many followers to settle on the land, as William settled his Norman horse and, in modern times, Cromwell his Scotch troopers in Ireland. To this day, out of the 315 millions of India, over eighty millions are of the Submission—Moslems or Mohammadans who claim five times a day that "There is no God but God, and Mohammad is his Prophet" and who also know that, for eight hundred years, they were the arrogant ruling folk, before whom other religions were only tolerated, and to whom the Hindu, the *Mushrik*—those whose gods are partners—were beneath all contempt. And, beneath it all, the Hindu smiled to himself in patient hatred, secure in the knowledge that only the twice born could inherit the future, and would perhaps in due course inherit the present.

But the Islamic rulers of India weakened in their easier land, and a time came when fresh invaders from the North, from Persia and Afghanistan, Turkish, Iranian and Semitic, broke the power of the last Turkish dynasty, that of the Moguls, which began in the days of our Elizabeth. After being the greatest rule that India had yet seen, it began to die for want of vitamines. But, before this open decay, the European traders had come, protected by the Imperial power. As that power failed to carry out its protection on the coasts, the traders turned their night watchmen into soldiers and their accountants into administrators, and backed that local governor or chief who seemed likely to prevail in the turmoil that was arising in the crumbling Empire. The Marathas were rising against the Empire through many and various causes; but so great was the Mohammadan prestige that they always acted in the Emperor's name. So indeed did the British for a long time. So great was still this waning prestige of the Mogul that it has been argued, not without academic relevancy, that the British themselves became rebels against the Mogul when they ceased, in time, to exercise their authority in his name.

It is not hard, even to those who know nothing of India, to see how fresh in Moslem minds is this memory of superiority, both religious and temporal. It is easy to realise how, if a régime were to come in which the ballot box and numbers were to count, 80 more virile millions might find themselves counted out before the balance of the 315 millions of India—men whom they look on as idolaters: and that only rebellion against a weakling Hindu Government, protected by British bayonets, could get them a hearing. That has been in the Mohammadan mind pretty vividly since the days of Lord Morley's tentative reforms. That is why Moslem missionaries strive for fresh converts, and why Hinduism talks of forgoing its arrogance of salvation and admitting to a Hindu classification the millions of the outcast races.

But while these thoughts are ever present to the former ruling race and faith, what must the more patient Hindu mind be thinking? Does he forget the broken idol and ruined fane, the temples that moulder in gathering sand, and the stones that lie strewn in the cedar grove? We, who have present with us the undying bitterness across the Irish Channel, can realise the problems of good rule in India. Mr. Gandhi's heart has been torn often enough at the depth of the problem, and every Indian politician now sees that his ideal, of 315 millions of diverse races and religions talking as one, is not so easy of achievement as he once thought. The success, nay the very possibility, of British dominion during the aftermath of the Mogul crumbling has been undoubtedly due to the position of Umpire that they have always held, far above the cauldron of conflicting interests. There must still be some Englishmen alive who have heard the old folks call down blessings on their heads, as they rode through their districts, on the peace and security the Raj had brought. Within the last four years there have been a good many places where the prayer for the protection of British bayonets has gone up from the weak and the peaceable. These fierce Hindu-Moslem riots have been the despair of the kindly-hearted who dreamed that such things might pass. Pass they may in time, and all who wish India well will hope it may be so; but at present the feeling has been running stronger. It is easily stirred and hard to stay, but it causes all who think to wonder once again, what kind of Swaraj is possible in a continent of 315 million people, who have never, except under this astounding British protection, been one kingdom and under one government. When it has been achieved, it will be the most remarkable tribute to all who have had a share in it.

CURRENT TOPICS.

Indian Government Supplies.

The recently published report of the India Stores Department mentions that the total value of the stores ordered during 1924-25 by the companies working State Railways in India amounted to 4¾ million pounds, half a million of which were spent in purchases from British Government Departments, the remainder being spent in the open market. Two of the most important of these railways—the East Indian and Great Indian Peninsula—are now being worked by the State, and their requirements in material and rolling stock, which have averaged 3½ million pounds during the last three years, will now be met through the India Stores Department. The Director-General of Stores states categorically that "the British manufacturer receives no preference of any kind in the allocation of orders. The sole considerations are price, quality and delivery, and every attempt is made to encourage competition." This statement ought, of course, to dispose of the criticisms of the Department frequently to be found in the extremist Press of India; though, equally of course, it will not do so—they will either ignore it, or affect to disbelieve it, and persist in pretending that the object of the Department is to favour the British manufacturer at the expense of India: not only by excluding indigenous stores, but by weighting the scales against foreign competition. In spite of the facts, the British percentage of the total purchases of stores through the Department is more than 87—a result that will be gratifying to British traders, though it will merely serve to supply the Indian critics of the Department with an argument in support of their pretended beliefs; which will not be shaken by the further fact that this percentage, high though it is, is less by more than six per cent. than what it was last year. Of the non-British balance, the United States supplied, last year, about seven per cent., and Germany rather more than four per cent.

As regards the advice, recently given by the Trade Commissioner in India, that British manufacturers should establish agencies and hold stocks in India, the Director-General says that a tendency to raise prices is apparent on the part of manufacturers who have followed this advice: the tendency being to quote, in London, the considerably higher price which the extra expense of maintaining an Eastern branch or paying an agent, with charges for freight, storage, insurance, interest and an allowance for the chance of rejection, compels them to ask in India. If the manufacturer quotes his price for delivery ex-factory, allowing for inspection during manufacture at his works, to the India Stores Department in London, he will ensure that his agent in India secures no orders; so he either refrains from quoting at all, or quotes on the Indian level. The Director-General mentions some concrete instances in support of his belief that this is a growing practice and one that is likely to become more so: but the High Commissioner dissents: on the ground that he "does not think it likely that branch houses will be established in India by all the important manufacturers of any particular class of goods"; so that, as long as competitive prices are maintained in Great Britain, from important manufacturers here and on the Continent, the establishment of branch houses in India will not affect the prices at which the Department will be able to buy in London.

Opinion in India favours the placing of orders in that country: and the presence of British stores there may not

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infrequently allow of an Indian tender for goods partly of Indian manufacture. These were the special reasons that induced the Trade Commissioner in India to suggest, to British manufacturers, the advisability of placing stocks there. The High Commissioner's remarks suggest some divergence in view between the Indian trade authorities in England and India. The latter desire to encourage British manufacturers to tender in India, and to place Indian manufacturers in a better position to tender than they are at present. The former rely on their command of the open market to prevent Indian tenders from being accepted at a price which, in London, appears to them to be excessive—though, to the British manufacturer in India, and to his Indian competitor, it would probably only appear reasonably remunerative. Before any more British manufacturers accept the advice of the Indian Trade Commissioner, they would probably do well to inquire, from those who have already done so, whether, under present conditions, it is worth following or not: and, if not, whether it would not be possible to improve matters, by some slight alteration in the conditions. It would be a pity if a departure, which not only promises to be of real economic value to India, but also accords with the strongly held desire of even the most moderate of Indian politicians, should have to be abandoned as a failure at the very outset.

Indian Revolutionary Conspiracy.

Since the cables informed us of the discovery by the police of a bomb factory in the neighbourhood of Calcutta, and of the arrest of a number of young men of the educated middle class on the premises, they have been silent regarding the further development of the case. It seems not unlikely that there is a connection betwen this discovery and the sensational hold-up of a train near Lucknow, which occurred in August, and in connection with which several young men, most of whom are apparently Bengalis of the same class, have now been arrested. "Political dacoities" are no new thing in the records of Indian revolutionary crime: that is to say, highway robberies by anarchical bands of desperadoes, undertaken with a view to obtaining money with which to finance their more secret activities; but it is unusual to find the dacoits moving so far afield as would be the case if the robbery in the United Provinces should prove to be connected with the bomb factory in Bengal.

The comments of the extremist Press, on this discovery, should be of interest when they reach this country. In the early days of the revolutionary movement in Bengal, the extremist newspapers accepted the facts, while for the most part excusing the proceedings of the "misguided youths" on the ground that they were driven to violent methods as the only means of convincing an alien and oppressive Government that its rule was unpopular, and must be improved: though some of them went so far as to extol the individual courage, and motives, of the revolutionaries, to hold them up as patterns worthy of imitation, to mourn them as martyrs if convicted, to welcome them with processions and garlands if they escaped conviction. Of late years, however, these newspapers have generally adopted a different attitude, and have asserted that Indian revolutionary activity is a police fiction: that, if bombs or arms are found, they have been "planted" by the police, who manufacture evidence in order to justify their own existence and to assist Government in its policy of "repression." They do not, indeed, scruple to declare that Government has, in the past, arranged the finds to synchronise with arbitrarily "repressive" action that it would be unable to justify otherwise: and that this may be expected to remain part of its regular policy.

At the time of the important recrudescence of revolutionary activity in Bengal which occurred rather more than a year ago, a special Ordinance was passed under which a number of persons, some of whom had attained a certain amount of political notoriety, were detained without being brought to trial, the reason being that, in the state of public terrorism then existing, witnesses who were prepared to give confidential evidence to the authorities could not be induced to do so publicly. The period of quiescence that followed the removal of the most active among the revolutionary leaders, and the most dangerous among the youths whom their doctrines had infected, has led to a demand for their release which has lately been growing in insistence: and it may be confidently expected that the recent discoveries will be represented as a deliberately conceived move on the part of the authorities to provide an excuse for their refusal to accede to the "popular" demand.

British Sports in India.

Several commercial newspapers have recently drawn attention to the market that exists in India for sports goods and equipment. One of them suggests that "efforts should be made to encourage participation in outdoor pastimes, and to bring British goods within the reach of a larger section of the community by keeping prices as low as possible."

The latter part of this suggestion is perhaps the more practical. Indians have taken kindly to cricket, football, hockey and lawn tennis; but they find most of their requirements, in these games, amply catered for by Indian firms, who produce locally all kinds of equipment at a price with which imported articles of British make could hardly hope to compete: and it is the low cost of the Indian supplies that appeals to the great bulk of Indian players. It is only the fairly well-to-do Englishman in India whom British firms can reasonably hope to retain as a customer: and some of the Indian "sports works" are already beginning to cater for him. In particular, there are well-known and well-advertised Indian firms who produce high-class lawn tennis rackets, priced as high as fifty rupees—about 75 shillings. One cannot imagine the English tennis player paying such a price for the indigenous product, when he could get a first-class English racket for the same money; but apparently he does do so, or its production, and its wide advertisement, would not pay.

The former part of the suggestion opens out alluring possibilities: such as a combined team of athletic commercial travellers, touring India prepared to take on all comers at any sort of game, and thereby to give their opponents a practical demonstration of the superiority of their own equipment. There is, by the way, one form of sport that, though extraordinarily popular in Europe, has not yet penetrated to India, to which it would, at first sight, seem totally unsuited—to wit, winter sports. But some of our frontier garrisons, certainly in Waziristan, and probably also in the Khyber, live in a climate that seems eminently suitable. If the Commercial Travellers' team included a few winter sports experts, they might be able to place quite a lot of orders: and even, perhaps, to lay the foundations of a regular winter sports season in Waziristan, that would attract enthusiasts from all over India, with benefit to health and trade and even, perhaps, to civilisation. Mr. Gandhi proposed to tame the wild Pathan with the "charka"—the spinning wheel: it is at least possible that he would succumb more readily to the civilising influence of the ski, the luge and the bob-sleigh. The suggestion is offered gratis to Mr. Gandhi; who, if he were unwiling to try it himself, might depute one of the more robust of his admirers—Shaukat Ali would perhaps be a likely starter—to take a course in Switzerland and then to give the scheme a trial on the Frontier.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, November 12.

Through Indian Eyes.

There can be few politicians who have not, at some time or other, experienced the difficulty that, no matter how pure their motives may have been, their opponents have endeavoured to destroy the ring of truth in the policy advocated by dubbing it nothing more than a plausible and clever attempt to beguile the unwary. In England the electors possess the faculty for thinking for themselves: and this ensures that, as a rule, common sense will prevail

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on major issues. In India, however, the masses are subject to influences unknown in England at the present time; hero worship—and a man has only to threaten Government to be a hero—is rampant and the patronage of a "leader" is valued beyond rubies; when he is in a position to offer bribes, the appeal is irresistible and creates a position in which commonsense would be superfluous. Herein lies the secret of the Swaraj Party to-day.

An Indian, writing in the *Statesman*, points out that hgh sounding name of co-operation; at the same time, To practise the latter, it is essential that the co-operating parties must have a certain amount of regard for each other; while the non-co-operator, on the other hand, has merely to shun a person or party and non-co-operation is perfect. Hence it comes about that, in India, a section of the public dislikes the present mode of Government and says so; while the remainder either do not understand, or do not care: and non-co-operation has been the result. The writer proceeds to blame Government for, as he puts it, coupling a demand for co-operation with a threat of no further progress unless the stipulation is complied with. The British people, he says, must realise that India has passed that stage of life when implicit obedience to orders could be extracted by giving it the high sounding names of co-operation; at the same time, he recognises that the British are not afraid of extremist threats, and opines that a face to face talk is the best remedy. The article provides food for thought; the writer's view is one that is not often put forward, and is indicative of the method that is likely to be employed in meeting any gestures that Government may make.

A Revival of Anarchy.

The arrest of a number of Bengali youths in a house at Barnagore, some eight miles from Calcutta, and the seizure of a live bomb, large quantities of chemicals for the manufacture of explosives, arms, ammunition and masks, gives the lie to the oft repeated statement of the Swarajists that the revolutionary movement in Bengal is dead. It would appear that the police have stepped in not a moment too soon to prevent another outrage. Searches have been carried out in other parts of the city, resulting in further arrests and seizures: and, although the situation may not be so serious as it looks, the *Statesman* says that the literature which has come into the hands of the police does not point in this direction. Criminal proceedings have been instituted against the arrested men, but no further details are available at the moment.

In this connexion, there has been a certain amount of agitation in Corporation circles in regard to their Chief Executive Officer, Mr. S. C. Bose, who was interned under the Bengal Ordinance. This came to a head last night, when the Corporation passed a resolution demanding either the release of Bose or that he should be given a public trial. From the point of view of the Swarajist element who engineered the resolution, the bomb discovery is far from happy: and *Forward* comes out this morning with a leader which endeavours to show that the "discovery" has been engineered, although it is clever enough not to say so in so many words. Naturally it forestalls Government's reply to the Corporation's resolution, and predicts that political prisoners will be "left to suffer in prison for another indefinite period, probably till after the next Council elections": and it concludes its outburst by assuming "misguided youths imbued with revolutionary thought and activity" as an actuality. Such a contingency, it goes on to say, merely points to there being deep discontent which the impatient, and thinkers of a lower mentality, are unable to bear calmly. But, should these impatient ones be allowed to proceed unhampered by any restrictive action, or if their impatience turned in the direction of any member of the Swarajist party, *Forward* would be the first to open its thumb-marked dictionary in the search for new invectives.

Protection for Coal.

The demands which the Indian Mining Federation have placed before the Tariff Board are not conspicuous for their moderation; but, when they have the precedent of protection for the steel industry to guide them, this is not surprising. There have been no arguments used in this connexion which do not apply equally to coal, and the present demands, though they are essentially ridiculous and would probably have been turned down without a moment's consideration twelve months ago, now present a more serious aspect. The Federation asks for a protective duty on all coal imported from South Africa at the rate of Rs.5 per ton, and a duty of Rs.10 per ton on coal imported from other countries. They add that this duty should rise correspondingly with any additional indirect bounty granted to South African exported coal. Then comes a master stroke; the Federation demands the imposition of a duty of half an anna per gallon on all oil fuel imported into the country, and that the proceeds should rise correspondingly with any additional indirect bounty of Rs.3 per ton could be made on all Indian exported coal. It does not yet appear whether Burma is to be included in the countries to which this duty should apply.

The views of the Indian Mining Association, however, do not lean towards protection. In their opinion all that is necessary is that the industry should be given a reasonable chance, and that Government should come to its assistance in the matter of reduced railway rates and increased transport facilities. These, coupled with a preference for Indian coal when large Government orders are being considered, would soon put the coal industry on a better footing and do away with the necessity for protection. After all, if the protection advocated by the Indian Mining Federation is granted, it will only serve to put up the price of coal to the Indian consumer, who is already complaining of its high costs, particularly in Western India.

Markets.

Business on the jute market has been on a much reduced scale: with mills taking little interest, rates have sagged and, even with buyers prepared to deal at the lower level, few transactions are recorded. Gunnies have been quiet in sympathy, but closed steadier with a fair amount of buying going on. Piece-goods remain neglected. Tea sales have been satisfactory and the market is stronger, particularly for the cheaper descriptions; although no official figures are yet to hand, it is understood that stocks are down another nine and a quarter maunds for October, and that a reduction of a somewhat similar amount is anticipated for November—factors which should place the industry in a healthy position.

A somewhat steadier tone characterised most sections of the Stock Exchange at the close, and a very fair amount of business is reported. With the better tendency in the market for the manufactured material, jute shares were the turn firmer, both the speculative issues and the higher priced denominations participating in a slight hardening of prices. Interest in cottons has revived during the week, with a resultant general marking up of rates. That most of the demand came from Bombay may be looked upon as significant; but, with the industry in its present condition, it is early to predict the future course of share values. Both coals and teas have been dealt in only on a small scale, and at round about previous quotations; rubbers continue upwards, the slight reaction in the price of the commodity having been outweighed by the news that the restriction allowance would be raised from November by not more than ten per cent. The miscellaneous market has revealed no feature, but a fair business in investment stocks has been put through. Money continues easy and Exchange, after falling on account of outside buying orders, reacted and closed steady.

THE INDIAN MAIL.

The Currency Commission.

It was mentioned, in last week's notes, that the agitation against the Currency Commission was still being carried on in Bombay, in spite of its initial failure. The public meeting took place, as advertised, on November 3, and passed by acclamation a resolution of protest "inasmuch as the Commission does not adequately and effectively represent the interests of India," demanding that

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more Indian members should be appointed to it forthwith, so that such representation might be secured. The leading Anglo-vernacular newspaper of Bombay, which has made the fight against the Commission peculiarly its own, describes the proceedings as a "most moderate and dignified" protest against the "devil-may-care recklessness" of the Finance Member, Sir Basil Blackett, that "implacable enemy of Indian interests." One of the moderate and dignified protesters said that the British administration of India was "based on that pernicious, blood-thirsty imperialistic principle of exploitation and self-aggrandisement" and assured his hearers that "this exploitation, this organised or disorganised loot, will continue until they have drained your last penny." There was, he said, a law called the Indian Companies Act, enacted to protect the interests of shareholders and to prevent profiteering by directors; but when they demanded legislation to protect a whole nation from being ruthlessly exploited by another foreign nation, the Government replied, "You cannot demand legislation that touches our pocket where the interest of our country clashes with yours. We are a nation of shopkeepers, we only care for £ s. d. We will make hay while the sun shines, we do not care a jot for commercial morality, honesty or straight dealing: it is only when we have drained the whole wealth of India, and nothing is left for further exploitation, that we will concede your demand for self-government and bid goodbye to India as no longer profitable." This particular form of dignified moderation was specially relished by the audience; since, the speaker's time limit having expired at this point, there were uproarious calls for him to continue.

Two days later, the special public meeting of the Indian Merchants' Chamber took place, called on a requisition signed by 31 members of the Chamber—eleven of whom had, however, withdrawn their signatures on the ground that they had been obtained "on false representations." The local newspaper already referred to, while regretting that the Chamber should be ruled by "purse-proud plutocrats" and that "underhand influencing should be going one, to cajole or coerce the members of the Chamber into tamely registering the fiat of their big-wigs," expressed its confidence in the "sturdy common sense and genuine patriotism" of the members as a whole, and its certainty that they would support the requisitionists in their attempt to vindicate the national self-respect. This confidence, however, proved misplaced. The resolution, which omitted the previous demands for an Indian chairman and an Indian majority, and for the resignation by Sir Purshottamdas Thakurdas of his seat on the Commission, and merely demanded that the Chamber "should not tender evidence before the Commission, but should issue a statement regarding the mismanagement of the currency," was lost by a large majority.

This marks the end of the anti-Commission campaign in Bombay. The Indian Merchants' Chamber is the most influential body of its kind in India: and it is generally believed that other similar bodies have been awaiting its decision, with the intention of following its lead. The definite failure of the boycott movement in Bombay should certainly result in the absence of any attempt to revive it elsewhere: and a smooth path for the Commission seems now to be assured.

The Howrah Bridge.

The mail brings the news of a fresh development in the long drawn controversy about the Howrah Bridge. At a meeting of the Bengal Association of the Institute of Engineers, a resolution was passed that a two-pier bridge is both feasible and desirable, and that, before any further steps are taken in connection with any other type of bridge, full investigation of this opinion should be made. The meeting recommended that a working tidal model of the river should be made, for the testing of its action on a pier bridge: and that if, after seeing the results of the experiment with the model, the Port Commissioners were not satisfied that no harm would accrue from the presence of piers in the river, a full year's test should then be carried out, in the Hoogly itself, with temporary piers of the full size required.

Up to now, expert engineering opinion has been almost unanimous that a pier bridge would inevitably produce an amount of silting that would probably be disastrous, as it might lead to the shoaling, or even possibly to the diversion, of the Hoogly: and this *volte-face* is remarkable. It appears that about sixty engineers attended the meeting, and that the resolution was not unanimous, though no information is forthcoming as to the size of the minority. The cost of a two-pier bridge is understood to be estimated at four crores of rupees (about £3 millions): that of a cantilever at six crores, and of a floating bridge at three crores—the latter being the limit of the sum that Calcutta considers that it can afford to spend on a bridge. If the recommendation, apparently made with authority, receives consideration, this will entail a certain amount of delay: if the experiment is actually carried out, still further delay will result; which, if it should prove unsuccessful, would be time altogether wasted. There has already been such an inordinate amount of delay that the Calcutta public will not be surprised if the Engineers' resolution should be made an excuse for still more: and, in the meantime, it is beyond question that the existing bridge of boats is in a parlous condition, and it would surprise no one if, at any moment, it were to break down altogether. The *Statesman* certainly voices the general feeling of hopeless exasperation when, in commenting on the Engineers' proposal, it writes that it is difficult to say whether its effect will be to expedite or delay a settlement; but that the probability is that matters will remain just where they were before. "Not till the present bridge has been irrevocably swept away is there any prospect of 'getting a move on' to this weary controversy."

Central Railway Termini.

Schemes for a Central railway terminus both in Calcutta and Bombay are now under consideration. In the former city a committee of two officers was appointed to prepare a report, in the latter the decision was left to a single investigator. Both committees have reported: the Bombay officer in favour of Victoria Station, the present terminus of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway—a decision which has met with the strongest objection from the other great railway serving Bombay, the Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway: the Calcutta officers in favour of leaving things as they are. In Bombay, the B.B. and C.I. Railway, though not satisfied with their existing terminus at Colaba, wish to build a new one of their own: in Calcutta, two lines—the Bengal Nagpur and the East Indian—have their terminus at Howrah, while the third—the Bengal North Western—has its terminus at Sealdah, on the opposite side of the Hoogly. The Calcutta report appears to declare theoretically in favour of Sealdah, where room for a Central terminus, which is lacking at Howrah, could be found; but the position is complicated by the perennial controversy over the Howrah bridge—for a satisfactory terminus north of the Hoogly, a permanent bridge, that would carry railway traffic, is necessary, and there seems to be no prospect of such a bridge being built in the reasonably near future. One of the chief reasons that led the Calcutta Committee to report against a change seems to have been that, to quote a phrase in their report, "the Calcutta public appear to be satisfied with the existing arrangements"—a dictum that would strike a foreign observer to be—as, indeed, it doubtless is—"distinctively British."

It is not so very many years ago that an American Ambassador in London said that one of the things that had struck him most forcibly in England was that, if any Englishman were asked why he did a thing in a particular way, the answer was "because we have always done it in that way": and why he did not do a thing in such-and-such a way, "because we have never done it in that way": and that, in both cases, the reason was—to the Englishman—unanswerable. But the Briton abroad has always prided himself on his freedom from any such attitude of hide-bound conservatism: on his willingness to examine any new suggestion, and to decide for or against it on its merits, regardless of precedent.

It is only in Government Secretariats that precedent

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holds sway: whenever a ruling is asked for from them, the first thing they do is to look for a precedent. If one can be found, it governs the ruling: otherwise, it is odds that no ruling is given, though they sometimes cautiously commit themselves to a "provisional" one that is subject to alteration if necessary: that is, no doubt, if further search should reveal something that can be construed as a relevant precedent. Outside the Secretariats, especially among European non-officials, precedents are treated as they deserve—usually, that is, without respect; but to move an apathetic public is a more difficult task. There is always a large section of any community opposed to any change: who, like John Fry in "Lorna Doone" are "never in any hurry, and would zooner stop nor goo on, most taimes"; but no one who is acquainted with the energetic and progressive non-official European community of Calcutta will imagine them accepting a decision that would justify opposition to any scheme for improvement of any sort: and it may be confidently expected that they will demand better reasons than this one, before accepting the report as satisfactory.

INDIAN COMMERCIAL NOTES.

We now know where we stand in regard to Indian imports and exports during the six months, April 1 to September 30, 1925. Imports at 108 crores point to a total, when the year is completed, approximating to the total of imports of 1923-24 (217 crores) rather than to those of 1924-25 (243 crores). It must not be forgotten that the fall in world prices which has occurred during the past year, coupled with the rise in the sterling value of the rupee, has reduced the rupee values of many foreign goods. It is not unlikely that the lower value of imports this year, as compared with last, conceals a higher total quantity; for which, however, statistics are unfortunately not available.

On the export side, the total for the six months, April to September 1925, is 186 crores. This is not far short of its proper proportion of the 1924-25 total of 398 crores, a large proportion of which was transacted during the three concluding months of the year, January, February and March. So far as present estimates go, India's export trade is likely to be well maintained during the forthcoming busy season, and it is quite on the cards that a new record of 400 crores will be reached by the time that the current trade year is completed on March 31, 1926.

Net imports of gold reached a record of 74 crores in 1924-25, but stand at only 16 crores for the six months April to September, 1925. Imports of silver have shown comparatively little fluctuation during the past few years. They stood at 15 crores during the year 1921-22 and, during the three successive years, at 19, 18, and 20 crores respectively The pre-War average of India's net imports of gold and silver was 29 crores of gold and 7 crores of silver. The advance in silver transactions, as Indian trade stands to-day, is much greater than that in gold; for, whereas net imports of gold during the past six months stand at little more than half the net annual imports before the War, the same six months' imports of silver have already exceeded the average annual trade of 1909-1913.

In the result, India's balance of trade in merchandise and treasure has dropped from 96 crores in 1923-24 to 61 in 1924-25, and to 54 for the six months April to September 1925; all three being in favour of India. It is just this strength of the Indian trade position which has led to the gradual appreciation of the rupee during the past three years from 1s. 4d. to over 1s. 6d. The strength of the rupee has materially assisted the Finance Member of the Government of India to arrange for his annual remittances to the Indian Office, which increased from 34 crores in 1923-24 to 57 in 1924-25, and already stand at 29 crores for the six months April to September 1925.

INDIAN EXCHANGE.

London, November 30.

Since the date of our last report, business has been very quiet, and Rupee Exchange in Calcutta and Bombay has been quite steady at 1s. 6 3-16d. T.T., although the rate has not been so freely offered on the Bombay side. This may be due to the smaller inquiry on the part of importers, who appear to have bought all they require for the time being.

In Calcutta, the supply of export bills has been considerably in excess of the demand for bank remittances, and the banks have again had to rely upon Government, who have been purchasing more freely during the past week, and are reported to have done about £800,000. Three months' credit in both places are steady at 1s. 6 7-16d. for delivery to the end of the year, and we understand that merchants have settled a fair amount, chiefly against jute and other shipments from Calcutta.

The pressure for money is, perhaps, a little more pronounced, and in the last weekly statement of the Imperial Bank of India, the trade demand has gone up to 180 lakhs.

Forward quotations are unchanged at last week's figures, which were 1s. 6 3-16d. T.T. from December to February, and 1-32 down per month, March to May.

Forward business is, however, neglected, and, so far as we have been able to ascertain, transactions have been confined to moderate amounts for April and May at 1s. 6⅛d.

In the London market there is no change to report. Buyers of T.T. are unable to procure much under 1s. 6 7-32d., and at this rate they are only prepared to settle what is really required for immediate or near delivery.

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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

170, *Strand, London, W.C.2.*
Tuesday Morning.

A New Oil Company.

Details will be found in another column of the new oil company which Sir Charles Greenway informed the shareholders of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company at the recent meeting would be floated to deal with the new oil area of Naft Khana. This area, where the existence of appreciable supplies of oil have been definitely proved, is on the borders of Persia and Iraq in what are known as the "transferred territories." The Anglo-Persian Company possesses the oil rights there by virtue of an international agreement executed in 1913, since ratified by the grant by the Iraq Government of a formal concession of these rights. At the meeting referred to, Sir Charles Greenway stated that drilling was steadily continuing in that field with a view of proving definitely the existence of oil to such an extent as would justify the cost of laying a pipeline linking the field with the seaboard.

Egyptian Cotton.

Judging by the reports the Egyptian Government seems to be in two minds regarding intervention on any considerable scale in the cotton market this season. It has been able, owing to favourable conditions, to intervene successfully three years running, and the net result of the transactions has been a very handsome profit. But the circumstances are very different now from what they were, and the indecision of the Government suggests very forcibly that the possibility is clearly realised that purchases on a large scale this time will result in not a profit but a very considerable loss. The fact is that the Egyptian Government is not in a position to control the market successfully, and any attempt to do so can only make the authorities appear ridiculous. The price of commodities can only be regulated successfully when, as in the case of rubber, the intervening Government really controls the bulk of the world's production. When that is not so the certain ultimate effect will be a most unpleasant repercussion on the intervener.

Suspension of Indian Cotton Excise.

The news of the suspension of the Indian cotton excise duty as from December 1 is not likely to occasion any great surprise even in Lancashire, as it was known that the duty was to be abolished as soon as financial considerations permitted. The official announcement issued by the Governor-General in India states that the Government of India are satisfied that there would be no serious risk of a large deficit on the current year if the duty were suspended, and that step has therefore been taken, and it is proposed, unless the financial position as disclosed in the Budget estimates for the next year substantially fails to confirm the present anticipation, to place before the Legislature, at the time of the Budget, proposals for the abolition of the duty. I suppose that it is probable that we shall hear protests from Lancashire at this decision, but it is to my mind extremely doubtful whether the removal of the duty will affect the cotton county to the extent that Lancashire would appear to anticipate. Lancashire's trade with India is in the better class cotton goods while India manufactures cheap cottons, and the only way in which Lancashire could be affected would be if the price of the lower quality goods was so reduced that buyers were attracted to them to the exclusion of better goods.

Agriculture and Trade.

I referred last week to the excellent harvests in South-Eastern Europe and their incidence on the general trade position. The growth of industry during the past century has very largely been allowed to obscure the fundamental importance to the world of agriculture, and the fact that we have had to await universally good crops for the revival of the purchasing power which will enable the wheels of trade to revolve more freely is a timely reminder of agriculture's place in the scheme of things. The current issue of the *Westminster Bank Review* contains an interesting article on harvests and the trade outlook, in which it is pointed out that perhaps the greatest omission made by the optimists a year ago was to overlook the fact that the world's harvests were inferior. Bad harvests, it is emphasised, affect the source of trade development, while good harvests have the effect of the application of fresh oil to the cogs of rusty machinery.

The Outlook.

This year not only in South-Eastern Europe but in practically the whole world, with the exception of the United States, the harvests have been very good. That means that there will be an all-round increase of purchasing power which will be reflected in growing imports of manufactured goods, and if the British manufacturer takes an adequate advantage of this opportunity the next twelve months should witness a very marked improvement in the trade position here. It is to be hoped that the fullest attention will be paid to the markets of South-Eastern Europe. These have suffered to a greater extent than any as a result of the lack of purchasing power, and they offer a correspondingly greater scope for rapid trade development. It is a fact that throughout the region in question the quality of British goods is greatly appreciated, and if the price is not allowed to interfere with business—in other words, if our traders can quote reasonable terms—very good trade ought to be done.

British Overseas Bank.

A satisfactory report is forthcoming from the British Overseas Bank for the year ended October 31 last. The net profit amounted to £126,015, an increase of £20,467 on the figures for the previous year, and it is now proposed to pay a maiden dividend of 3 per cent. on the "B" shares. The allocations are £25,000 to the general reserve as against £55,000, and £5,000 to premises as before, leaving £60,346 to be carried forward as against £54,330.

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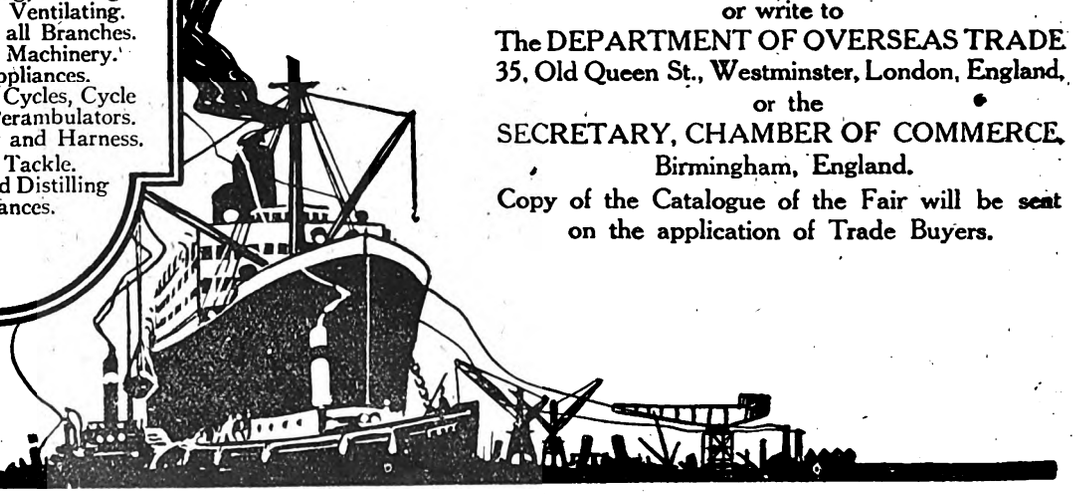

C.F.H.

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The B.I.F.

The news which has recently been forthcoming that there is to be an East African Section at the British Industries Fair holds out interesting possibilities for the development of this annual event. I understand, as a matter of fact, that invitations have been generally extended to the various countries in the Empire to take part in the Fair. Whether we shall see the Near East represented there this time is as yet uncertain. The Sudan, Palestine, and Cyprus have all been able to realise very clearly the benefits of the publicity derived from exhibitions and fairs through their experience at Wembley, and to take part in the Fair would merely be to continue the work of trade development to which the British Empire Exhibition has given so great an impetus.

COMMENTATOR.

BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR.

An example of the facilities and opportunities afforded by exhibiting at the British Industries Fair has just been furnished to the Department of Overseas Trade by an exhibitor at the 1924 Fair.

While discussing the forthcoming Fair, which is to be held in London and Birmingham in February next, a firm of manufacturers informed a representative of the Department that as a result of exhibiting at the 1924 Fair they had secured an order amounting to £1,200 and that since the Fair this order had been renewed each month for the last 18 months and was still continuing. The firm in question have decided to exhibit again and will probably book space in excess of the amount secured in 1924.

Of the number of applications received up to November 23, over 25 per cent. are from firms who have exhibited at more than five previous Fairs, nearly 50 per cent. are from firms who have shown at more than one Fair, and nearly a third are entirely new exhibitors.

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL.

Formation of New Subsidiary.

The new company which Sir Charles Greenway, Bart., stated at the general meeting of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company would be formed to deal with the new oil area of Naft Khana, was registered as a private company on November 27.

Its title is the Khanaqin Oil Co., Ltd., and it has a nominal capital of £1,000,000 in £1 shares. The objects are: To acquire from the Anglo-Persian Oil Co., Ltd., the property, rights, and assets comprised therein; to adopt an agreement with that company; to acquire any petroleum or oil-bearing lands in Iraq or elsewhere, or any interest therein, or any rights of or connected with the getting or winning of any natural gas, petroleum or other oil, bitumen, asphalt, or ozokerite or other similar substances, and the products thereof, and to carry on the business of dealers in and refiners and transporters of the above substances and products and other fuels, mine owners, merchants, carriers, wharfingers, ship and barge owners, shipbuilders, lightermen, factors brokers etc. The subscribers (each with one share) are: J. Bennett 2, Bond Court, Walbrook, E.C., clerk; E. J. Alldis, 2 Bond Court, Walbrook, E.C., clerk. The number of directors is not to be less than three nor more than 15. The subscribers are to appoint the first.

The Government of Iraq are entitled to appoint a Commissioner, who will be consulted by the directors. The Treasury have the right at all times to be represented on the board by two ex-officio directors. Every director must be a British subject. An ex-officio director has the right of negativing any resolution proposed by the board or a committee of directors, provided always that in the event of such right being exercised it is open to the directors to submit the proposed resolution to H.M. Government, and if the Government determine that the resolution ought to be given effect to it shall be deemed to have been duly passed at the meeting at which it was proposed. For the purposes of this clause H.M. Government means the Treasury and the Admiralty, acting jointly, and notice of any submission is to be given both to the Treasury and the Admiralty. The registered office is at Britannic House, Finsbury Circus, E.C.2.

AN IMPOSING CONVOY.

Last week an imposing convoy of thirty 4-ton Leyland lorries was due to leave Beyrout under the auspices of the Nairn Transport Company for Persia. These lorries have been supplied to the Food Supply Department of the Persian Government. The route to be taken by the convoy was via Tripoli, Homs, Palmyra and Baghdad. The French authorities in Syria had undertaken to supply an armed escort. In the meantime the motor mail service follows the Jerusalem-Amman route to Baghdad, and it is interesting to note that bookings are very heavy at the present time, in some weeks more applications for seats being received than can be met.

Mr. Arthur William Watson, C.B., C.B.E., of Vicarage Gate, Kensington, W., and late of Dormans House, Dormans Park, Surrey, Principal Assistant Secretary and Director of Establishments at the Ministry of Labour, formerly of the Indian Civil Service, and successively Sessions Judge in Calcutta, Secretary to the Bengal Legislative Council, and to the Bengal Government in the Legislative Department, and during the War Deputy-Assistant Secretary to the Ministry of Munitions, who died suddenly on October 9, aged 50, left unsettled property of the gross value of £2,782 with net personalty £2,452.

IMPORTS & EXPORTS

The financing of the world's commerce has become one of the most intricate of machines ever constructed, and under the banker's hands lie all the cogs and controls necessary for its efficient running. It is of the utmost importance that the merchant should clearly understand the working of its mechanism in order that he may make the fullest use of the bank's facilities, not only for his personal benefit, but also for the increased commercial prosperity of the country. To assist its customers, the Westminster Bank has now prepared a booklet explaining the many ways in which the commercial man may use the bank for the furtherance of his business, and how he should proceed so as to take the utmost advantage of interest, rebate, discount, rates of exchange, etc., and combine with progress and enterprise the necessary security and caution.

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COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

BURMAH ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS.

The report of the Burmah Electric Tramways and Lighting Company for the year ended July 31 last states that the receipts from tramways, lighting and power and sundries, Mandalay, amounted together to £50,023, and the expenditure to £30,056, leaving a profit of £19,967. To the latter sum is added, profit on exchange £2,899, and sundry other receipts £1,592, together with the balance of £4,672 brought in, making a total available balance of £29,130. The sum of £11,606 is carried to the general reserve and depreciation fund, and a final dividend of 4½ per cent. is proposed on the ordinary shares, making 7½ per cent. for the year.

OILFIELDS OF EGYPT.

The report for the year ended March 31, 1925, states that of the amount outstanding on call account at March 31, 1924, £100 was collected during the year. Endeavours were made during the year to dispose of the whole of the company's plant, machinery, and stores in Egypt, and sales of a few items were concluded. Subsequent to the date of the accounts the whole of the plant was sold for £1,900, to which figure it has been written down. In view of the inaccessibility of the area in which the company's properties were situated it was considered advisable to dispose of the plant and stores even at this low figure rather than continue the expense of maintaining watchmen on the properties. Since March 31 last a proportion of the company's funds has been invested in an oil proposition in Venezuela, and in view of the favourable nature of the reports received, it is hoped that this investment will prove of value to the company.

BURMA CORPORATION.

The annual meeting of the Burma Corporation will be held at Rangoon on December 30, when a resolution will be submitted altering the articles of association. It is further proposed to define more clearly the respective positions and duties of the Rangoon and London directors and to reduce the number of directors to retire each year, at the same time providing that the director resident in Burma shall not be liable to retire.

Bombay received a visit last Thursday from the cruisers Cairo, Captain E. O. Cochrane, and Colombo, Captain H. T. England, of the East Indies Squadron. This force had its principal base at Bombay at one time, but since the War has made its headquarters at Trincomalee. The cruisers will remain until December 9, when they leave for Colombo.

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Indian Government Vouchers accepted.

Passenger sailing dates :—

*MASSILIA, Dec. 11.	*BRITANNIA, Mar. 16.
*ELYSIA, Dec. 29.	*MASSILIA, Mar. 30.
*CIRCASSIA, Jany. 12, 1926.	*ELYSIA, April 13.
*CASTALIA, Feb. 2.	*CIRCASSIA, April 30.
*OLYMPIA, Feb. 19.	*CASTALIA, May 14.
*SCINDA Mar. 4.	*OLYMPIA, May 28.

*First class passengers only. Specially low fares.

ANCHOR LINE,
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Shipping Intelligence.

SUEZ CANAL TRAFFIC.

The present year has seen a very marked expansion in the Suez Canal traffic. For the first nine months the tonnage of shipping transiting the Canal amounted to 20,332,000 tons, or 2,143,000 tons more than the total for the corresponding period of 1924. The movement of merchandise amounted to 20,243,000 tons, which is a record, and it it interesting to note that while the first quarter of the year showed an increase of 919,000 tons and the second one of 739,000 tons, in the third there was a decrease of 43,000 tons. The net increase was 1,615,000 tons, and this was entirely due to the homeward traffic, which showed an increase of 1,865,000 tons. Shipments of wheat largely contributed to the increase in the homeward traffic. They totalled 1,819,000 tons as compared with 1,037,000 tons for the corresponding period last year. Other important increases in respect of cereals took place in rice (1,323,000 tons as against 1,033,000 tons), and maize (209,000 tons as against 186,000 tons), while barley declined from 438,000 tons to 124,000 tons. Crude petroleum showed a further expansion, rising to 919,900 tons as against 889,000 tons, while benzine rose from 634,000 tons to 739,000 tons. Among minerals, manganese declined from 712,000 tons to 639,000 tons, but zinc showed an increase of 54,000 tons at 189,000 tons. It is satisfactory to be able to record that British tonnage using the Canal fully kept pace with the increased traffic, and, as a matter of fact, the British total for the nine months (12,141,000) came up to the previous record for a year.

NEW ANCHOR LINER.

This week sees the launch of the Anchor Line's new vessel, the Britannia, which has been built by Messrs. Alexander Stephen and Sons, Linthouse, and is intended for passenger and freight service between Liverpool and Bombay. A vesssel of 8,500 tons, the Britannia is 460 ft. in length, with a breadth of 58 ft. 9 in. and a depth of 34 ft. 9 in. She has been built specially for the Indian passenger trade, and has accommodation for 109 first-class passengers on the bridge deck in state rooms and similarly on the starboard side of the upper deck for 45 passengers.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses :—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Massilia for Bombay (Liverpool, December 7). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—M.v. Somersetshire for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, December 12).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Warwickshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, December 16).

British India Line.—S.s. Hatimura for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 5); s.s. Gharinda for Bombay and Karachi (London, December 19).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Brescia for Patras, Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Swansea, December 14).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of York for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 11).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 5); s.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 26).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Ranchi for Bombay (London, December 11); s.s. Nankin for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 12).

Prince Line.—S.s. Tartar Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, and Beyrout (London, December 4).

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Motors and Motoring.

By G. B. B.

Slippery Roads.

The subject of slippery roads is one which has attracted considerable attention of late, and not only have the road makers been condemned vigorously by the less well-informed section of the daily and weekly Press and by motoring journalists generally, but even authorities on road matters have spoken as though the surfaces of many of our roads were too smooth and have suggested the use of coarser materials for surfacing or the gritting of the road surfaces after the top coating of bitumen compound has been laid. In my view, as a motorist, this question of road slipperiness has been and is being viewed from an entirely wrong standpoint, and I have no hesitation in saying that what we want is a road surface that is glass hard and as smooth as it can possibly be made.

Roughness of a road surface makes for friction, which means loss of power and it also makes for tyre wear. The more uneven the surface, the greater the friction and the greater the wearing effect upon motor and other tyres. Tyres at the present time are not worn out by any other cause than road friction, save in those few instances where under-inflated tyres give way at the beads through the constant and continued friction of the component cotton threads due to the over-inflated condition of the tyre. Our tyres wear out, not so much because of the power they transmit or the load they carry, but because of the friction which takes place between the surface of the road and the surface of the tyre cover.

Let us instance a ball or roller bearing which will carry a very severe load with a minimum of friction. It does this because, in the first place, both the ball and the two surfaces between which it revolves are as hard as human science can make them, and because, in the second place, both the surface of the ball and of the bearings is planished to the highest possible degree of smoothness. Imagine a ball which was neither hard nor smooth being used for bearing work, and imagine, further, that the surfaces between which it worked were rough and uneven. It requires no effort of the imagination to visualise the amount of friction that would be set up and of heat that would be generated in such a bearing as soon as it was called upon to bear a heavy load.

The Tyre Position.

We are in much the same position to-day, as regards tyres, as we should be if we essayed to use soft steel balls in roughened bearings to carry any appreciable load. The road maker has developed his art to an astonishingly high degree. To those of us who can remember the rough, water-bound macadam roads of twenty years or so ago, roads that were loose-surfaced, rough and uneven, the smooth, even-polished, bitumen-coated roads of to-day represent a marvellous advance. Nothing like them was imaginable in the early days of the motor industry; we could none of us have hoped, in our wildest dreams of progress, for such ideally perfect roads. Smooth and even, it is possible to travel along them at a high speed without the slightest jar or vibration due to road surface causes; the absence of inequalities, bringing about a diminution of friction, has reduced petrol consumption until we can now cover an immensely increased mileage to the gallon; it is possible for us to use lighter chassis and lower powered engines and to motor at a far cheaper rate than we could travel by any other means of transport.

And now that all this has been attained and obtained, now that we have the practically perfect road, we are to be asked to sacrifice some appreciable measure of our success and to resort to roads with rougher surfaces for one reason and for one reason only, which is—

With a few notable exceptions our tyre makers have failed lamentably to keep abreast of current developments; they have made no serious attempt to keep level with the work of the road maker; they are giving us the same kind of tyres they gave us twenty years ago!

It is true that they have improved the quality of rubber and canvas to some slight extent but that is all they have done. It is utterly absurd for any protagonist of the tyre industry to point out that before the War 6,000 or 7,000 miles was considered a long life for a tyre, and that to-day we expect to get, and do get, 20,000 miles' service from a cover. The increased life of the tyre is not due to the success of any belated efforts that the tyre industry as a body has put out with a view to increasing life—of course there are a few honourable exceptions to this statement—but it is due to the improvement in road surfaces, which has reduced the wear the tyre was called upon to withstand and to the improvements in engines and chassis, consequent on that road surface improvement, which has reduced the load they have been called upon to carry.

I am aware that everyone who reads my defence of the polished road surface will tell me, and rightly so, that motoring is dangerous, even in dry weather, on some of these bitumen-coated roads, and that in wet weather they are veritable death-traps by reason of their slipperiness. But I would ask them what it is that slips? Is it the road that slips away from a perfectly made tyre, or is it an imperfectly made, badly designed, utterly unscientific and out-of-date tyre that slips across or away from the perfectly made road?. We slip when our cars are shod with unsuitable tyres; as unsuitable for smooth roads as smooth horseshoes would be for frozen roads or as dancing pumps would be for Alpine snorts or as hob-nailed shooting boots would be for ballroom use. There is no need to labour the subject; the facts speak for themselves, and I say and maintain that in this year of grace 1925 we ought to be able to buy anywhere, instead of only from a few firms, tyres that would be suitable in every way for the road surfaces on which we have, and wish to motor.

A New Wolseley.

A short time ago I had something to say about the new 11-22 h.p. four-seater Wolseley car, and I am now able to give a friend's opinion as to its behaviour on the road. He tells me that it is a powerful car, handled so easily that a child could drive it: that its petrol and oil consumption are as low as could be desired, and that the engine runs

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COLOMBO Skrine & Co.
BEIRA Beira Shipping Agency.
DELAGOA BAY John T. Rennie & Sons
DURBAN Andrew Weir & Co
EAST LONDON—Messrs. Dunn & Co.
PT. ELIZABETH—Mackie, Dunn & Co.
MOSSEL BAY—Messrs. E. Searle & Co.
CAPE TOWN—Thomson, Watson & Co.
HONG KONG—The Bank Line, Ltd.
BANGKOK—Siam Forest Co., Ltd.
SINGAPORE Huttenbach Bros. & Co.
MAURITIUS—Adam & Co.

LONDON—ANDREW WEIR & CO. 21, Bury Street, E.C.3

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smoothly and with an entire absence of vibration at all speeds. He added that he got the best results when he allowed the engine to run at a fairly high speed, but that even at the lowest engine speed the drive was as smooth as could be desired. The clutch is simple in operation and the gear change is quite easy, and a feature of the model is the excellent and smooth acting brakes with which it is fitted. I have not yet driven the car myself but I can testify to the smart appearance of this new and entirely British production.

COTTON AND RICE IN IRAQ.

The respective merits of rice and cotton cultivation in the Diala region are the subject of an interesting little brochure* which has just been issued by the Department of Agriculture of Iraq. It is pointed out in a brief introduction that the summer months in the Diala Liwah are extremely dry and intensely hot during the day, and the extent of the area cropped in summer and the success of the crop depends on the judicious distribution of canal water and its economic use. In view of the importance of the water factor the Director of Agriculture instituted an inquiry into the relative gross receipts from Mesowhite cotton and from rice. When the investigation was instituted it was anticipated that cotton would sooner or later supersede the rice crop in the Diala Liwah.

Rice growing has been carried on for a considerable time in the region, but there was a marked extension in the areas under this crop during and after the War. The view has generally been expressed by local cultivators that rice will yield a hundred-fold on moderately good land, but concrete examples of such excessive yields are, it is pointed out, extremely rare. In 1923, an admittedly exceptionally good season for rice, only one field yielded more than one hundred-fold, while the yield of the second best field was 75 times the weight of seed sown. In both cases the seed rate was relatively low and an abundant supply of fresh water was always running into the fields. A field near Qizil Robat yielded about 50 times the weight of seed sown, but most of the fields yielded considerably less. A large landlord worked out the proportion of the yield to the seed at 9.5 times for 1922 and 9.9 times for 1923.

Mesowhite cotton is a relatively recent introduction, and the cultivators still have a good deal to learn about its proper cultivation. In 1923 the preparatory tillage of land was commenced in January, and from two to three ploughings were carried out before sowing time. About half the total area under cotton in 1923 was prepared in ridges, and the conditions varied even in the same plantation. Those who had grown the crop before benefited by their practical experience. Sowings commenced in the last half of March and were completed before May. Early in the summer, prior to the preparation of a temporary dam in the river at Jabel Hamrin, there is always a serious shortage of water in all the canals, and at this period the rice fields always receive first attention. The neglect of the irrigation requirements of Mesowhite cotton at this stage has been a great drawback each year this crop has been grown. In 1923 the crop in a few fields was absolutely ruined on account of drought. Locusts did a certain amount of damage, and spotted boll worm also appeared, though no serious damage was done by this pest. Though the 1923 season was not a favourable one the profits made by the cultivators were fairly satisfactory, and a comparison of the relative value and the profits derived from the various summer crops have led them to the conclusion that cotton is the most paying of all crops raised by them.

In 1923 thirteen fields of rice were measured, and from this area the crop realised Rs. 26,315-1. The average value of the rice crop per donum ($\frac{5}{8}$ acre) amounted to Rs. 26-11. The total area sown under Mesowhite cotton was 2,155.20 donums. Of this total 357.75 donums were destroyed by locusts and 289.21 donums were abandoned. The produce from the remaining 1,508.24 donums realised Rs. 98,447-3 or an average of Rs. 65-4 per donum. It is therefore apparent from the prices of the two commodities, it is pointed out, that the gross value of the cotton crop per donum is two and a half times that of rice. It is, however, essential to consider the relative water demands of these crops before arriving at their respective merits. It is the custom as regards rice to allow a continuous flow of water from the time the seedlings are established in June until the crop is dried off in October, while the cotton crop normally needs about 15 irrigations between March 15 and October 15 and during July and August water should be applied at intervals of not more than ten days. It is a conservative estimate that the rice crop is given at least four times as much water as is required by the cotton crop. Therefore it is evident, it is maintained, that not only do cultivators and landowners lose a considerable amount of money each year through the wasteful use of water in rice cultivation but the Government revenues also suffer, while rice cultivation in the absence of drainage increases the rate at which cultivated lands may become so saline that crops such as cotton can no longer be grown.

It is urged in conclusion that it has been definitely proved that the conditions of soil and climate in the Diala zone are particularly suited for cotton cultivation and that lands yield much greater profits and give greater employment in the summer than when water is used for rice cultivation. It would appear, therefore, it is stated, that it would be sound policy for the Government to encourage cotton cultivation and to limit the areas put down to rice on the Diala canals.

* The Economics of Rice and Cotton Cultivation in the Diala Liwah. By Khan Sahib A. A. Soofee, Assistant Agricultural Circle Officer, Diala. Government Press, Baghdad.

The locust bean crop in Cyprus has been gathered, and it is now estimated that it will amount to about 50,000 tons, as against an original forecast of 55,000 tons.

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FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations*
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £ ...	97⅛	97⅛
Athens	Drachmæ to £ ..	25 22½	363
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	273½
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.34½
Berne	Francs to £.....	25.22½	25.13 –14
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 3/16—7/32
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	106.95
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	1,070
Budapest	Kronen to £	24 02	345-347,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 3/16—7/32
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	885—905
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.84½
Paris	Francs to £.....	25.22½	121.45
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	163½
Rome	Lire to £	25 22½	1'9⅞
Sofia.....	Leva to £	25.22½	670
Teheran	Krans to £	50	43
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	34.38
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	33*

* Sellers.

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Near East Markets.

SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs C. J. Giraud and Co., report as follows for the week ended November 14:—

Saltanas.—The arrivals are estimated at 18,200 tons and the sales to date are put at 16,600 tons. Closing prices, Smyrna, per cwt. c.i.f., London and Liverpool: type 12, 53s.; type 13, 55s.; type 14, 57s.; type 15, 59s. type 16, 64s.; type 17, 71s.

There is no change in prices from last week's level. The gradually declining tendency hitherto marked appears this week to have reached its bottom limit. Demand still continues slow. We are not inclined, however, to anticipate any further reduction in values. A reaction upwards may quickly follow on any improvement in demand. This should be regarded as more than a possibility in view of the comparatively light stocks on most consuming markets.

Figs.—The arrivals are estimated at 189,060 bags, and the sales to date are put at 182,318 bags. The stock consists mainly of "Hordas," only about 120 tons being genuine quality.

DRIED FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., of Liverpool, in their report dated November 30 state:—

Currants.—Although showing signs of improvement in the early days of the month, the market developed renewed uneasiness later, under freer offerings. The feature of importance has been the action of the Greek Government in introducing a scheme to purchase the surplus of the crop on a sterling basis, in place of the Greek currency. Prior to the receipt of this news a certain amount of nervousness was apparent in view of the sharp fluctuations and preponderating decline of the Greek exchange. The action of the Government, consequently, had a beneficial effect in stabilising prices. Apart from this, unfortunately, there has been nothing whatever to stimulate buyers to activity, the response from the country continuing to be most disappointing. We have been well supplied, cargoes arriving per Sea Glory, Andalusian, Assyrian, Lisbon and Pavia. The trade passing was most centred in cleaned varieties—Pyrgos, cleaned, selling at 31s. to 31s. 6d.; good cleaned Provincial and Amalas, 32s. to 33s. 6d.; cleaned Patras, 34s. to 36s.; Gulf, uncleaned, 35s. to 36s.; Gulf, cleaned, 35s. to 38s.; Gulf, small cleaned, 35s.; Zante, 33s. to 35s. Vostizza have been pressed for sale, good qualities changing hands at 40s. to 42s.; Shade Dried, ordinary, 42s. to 43s.; good, 45s. to 46s.; fine tip-top parcels, 48s. to 51s..

Quotations:—Pyrgos and Amalias, 31s. to 33s.; Patras, 34s. to 36s.; Zante, 32s. to 35s.; Gulf and Panariti, 34s. 6d. to 38s.; Vostizza, 40s. to 51s.

Australian.—The advantage gained from the advertising propaganda has assisted the holders to unload their stock, and considerable progress has been made at 28s. to 30s.

Sultanas.—A good deal of pressure was felt during the early part of November, holders displaying an excessive desire to unload. This was not due to influences in this country, where stocks are light, but was attributable solely to the existence of lower values in Smyrna, and immediately reports were received of a 3s. advance abroad, a change for the better quickly developed here. We close with a firmer tone, and with more interest being taken in the article.

Quotations are: medium to good, 68s. to 75s.; fine, fine, 80s. to 90s.

Greeks.—Holders realising that in order to make progress against the decline recorded in Smyrna, reduced their ideas, and business was done at:—medium, 68s. to 70s.; fine bleached, 90s.

Australian.—The few parcels remaning were disposed of at 66s. to 75s.

Figs.—Remaining stock consists of small boxes only, which are being gradually disposed of at 85s. to 90s. Bags Genuine, 45s.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street. S.W.)

EGYPT.

Bunting, Etc.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lights Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of bunting, ropes, canvas, hose, etc., required for 1926-1927. February 4.

Clothing.—The Egyptian State Railways invites tenders for clothing, summer and winter, for the year 1926-7. December 30. (D.O.T.)

Clothing, Etc.— The Chief Inspector, Customs Administration, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of clothing, boots and tarboushes required during the year 1926-1927. February 5.

Clothing, Etc.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lights, Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of clothing, tarboushes and boots required during the financial year 1926-1927. February 1.

Hose Pipes.—The Superintendent of Stores, Saptia, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 1,250 hose pipes without couplings, 1,000 rolling rings and 9,060 joint rings. December 15.

Lock Bridge.—The Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, invites tenders for the construction of the new lock bridge over the Mahmoudia Canal at Alexandria. This bridge is designed with a superstructure for two railway tracks and a road bridge. It will be built on the existing masonry which will have to be modified in consequence. Tenderers may submit such offer as they deem best according to the information they may obtain from the general drawings of the Administration, suggesting three solutions of swing bridges and a solution of a lift bridge. February 16.

Paper and Stationery.—The Central Stationery Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of paper and stationery required for the year 1925-1926. January 9.

ROUMANIA.

Chemicals.—The Direction Generale of the Roumanian State Monopolies invites tenders for the supply of chemicals of various kinds. December 12. (D.O.T.)

THE SUDAN.

Hull and Cabin Work.—The Inspector-General of Irrigation, Sudan, Khartoum, invites tenders for the supply of hull and cabin work only for two launches. January 25.

Supplies.—The Inspector-General of Irrigation, Sudan, Khartoum, invites tenders for supplies required for the Floating Workshop "El Nasheet": (a) Electric generating set and fittings for electric light—supply only. (b) Oils and paints. Contractors may tender for one or both of the above groups. December 7.

The Wanganui Harbour Board (New Zealand) have placed an order for the construction of a twin screw fire and salvage tug with the Dublin Dockyard Co (Vickers-Ireland, Ltd.). The vessel's dimensions are 110 ft. by 24 ft. by 12 ft., and the machinery consists of two sets of triple expansion engines developing 800 i.h.p. This is the second order placed by New Zealand Harbour Boards with the Dublin Dockyard Company during the last month.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

MANCHESTER COTTON MARKET.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Ottoman Bank for the week ended November 28 states:

Trade has not expanded during the past week and in all quarters operations are reported to be of small dimensions. There is no longer the excuse of inadequate cotton supplies and the conclusions to be drawn seem to be either that Lancashire's competitors are cheaper or that prospective buyers lack faith in present prices.

Yarn. Whilst it is believed that a large proportion of the spinners of American cotton voted in favour of further curtailment of working hours, the result of the ballot does not, in the opinion of the Federation, justify such a step and the hours will therefore remain as at present, viz., 39¼ per week. It is not possible to record any improvement in this section. Buyers continue to operate with extreme caution and for neither American nor Egyptian spinnings is there any business of special interest to refer to.

Cloth. Demand has been on a low scale. It appears that there is some difficulty in disposing of goods ordered when prices were higher, and this, of course, is an unfavourable factor for the moment. Indian inquiry has been very sluggish. A moderate business has been done for China but Egypt and the Near East have been dull.

Raw cotton.—The American Agricultural Bureau Report published on Saturday afternoon last gave the indicated yield of the crop at 15,298,000 bales, a reduction on the estimate of a fortnight earlier of 88,000 bales. The number ginned up to the 13th instant was 12,250,000 bales. Following the receipt of these figures prices were raised about ⅜d. per lb., an increase which seems somewhat out of proportion to the reduction in the crop estimate. Since then the market has been very steady. The Egyptian Government is said to have made modest purchases of cotton in Alexandria day by day but has not operated to an extent which would materially affect prices. This policy of Government interference with the normal play of the market is much resented in Lancashire. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows:—American Middling 10.74, Egyptian Gully Good Fair 19.75.

THE EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company in their report for the week ended November 19, states:-

Since our last report the futures market has been quiet. The net changes on the week are the following: Sakellaridis 1.24 dollars up for November, 1.15 dollars up for January, 1.17 dollars up for March, 1.10 dollars up for May, 1.12 dollars up for July, 0.60 dollars up for November 1926; Ashmouni 0.27 dollars up for December, 0.30 dollars up for February, 0.30 dollars up for April, 0.50 dollars down for October.

There is little fresh to report. The market was relatively firm at the close but this firmness is principally due to the rumours that the Government intends to buy considerable quantities of Sakel contracts; so far nothing official has been published.

The demand from abroad has been moderate, but spinners have continued to show an increased interest for Sakel. The improved demand for Sakel has induced operators to close out straddles, buying back Sakel and selling Ashmouni, and the consequence has been a widening of the difference between the two varieties.

Local speculators are still, in general, committed to the bear side, but they appear to be more cautious, whilst, in view of the better demand on the spot market hedge selling by the banks against their clients' cotton has not been as heavy as it was last week.

The Government has bought on the spot market a further few hundred bales of Sakel round about Fully Good Fair and we estimate the total bought by them since they first came into the market at about 3750 bales.

In the interior, business is rather dull. The merchant in general have lost a good deal of money, and are chary of making further purchases, especially as growers, particularly the more important ones, are not free sellers considering the present level of prices too low; this holding back policy explains the falling off in the figures of the daily arrivals. Our opinion is that, for the time being we are not likely to see any big change in prices.

The week's receipts amount to 301,875 krs. against 233.814 krs.; the stock stands at 1,819,321 krs.

Spot: Minet el Bassal has been moderately active this week and sales amount to about 27,300 bales, of which we estimate 15,200 bales Sakel, 9,500 bales Uppers 1,900 bales Zagora, 500 bales Pilion 200 bales White and a few bales of Brown. The Egyptian Government has bought about 750 bales of Sakel about Fully Good Fair in quality.

Sakellaridis: has been in good demand and all styles have been dealt in, with the medium styles in most request. Spot differences are without much change generally but inclined to ease for the better grades.

Ashmouni and Zagora: A good business has been done covering all grades. With the exception of Fully Fair and below, which are easier, spot differences are without change.

Pilion: has been in fair request. Spot differences are generally rather easier.

Brown: Only a few bales have been done. Spot differences are rather cheaper.

White: A moderate business has been done at a rather cheaper basis than last week.

The League of Nations Commission of Inquiry into the Balkan frontier dispute arrived in Belgrade last Thursday from Sofia, leaving for Geneva on November 28.

TEXTILES.

IF you wish to obtain your Textile goods from England at the lowest possible prices, communicate with K JEBARA, 25, Princess Street, Manchester. (Established 188).

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Port Said: English Agency, P.O. Box 240.

SUDAN.
Khartoum: Victoria Book and Stationery Store, P.O. Box 51

PALESTINE.
Jerusalem: B. Y. and W. A. Said, 23-24, Jaffa Road.

SYRIA.
Beyrout: Sarrafian Bros.

IRAQ.
Baghdad: Government Bookshop, Serai.
Basrah: Utam Jashan and Co., Bridge Street, Ashar.

INDIA.
Calcutta: A. N. Wheeler and Co., 117-119 Park Street.
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Karachi: Standard Bookstall, Elphinstone Street, Karachi.

BULGARIA.
Sofia: Librairie Francaise et Etrangere, 4a, Bvd. Tsa Ostvoboditel.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia: George and Sons, P.O. Box 6.

GREECE.
Athens: Th. Vafiadis, 24, Rue du Stade.
Eleftheroudakis and Barth, Place de la Constitution.

ROUMANIA.
Bucharest: Librairie Universala, 37, Calea Victoriei.

TURKEY.
Constantinople: H. D. Marianopoulos, Librairie Mondrine, 280. Grande Rue de Pera.

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TURKEY'S TRADE IN 1924.

The value of imports into Turkey during the first eleven months of 1924 was £T171,194,875 as against £T144,788,671 for the year 1923, while exports were valued at £T137,670'698 and £T84,651,190 respectively. Imports exceeded exports in the period under review by £T33,524,117, as compared with £T60,137,481 in the whole of 1923 while during the first eleven months of 1924 imports exceeded those for the whole of 1923 by 18 per cent. (says the British Commercial Secretary at Constantinople in a recent report). On the other hand, however, the value of exports increased by no less than 63 per cent. over the same periods, and the excess of imports over exports was decreased from 71 per cent. in 1923 to 24 per cent. in 1924. In view of the fact that Turkey has lost a considerable extent of territory since 1914, no accurate comparison can be made with the pre-war trade returns, which of course comprised the whole of the Ottoman Empire. For the year 1329 (1913-14) imports into the whole of the Turkish Empire amounted to £T40,809,682 (gold) and exports to £T21,436,120 (gold).

With regard to articles imported during the eleven months under review, cotton goods again head the table with a value of £T57,769,138, or 34 per cent. of the total imports, as compared with £T53,939,768 or 37 per cent. of the total imports, in 1923. Large increases are also shown in the imports of woollen goods, metals, machinery and vehicles.

As regards the principal countries exporting to Turkey, Italy again heads the list with goods amounting in value to £T36,724,748 as aginst £T28,352,941 in 1923, an increase of £T8,371,807, or 29.5 per cent., while those from the United Kingdom amounted to £T31,118,762 as compared with £T23,063,477 in 1923, an increase of £T8,055,285, or 35 per cent. Germany's share advanced from £T9,222,073 to £T16,708,092, an increase of 81 per cent. and those from Roumania were more than doubled. It should be stated, however, that imports from Roumania, which consist mainly of grain, necessarily vary with the extent of Turkey's harvest. Other contributors included France, £T16,864,772; the United States, £T9,162,557; Belgium, £T7,562,773; Syria, £T6,783,047; the Soviet Union, £T5,948,390; Egypt, £T5,934,445; Holland, £T5,694,849; Czecho-Slovakia, £T5,182,038; and Japan, £T3,010,002.

As regards exports, the most striking increase is that concerning tobacco, the value of which advanced from £T20,482,517 in 1923 to £T38,784,180 for the first eleven months of 1924. The value of exports of fruit increased from £T20,833,387 to £T33,315,680 during the same periods.

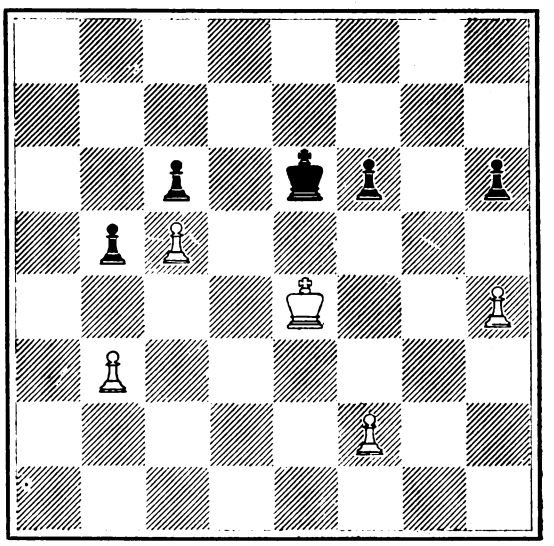
In the distribution of Turkey's exports during the eleven months under review Italy was the chief customer with goods valued at £T27,768,304 as compared with £T15,200,671 in 1923, but it should be stated that a considerable proportion of Italy's imports, in particular tobacco, are in transit only, and are in reality consigned to Central European States via Trieste. Exports to the United Kingdom increased by approximately 30 per cent., i.e., from £T15,756,670 to £T20,612,887, and consisted principally of dried fruit, mohair and nuts, while exports to Germany were more than doubled due mainly to increased shipments of low-grade tobacco and fruit.

Mr. Edward Dudley Vergette, late Judge (Colonial Service), at Cyprus, of the Royal Societies Club, St. James's Street, S.W., and of Sierra Leone, West Africa, who died on August 17, aged 47, left estate of the gross value of £1,349, of which £1,075 is net personalty.

Sir Robert James Black, Bt., of Midgham Park, Berks, chairman of the Mercantile Bank of India, Limited, and the Anglo-French Textile Company Limited, and a director of the Shell Transport and Trading Company, Limited, and of other companies, who died on September 28, 1925 left unsettled property of the gross value of £535,471, with net personalty £483,205. He appointed the Alliance Assurance Company, Limited, as sole executor.

CHESS.

By "CARO-KANN."



Problem No. 24.
White to play. What result?

Solution to Problem No. 23: 1 . . . . Kt—B3; 2, Kt—K2, P—B4; 3, K—B3, P—Kt5; 4, P—B4, Kt—K2; 5, Kt—Q2, Kt—Kt4; 6, K—Q3, Kt—Q3; 7, K—K3, Kt—B5 (ch.); 8, KtxKt, PxKt; 9, K—Q2, P—Kt4 and wins.

The death of Mr. Amos Burn, the famous master, who since 1913 has been Chess Editor of the *Field*, came as a great shock to the chess world, for his health had been maintained to the last. His death deprives English chess of the last of the three masters who so ably enabled this country to hold its own against foreign masters in the 'seventies and 'eighties. For many years past he had taken no part in competitive chess, one of his last games being that in the cable match of 1911, when he defeated Marshall in brilliant style, and in recent years he had delighted in off-hand games. He was always ready to proffer kindly advice to aspiring players, and the list of those who owe much to his encouragement would be long indeed. His work as a chess editor needs no eulogy from me. His annotations were world famous, and his passing leaves a gap in chess journalism that it will be impossible to fill.

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JAN 6 1926

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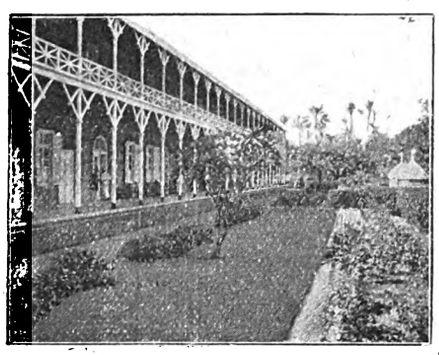

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THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

No. 761.—VOL. XXVIII. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1925

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	Page
NOTES OF THE WEEK	703
SPECIAL LETTERS—	
Egypt	706
Albania	707
Greece	708
Roumania	709
LEADING ARTICLE—	
The Macedonian Frontier Award	705
THE WEEK AT HOME	716
SPECIAL ARTICLE –	
Winter Sports in Slovenia ...	710
PERSONAL AND GENERAL ...	715
BOOK REVIEWS	714
INDIAN AFFAIRS –	
The Cotton Excise	718
Current Topics	719
Special Letters: Calcutta ...	720
Bombay ...	721
Indian Mail	722
Indian Exchange	724
COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
Notes and News	725
Shipping Intelligence	728
The Roumanian Budget ...	727
Motors & Motoring. By G. B. B.	729
Cotton and Cotton Goods ...	730
Company Notes and Reports ...	731

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

The Country Makes Up Its Mind.

The decision of the Council of the League of Nations is likely to be made known while this issue of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA is going to press. Opponents of British policy in Iraq have made an eleventh hour effort to rally support to their way of thinking, but the measure of their success can hardly be up to their expectations. The hatter of Carmelite Street has this in common with the three tailors of Tooley Street that he is able to speak for the people of England. "This country," we learn from the *Daily Mail*, "has quite made up its mind about Mosul. It does not mean to stay in Mesopotamia, and still less does it mean to burden itself with Mosul." Apart from the fact that we should be tempted to rate our contemporary's influence higher than it does itself, and should have imagined that, as a prey to quite unjustifiable misgivings, the country had not yet been able to make up its mind, we are happy to accept the comfortable assurance. As for the country's resolve not to stay in "Mesopotamia" in these days with journalism of a rather breathless type in vogue, when there is no time to verify statements or to study the subject written about, and when leading articles are merely a re-hash of dozens that have preceded them on the same subject, we cannot expect a popular organ to know that Mesopotamia changed its name to Iraq several years ago here it falls into line with the British Government's policy of leaving Iraq to the Iraqis as soon as its independence is reasonably assured. In regard to Mosul, there is not, and there never has been, the least intention of allowing it to be a burden on Great Britain. If the advocates of an immediate or early "scuttle" from Iraq were to have their own way, there would be a grave danger of Mosul's proving a serious burden on this country, for the simple reason that Iraq's independence would at once go by the board, Turkey would once more extend to the Persian Gulf, and it would become worth some Power's while to use the Turks again as a weapon against the British Empire. So long as Turkey is confined to Asia Minor, the country inhabited by Turks, she has an opportunity of living her own life and of developing in accordance with the genius of her own people. No real friend of Turkey, therefore, can wish her to regain Mosul, which has now been incorporated within Iraq for the last seven years, and in the days to come the service rendered to the Turks by successive British Governments in opposing their rulers' artificial campaign for the recovery of the Mosul vilayet will be recognised by the wiser heads among them.

The Opposition to Mosul.

The curious features of the opposition raised in certain quarters to the fulfilment of Great Britain's pledges to Iraq have naturally given rise to speculation as to the motives behind it. Without doubt, the ugliest suggestion, at first whispered and now broadcast, is that the whole opposition revolves round a group of would-be concessionaires, who hope by the restoration of Mosul to Turkey to see the Turkish Petroleum Company's concession rescinded and to secure it for themselves. It is a serious charge to bring against a group of British business men that for their own personal ends they will intrigue with a foreign Power behind their Government's back and against the national policy of three successive Governments. Nowhere have we seen it stated that the opposition is a deep-laid scheme on the part of a daily newspaper, which, having failed in the matter of prescribing the British nation's headgear as signally as it fails so often in prescribing its policy, hopes by currying favour with the Angora Government to offload on the fezless feckless Turkish people the vast quantity of hats which in the popular belief must still serve the purpose of megaphones in the newspaper's office. We prefer, therefore, to fall back on the inference that the opposition means well, but is merely ignorant. During the past week various attempts have been made to justify the unpatriotic attitude. An evening paper, whose speci-

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ality is the echo rather than research, announced that the opposition to Mosul took its stand (1) "on the fact that the League has already decided that Mosul belongs by right to Turkey," and (2) "that Mr. Baldwin in May 1923, gave a distinct pledge that our mandate in Iraq should terminate in 1928." Now, both these statements are demonstrably untrue, and although English journalism has fallen from the high position that it once held in the world's esteem, it has not sunk quite so low, even in the most soulless journals, deliberately to make untrue statements that cannot fail to be detected. Quite obviously the paper in question has never read the report of the Mosul Commission: as its province is to echo and not to indulge in independent thought, it has merely repeated what its morning paper has printed.

The Mosul Commission's Report.

It is, of course, untrue that the League of Nations has decided that Mosul belongs by right to Turkey, for the reason that the League had not, when the statement was made, passed judgment in the matter. What had happened was that an advisory Committee had recorded its opinion that, strictly speaking, territory taken from a country is regarded in the eyes of international law as belonging to that country until it formally renounces its rights. Reference is made to the subject in three passages in the report: "The territory occupied by the British and Iraq authorities still belongs *in law* to Turkey until she renounces her rights . . . ." "It is indisputable that Turkey retains her *legal sovereignty* over the disputed territory so long as she does not renounce her rights . . . ." "The Commission is of opinion that *from the legal point of view* the disputed territory must be regarded as an integral part of Turkey until that Power renounces her rights." That the Commission in so saying is merely humouring a legal purist is made clear by the fact that a few paragraphs further on the report states: "The Commission . . . . is of opinion that important arguments, particularly of an economic and geographical noture, and the sentiments (with all the reservations stated) of the majority of the inhabitants of the territory taken as a whole, operate in favour of the union with Iraq of the whole territory south of the Brussels line." It is difficult to understand why the "scuttlers" should pay such touching devotion to an *obiter dictum* of the Mosul Commission and at the same time ignore the force of its actual findings. Again it is to be hoped that only ignorance prompts some of the "scuttlers" to base their opposition on the lofty ground that Mosul was occupied by the British in violation of the Armistice. On this point the Mosul Commission was very clear, for it refused to examine the contention in view of the fact that "the occupation of the city of Mosul and of all towns in 'Mesopotamia' in which there were Turkish garrisons was permissible under Article 16 of the Armistice." Little wonder that some people look for disreputable motives when anyone claiming to be British continues to bring against his own country charges that have been shown by independent authority to have no foundation. In regard to the alleged pledge supposed to have been given by Mr. Baldwin, which is usually described as a "definite" or a "distinct" pledge, it is now admitted that the only foundation for the "pledge" were the words used by Mr. Baldwin when introducing a Treaty which specifically provided for a new Treaty at the end of four years, to the effect that "it was ridiculous to suppose that we were under a pledge for all time to protect Iraq"; but it is naïvely added, "everybody in the House of Commons then understood this to mean that we should not remain in Mesopotamia a day later than 1928." A very definite pledge, and a very distinct one. May it be long before the British public yields to a campaign that can enlist neither honesty nor intelligence in its support.

The Syrian Revolt.

The first military operation of any significance after the arrival in Syria of M. de Jourvenel, the new High Commissioner, has met with complete success. Hasbeiya, where the Druses had established a provisional Government, has been captured by the French, and those of its defenders who survived the attack have escaped towards Mount Hermon. It was from Hasbeiya, which is the headquarters of the Druse religion, that the Druses had hoped to give a more distinctly religious turn to their movement by enlisting the support of all the Molsem communities in Syria. They are now left with two main centres of revolt, the Grand Lebanon and the Hauran, the latter of which is to receive attention first from the French. Guerilla warfare continues in the neighbourhood of Damascus, where the insurgents have developed a surprising capacity for keeping the French garrison in a state of high nervous tension.

The Jarabub Oasis.

It is greatly to the credit of Zewar Pasha's Ministry that, in spite of the anxious time through which it is passing, it has not failed to come to an arrangement with Italy over the Jarabub Oasis. This oasis, which is strategically important for the Italian colony of Cyrenaica, in which it will now become incorporated, was the subject of an agreement between Great Britain and Italy in 1921: but on receiving her independence Egypt was unwilling to be bound in this matter by an Anglo-Italian understanding. An attempt has been made to work up an agitation in Egypt over the Jarabub question, on the ground that it would be a betrayal of Egypt's interests if any of her territory were ceded to Italy. The Government, however, has adopted a more reasonable attitude, and has followed in the main the solution arrived at between Lord Milner and Signor Scialoja. Egypt obtains in the north certain wells lying to the west of Sollum that are necessary for the well-being of that town, and gives Italy the oasis of Jarabub. At the same time the agreement provides for arbitration in all cases of dispute between the two countries.

Russia and Afghanistan.

The report that the Russian railway from Bokhara to the Afghan frontier is expected to be completed by the end of this month, when Tarmez on the Oxus will have been reached, calls attention to the strenuous efforts now being made by the Soviet Government to gain a footing in Afghanistan. Two distinct forms of Soviet enterprise can be recognised in this sphere; on the one hand there are the measures taken to secure the Ameer's friendship by providing him with funds and to cover the country with Russian concessions, and on the other hand there are the racial activities among the border peoples designed to spread disaffection among their kinsfolk within Afghanistan with the ultimate aim of bringing about the Ameer's overthrow and Sovietizing his kingdom. The exploitation of Afghanistan by Russian concessionaires possibly fits in with the Ameer's reforming zeal, and it may be that he is shrewd enough to know how far he can use the Russians without jeopardising his own or his country's interests.

Military delegates from Czecho-Slovakia, Yugoslavia, and Roumania, who for some time past have been examining problems of international railway transport, have concluded their labours. It is stated that the transit of arms and ammunition between the States concerned was also discussed, and an agreement reached on all points. The clauses of the Convention, which still waits signature, was kept secret.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1925.

THE MACEDONIAN FRONTIER AWARD.

The report of the Rumbold Commission on the Græco-Bulgarian frontier incidents follows very closely the lines that had been anticipated. It establishes the fact that the Demirkapu affair was really nothing more than a frontier incident which could and should have been quickly settled on the spot; but the matter was complicated by the false news of a Bulgarian attack with a battalion—news that "was rather too readily accepted by the Greek General Staff on October 20"—and the consequent fear, genuinely entertained by the Greek Command, of an invasion in force of its territory. The Commission find that the Bulgarian Government acted in conformity with the Covenant of the League, whereas the Greek Government, by occupying part of Bulgarian territory with its troops, violated the Covenant. Accordingly, the verdict of the Commission is that: (1) The request for an indemnity made by the Greek Government cannot be considered, with the exception of an indemnity for the Greek captain who was killed while advancing under a flag of truce; and that (2) the Greek Government is responsible for the expenses, loss and suffering that the invasion by Greek troops caused the people and Government of Bulgaria, and owes reparation to the latter on this head. The total amount of the reparation due, under the three headings of property actually destroyed, loss of life and wounds, and moral and material damage, is fixed at thirty million leva, or about forty-five thousand pounds. Although this verdict will cause lively disappointment in Greece, where the people had been led to believe by the first official reports that the country had been in grave danger of a Bulgarian invasion, there is really no need for it to be taken too seriously to heart by the Greeks. The whole episode was a blunder, and the best course to adopt is to face the music, to pay the fine imposed, and to forget all about it. The Commission has succeeded in making out a better case for the Greeks than seemed possible at one time. Its verdict amounts to little more than the charge of excess of zeal; it is clearly stated that there was no premeditation on either side, so that allegations of a carefuly prepared violation of the peace of the Balkans fall to the ground. If scapegoats are to be found, they should be restricted to the frontier officers who forwarded unverified reports or deliberately distorted them. Conditions on a Balkan frontier call for level-headed officers with a full sense of their responsibility; and if an example were made of those who have laid their country open to being mulcted in a sum of twelve million drachmæ, others might realise that the best service that they can render Greece is to keep a cool head even under provocation. In this connexion a word of praise is due to the Greek captain who met his death when advancing between the firing lines, apparently with the object of holding a friendly discussion with the Bulgarians.

After dealing with the particular incident that was the immediate cause of its report, the Commission recommends the adoption of certain measures with a view to preventing the repetition of frontier collisions. It suggests the formation of a special body of frontier guards, to which a neutral officer should be attached, on both sides of the frontier. If an incident should occur, the Commission considers that its effect can be localised by the formation of a Conciliation Commission composed of representatives of both sides—that is, a Greek and a Bulgarian officer, and a neutral officer, under the chairmanship of a fourth member, either a neutral officer or a member of some organisation engaged in the Balkans under the auspices of, or having relations with, the League of Nations. At the same time the Commission lays stress on the necessity for political action, in order that two causes of discontent may be removed. It wishes to see the hastening of the complete fulfilment of the convention concerning the voluntary exchange of Greek and Bulgarian populations, together with the avoidance of any vexatious measures in this connexion. A second cause of discontent would be removed, in the Commission's opinion, if the Greek Government would compensate a number of persons in Bulgaria of Bulgarian race who have at different times come from Greece, where they have left property. Under the Minorities Treaty these people have the right to return to Greece; but Greece can no longer receive them and their property has been disposed of to refugees from Asia Minor. In return for the compensation these people would have to renounce their right to return to Greece.

There is much sound sense in these "political" recommendations, although it is not easy to imagine that a Greek Government will be eager to provide further compensation for Bulgarians, after having paid the reparations fixed by the Commission. Yet the prospect of a peaceful frontier would have a definite monetary value for every Balkan State. The Rumbold Commission has evidently satisfied itself that the *komitajis* do not follow their calling for their personal amusement, and that frontier incidents are not indulged in from a mere lust for raiding. In other words, the permanent peace of the Balkans depends on the removal of definite grievances. That most of these grievances are nursed by Bulgarians is not exclusively their fault. The Allies in the West have discovered that vindictiveness after victory can be overdone. It is not that they have modified their attitude towards the crime for which penalties had to be imposed; but that the welfare of every country in Europe is so inter-related, that not one can be penalised beyond a certain point without prejudice to all the others. In the Balkans this axiom has not yet been learnt. The Rumbold Commission was not actuated by any tenderness for Bulgaria; it examined the situation impartially and discovered what has long been apparent to other observers, that it is far more important for the victorious States in the Balkans to concentrate all their attention on their future prosperity than to waste their time nursing old grievances. Those with most knowledge of the Balkans have realised that it was of little use to attempt to force the pace of reconciliation; but it so happens that the Balkan States are being hurried along despite themselves. They cannot remain altogether indifferent to the Locarno Pact; the Græco-Bulgarian incident did not appear at first sight a stepping-stone to a more firmly-established peace in the Balkans, yet the report of the League of Nations' Commission will, without doubt, have brought the various countries appreciably nearer their goal, if only because there is in each nation a growing body of opinion that wants to have peace with neighbouring States and, consequently, a more abundant opportunity for internal development.

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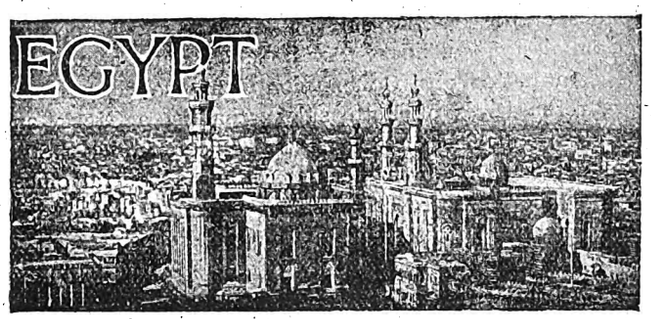
The Near and Middle East*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, November 29.

The Political Tangle.

During the past week there has been in political circles an atmosphere of suppressed expectancy. The Opposition, exultant over their successful defiance of the Government in the matter of the meeting at the Continental-Savoy Hotel of ex-deputies and senators, declared that, in face of the expression of opinion then given, the Ministry must resign immediately. But the Ministry has not resigned, and, at the moment gives no sign of resigning, although it is increasingly probable that changes will be made in the distribution of portfolios; and possible that a strengthening will be effected by the introduction of fresh blood. One Ministry (Wakfs) has been vacant for months past, while another (Finance) would also be unoccupied, were the wish of Yehia Pasha Ibrahim, who has for some weeks past been somewhat seriously ill, and who is anxious for a rest, to be granted.

Whether it will be possible, in present circumstances, to secure as recruits in the present Cabinet the kind of Ministers who are necessary, if the Government is to be sufficiently strengthened for the certainly difficult times ahead, remains to be seen: for men like Abdel Khalek Sarwat Pasha and Ismail Sidky Pasha, whose collaboration at the present juncture seems particularly desirable, are not desirous of assuming the responsibilities of office, until they are assured that there will be no repetition of the events which led to the Cabinet split of last September. At that time it was clearly foreseen by many people that driving the Liberal Constitutionals out of the Ministry and into the arms of the Zaghloulists would sooner or later land the Government in serious difficulties and utterly defeat its declared object of destroying the influence of Zaghloul Pasha. That is exactly what has happened. Zaghloulism, which, six months ago, seemed to be definitely losing its grip on the affections of the masses, is now, if possible, stronger than ever, and the two parties which formerly lent the Government their help in combating the Wafd are now on the opposite side, doing everything in their power to reinforce the popular belief that Zaghloul Pasha is the real master of the situation.

The return of Zaghloul Pasha to office is, of course, unthinkable, and Zaghloul has himself declared during the past week that he would never again lead a Ministry, even were he asked to do so. He realises, he said, that in accepting the task last year he committed a great blunder, and he will not make the same mistake twice. Although what the Opposition combination now probably has in mind is a Coalition Cabinet drawn from the three Opposition parties, there is probably in the Wafd camp a thorough realisation of the fact that even this alternative is extremely unlikely to materialise, and a readiness to accept a neutral Government, provided that its policy in regard to internal affairs shows a marked change from that of the present Unionist Cabinet.

The battles of the near future seem likely to be fought over the question of elections. The Government Press announces that the drafting of the new Electoral Law is at last completed and that elections will be held during the next few months. The Opposition declares that it will recognise no new law excepting that passed last year by the Chamber of Deputies, which embodied the principle of direct and universal manhood suffrage. The dissolution of the Chamber last spring, says the Opposition, was illegal: therefore the Chamber still exists, and the meeting at the Continental-Savoy Hotel was in order, and should be recognised as such. The old Chamber should be summoned to reassemble, and it should be left the task of framing new electoral legislation. If this course is not adopted, and if the Government persists in holding new elections, then those elections will be boycotted, says the Opposition.

The position, on the face of it, is an extremely difficult one, and it is hard to see how any neutral Ministry could go to the extreme lengths apparently necessary to conciliate the Opposition. On the other hand, the Wafd and its allies are almost certainly "talking big," and too much importance need not be attached to their threats of boycotting elections and continuing to assemble, despite the Government, what the Opposition professes to regard as the still legally existing Parliament. In point of fact, the Opposition is so anxious to be rid of the domination of the Unionist Party that it might well display an unusual reasonableness, if it came to the question of supporting another Ministry, composed mainly of men having no definite party affiliations. For the moment, it is impossible to do more than speculate, for, although there is general agreement that something important must happen soon, and the Cairo air is nearly as full of rumours as of dust, even those most advantageously placed for gauging the direction the political wind is likely to take profess complete uncertainty.

A Sensational Trial.

A remarkable trial began in the Assize Court last week, when four prisoners wers were charged with attempting to murder Sheikh Mohammed Maraghi, President of the Superior Mekhemeh Sharia, at Helouan, last January, by throwing vitriol over him, while a subsidiary charge was brought against another accused man of accepting a discharge for a debt of £E32,000, in return for a promise to use influence with Sheikh Maraghi to induce him to favour a particular party in litigation before the Mekhemeh Sharia. Interest in the case arises chiefly from the fact that one of the four first accused is Henri Sakkakini, son of the late Count Habib Sakkakini Pasha, and heir to his estate, said to be worth nearly half a million sterling, while the subsidiary charge is laid

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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against Hamed Pasha el Bassel, Vice-President of the Wafd and formerly Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies.

The late Count Sakkakini Pasha had no children, and adopted a boy from a waifs' home. This boy grew up to be to the Count as much as any natural boy could have been. The lad's influence over the older man was absolute. But, under the laws of inheritance of the Catholic Church, the adopted son could not inherit the Count's estates. The Count, therefore, swore an affidavit before the Mekhemeh Sharia that Henri Sakkakini was his real son. On the death of the Count, the latter's sisters brought an action in the Catholic Patriarchal Court, and were adjudged the lawful heirs. Henri Sakkakini refused to recognise the jurisdiction of the Partriarchal Court and took the matter to the Mekhemeh Sharia which, on the strength of the affidavit previously sworn by Count Sakkakini Pasha, adjudged Henri the lawful heir. Thus arose one of those conflicts of jurisdiction which are so common in Egypt.

The case was, in fact, as far from being settled as ever. So Henri Sakkakini began a new action in the Patriarchal Court, producing, to the astonishment of the opposing parties, marriage and baptismal documents purporting to show that the late Count, forty years ago, had secretly married a woman in an Austrian village, and that Henri was a lawful child of that marriage. Nobody in Egypt had ever before heard of that woman or her marriage to Sakkakini Pasha, and the sisters of the latter instituted searching inquiries, with the result that the Vatican investigated the question ordered the Cairo Patriarchal Court to dismiss Henri Sakkakini's application, on the grounds that the documents produced were forgeries.

Henri Sakkakini again went to the Mekhemeh Sharia, and again secured judgment in his favour. The sisters of the late Count thereupon appealed to the Superior Mekhemeh Sharia, of which Sheikh Maraghi is the president, and secured cancellation of the lower court's decision, Sheikh Maraghi and his associate judges holding that the Mekhemeh Sharia had no jurisdiction to hear the case at all, both parties being subject, in questions of personal statute, to the jurisdiction of the Patriarchal Court. Henri Sakkakini entered against this judgment an appeal in the form of a *requête civile*, which is practically an application for stay of execution on the grounds of legal inaccuracies in a judgment. A *requête civile* is normally heard by the same judges who have given the decision appealed against. On this occasion the *requête civile* was to have been heard by Sheikh Maraghi, but, on the morning of the day on which the appeal was to be called, whilst he was leaving his house to go to the Court, Sheikh Maraghi was attacked by a man who threw a bottle of vitriol over him, inflicting serious injuries for which Sheikh Maraghi, as *parti civil* in the present prosecution, claims £E10,000 damages from Henri Sakkakini.

It is not alleged that Hamad Pasha el Bassel had any part in the vitriol attack, the prosecution basing its charge against him on the allegation that he accepted a receipt for £E32,000 which he owed the estate of the late Count Sakkakini Pasha, in return for a promise to influence Sheikh Maraghi to give judgment in favour of the sisters.

As may be imagined, the case is arousing very great public interest. The leading Egyptian barristers are engaged, and the throngs daily seeking admission to the Court are reminiscent of the scenes outside the London Law Courts when an important trial is in progress.

ALBANIA.

Tirana, November 29.

Independence Day.

Yesterday was Independence Day, celebrated throughout the country by processions, patriotic speeches, banquets and fireworks. Here, unfortunately, the celebrations were much spoilt by rains. The triumphal arches erected over the streets took on a somewhat forlorn aspect, while there was no course but to abandon the firework display. Processions, however, headed by bands marched and countermarched up and down the town undaunted throughout the day; while the President, after receiving the congratulations of the Diplomatic Corps, passed contingents of the Gendarmerie and of the Militia in review, and distributed decorations.

Concessions and Commissions.

The chief political interest at the moment is centred on the Parliamentary Commission which is inquiring into the alleged malpractices of the late Foreign Minister, Mufid Bey Libohova, in connexion with the negotiations which led to the establishment of the National Bank and the Societa Italo-Albanese for the economic development of the country, and to the granting of the Loan. Mufid Bey is not only accused of receiving bribes from the Italians, but also of concealing from Parliament several supplementary agreements connected with the above. It is not yet possible to say whether there is any truth in these allegations. It is highly probable that the ex-Foreign Minister did indeed receive a commission for his pains, but granted that the agreements entered into are soundly drawn and in the interests of the State, a lenient view should be taken of this, for it represents, alas, the common practice in the Balkans and, in fact, in many other countries that are small and poor. Libohova Bey is probably less to blame than his enemies try to make out; for the agreements themselves appear to be perfectly sound. The statute of the Bank is a guarantee of the seriousness of the undertaking, while there is nothing objectionable in the provisions governing the concession granted to the S.I.A. The latter is given the option for undertaking at competitive prices various public works, such as roads and bridges, for which the expenditure of the loan is earmarked. It is, therefore, absurd to allege, as is done by the enemies of the present régime, that the country has thereby been sold to Italy. As for the loan, the sum to be advanced is £1,500,000 in cash, issued in the form of a £2,000,000 loan at 75. The interest to be charged is 7½ per cent. on the nominal value, and is accordingly equivalent to 9.4 per cent on the cash advance. After further deductions by way of commissions the total interest to be charged on the cash advance amounts to 10 per cent, which though high is not extravagant, considering the extreme dearness of money in many countries, such as Italy herself, where it is easy to obtain perfectly safe investments yielding 8 per cent.

Probably Mufid Bey deserves to be congratulated rather than censured for piloting these provisions to safety. In other respects, however, his conduct is held to be censurable. He is stated not to have played straight with his chief, and to have used his position to intrigue against the President. Possibly this lack of loyalty is the real cause of his downfall. The President's great difficulty is to find able and at the same time loyal collaborators; and those who agree to work with him and then fail in their trust deserve to be publicly censured. Betrayal of the President, who is undoubtedly doing his best for the country, comes, as things are for the present, very near State treason.

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Drilling for Oil.

The Anglo-Persian Oil Company are hard at work with their first well at Ardenitza. A depth of 200 metres has now been reached. It is not expected, however, to strike oil before a depth of 700 or 800 or even 1,000 metres. Several more months' work will, therefore, be required before it is known whether oil in commercial quantities is available.

Preparations for the drilling of a second well at Patos are nearing completion. Drilling here should begin early in 1926. The Italians, too, are completing their preparations for their first drilling at a point between Valona and Fieri. It will be a race between them and the Anglo-Persian's second well as to which of the two will start drilling first.

GREECE.

Athens, November 21.

Political Tranquillity.

Things have been quiet in Greece during the last fortnight. The only political events which call for comment are the appointment (universally approved) of M. Rouphos as Minister for Foreign Affairs, and the holding of a conference, at the invitation of the Prime Minister, of most of the party leaders, to discuss the elections for the new Senate.

Journals Suspended.

Newspapers that have been temporarily suspended during the period are the *Eleftheron Vema*, the best-written and most widely-read of Greek papers, the *Skrip*, and the *Demokratia*, organs of the Monarchists and the Democratic Union respectively. Of these, the *Eleftheron Vema* reappeared after a few days.

The Frontier Incident.

Interest in the frontier incident, never very great, is kept alive by leading articles in the papers on the subject of *komitajis*. Even a bomb-throwing incident at Flórina, which occurred at the moment when the Rumbold Commission was being lavishly entertained at Athens, failed to attract the attention that might have been expected. It was even suggested that the incident was staged and timed for the occasion, but, in this connexion, one may be permitted to observe first, that, in that case, the actors exceeded their instructions, seeing that a large number of people were wounded, and secondly, that genuine incidents are always likely to occur in that particular district, which is one of the few remaining strongholds in Greek Macedonia of true Macedonians.

Transit of Commissions.

Meanwhile, Commissions come and go. The Rumbold Commission has departed, the Inter-allied Commission for the assessment of war damages has almost completed its arduous labours, and the Commission for the Settlement of Refugees is reported to be "closing down" shortly, as the previous loan is exhausted, and no new loan is forthcoming. Happily, a flying visit from Mr. Morgenthau did not disturb the exchange as in former days, when his arrivals and departures were invariably reflected in fluctuations of the drachma. The glamour which surrounded and still surrounds his personality in Greek eyes (he has just been awarded a Doctor's degree at the University of Athens), and which made his career in Greece a kind of triumphal progress, should not be allowed to obscure the solid achievements of his successor, Mr. Howland, and of his assistants—for whom things have not been made easy—nor the fact that it was largely British money that has made the loan a success.

The Peneios Bridge.

The inauguration by the Prime Minister on Sunday, November 15, of a new bridge to be built over the Peneios between Larissa and Trikkala in Thessaly, is an event, seemingly unimportant, but is, in reality, a clear indication of the fact, often emphasised in these letters, that the present Government takes a practical interest in the improvement of the country. This particular bridge has been a subject of dispute for many years, during which heaven knows what conflicting local interests have prevented its erection, and during which the inhabitants of the district have had to put up with great inconvenience during the rainy season. Nothing impresses one more, in wandering about Greece, than the neglected or unfinished roads, broken bridges, and general absence of communications. The inauguration of this bridge, which, it is hoped, will never be added to the list of the unfinished, is therefore a sign of the times.

Floods.

Quite as important as the improvement of communications, is the question of the control of rivers and mountain torrents. Every year, in some or other parts of Greece, these overflow their banks after heavy rains, or change their courses and devastate the countryside. This was well illustrated on Monday last (November 19), when one of the heaviest storms within living memory broke over Athens. One-eighth of the total average yearly rainfall fell in an hour and ten minutes, the Ilissus overflowed its banks, 150 houses and huts were swept away, some fifteen persons were drowned, innumerable houses were inundated, and the lower-lying parts of the city and Piræus were converted into lakes. The damage is estimated at fifteen million drachmæ. The makeshift drainage arrangements of Athens were not equal to the demands made on them, and, in many cases, the natural outlets had been obstructed by raised tram-lines, and even by buildings. The refugees, as usually happens in such cases, suffered most.

A Severe Penalty.

The long drawn-out trial by Court Martial of a group of persons accused of forgery and embezzlement of public money has just come to an end. Most of the accused were found guilty and condemned to varying terms of imprisonment; three were condemned to death by hanging. The sentence is to be carried out in public just outside Athens to-morrow (November 23) at 9 o'clock. Barbarous, perhaps, in moments of excitement, the Greeks are essentially a humane people, and the severity of the sentence, the circumstances in which the executions will take place, and the scenes which are bound to occur, are alike repugnant to their feelings. The Prime Minister has missed, it is felt, a great opportunity in refusing to exercise clemency towards the condemned men.

The Greek Navy.

The new Naval Academy was opened on November 19, and there is a note of sincerity in the speeches made on the occasion, that speaks well for the work of the British Naval Mission. The reorganisation of the Greek Navy includes the construction of three new submarines, in addition to the two already under construction, also of a training-ship, which will be built in England and ready in nine months. The repairs to the cruisers Lemnos and Kilkish will be finished in two months while the four large destroyers have just been completely overhauled. Under the direction of the present Mission, the future of the Greek Navy seems assured.

The British School.

The *Messager* for November 18 gives prominence to the Report of the British School at Athens, presented at the annual meeting at Burlington House. The work of

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this institution is too little known and appreciated in England. Primarily a school of archæological training and study, it possesses a first-rate library, which covers every branch of Greek history and thought, mediaeval and modern, as well as ancient, and which is open to all English residents and visitors. In addition to trained archæologists, it produces, year by year, students with an intimate first-hand knowledge of the country. It has always enjoyed the happiest relations with the Greek authorities, whose consideration and kindness have been unfailing, and its existence is a factor of real importance in preserving the traditional friendship between the two countries. Its usefulness, and even its life, depend, however, on more generous support at home.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, November 26.

The Political Situation.

The political situation at the present moment is difficult to represent with any clearness. On the one hand, a large part of the population appears tired of the Liberal régime, but it would be tired of any régime, however excellent, which imposed heavy taxes and kept the population on short commons in order to balance the State Budget. It is here that the Liberal régime is open to severe criticism at many points, but it cannot be denied that they have done a very great deal to bring about more settled conditions and to establish the national economy on a sound basis. The most difficult thing to understand in men of considerable ability and experience is their blindness to the disadvantages of banishing foreign capital from a country which has vast openings for further industrial development and insufficient money even to carry on the industries she already has.

As regards the probable successors to the Liberals when their term of office automatically expires in February next, there seems to be a divided opinion. Some believe that General Averescu will be asked to form a Government, as he can be trusted more or less to carry on the financial policy of the Liberals with certain modifications. Others believe that the Coalition Party of M. Maniu and M. Yorga will have a majority of votes at the election. This party again is a complex of semi-opposed principles and aims, and is said to have at least 30 members, all of whom wish to receive Ministerial portfolios should the party come into power. It has also several hot candidates for the position of Prime Minister. Altogether the internal condition and administration of this party are so unsettled that one must regard its accession to power with certain misgivings, as a lack of unity in its own ranks may lead to its early fall, and nothing can be worse for a country's economy than the want of confidence and security engendered by constant changes of Government and policy.

THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST ASSOCIATION.

Halide Edib Hanoum, who was the Minister of Education in the first Cabinet of the Turkish Republic, is lecturing to the Near and Middle East Association on December 17, at 5.15 p.m. The lecture, which, by kind permission of Mrs. James Conchie, is to be given at 27, Great Cumberland Place, W.1., is to be on "The Turkish Woman of To-day," and will be presided over by Lord Lamington. Tickets, price 5s. 6d. each (including tea at 4.30 p.m.) can be obtained through members of the Association or direct from the Secretary, 7, St. James's Terrace, N.W.8. (Tel., Hampstead 5297).

The Yugoslav-Italian Commission, which has been engaged in the delimitation of the frontier, has finally completed its labours in the Castua- Fiume sector.

THE ORIENT IN MUSIC.

It is, one supposes, the fate of all pioneers to be misunderstood or incompletely understood, so that one was scarcely surprised to find the Æolian Hall but scantily filled last week when M. Haig Gudenian gave another of his recitals of Oriental compositions. Readers of these columns know already my high opinion of the work that this Armenian artist is doing in interpreting to the West the soul of the Islamic East; and I shall not reiterate that. But it must be emphasised that M. Gudenian is attempting to do in the realm of sound, not what was done by other musicians, such as Rimsky-Korsakoff, Borodine, or Balakireff—who reproduced for Western ears only the picturesqueness or the barbarity or the fanaticism of Islamic peoples—but something of what poets like Burton and Flecker have achieved in the medium of words. The musician's task is, of course, infinitely more difficult than that of the user of colour or of words: so hard is it, in fact, that some Western observers have thought, wrongly, that Oriental music should always be subsidiary to word and to colour, as, for example, Delius in "Hassan" was subsidiary to Flecker and to Compton-Ricketts. But one feels quite certain that M. Gudenian's music is self-sufficient, even if at first hearing it be not quite self-explanatory.

Of M. Gudenian's technical mastery there can be no doubt whatever. It is infinitely greater than that, say, of Burton, whose "Kasidah" has confessedly inspired M. Gudenian in much of his work; it approaches, in its unusual exploitation of the potentialities of instruments such as the violin, the viola, the oboe, and gipsy and gong drums, to something of the exquisite pregnancy of Flecker's verse and prose. By his use of the piano, an instrument so wholly the product and the reflex of Occidental culture, one is not yet so convinced.

This artist's most obvious successes are in his employment of what may, without reproach, be called the cinematographic method. The dance of the Dervishes, the home-coming of an Eastern schoolboy, the pictorialisation of a desert scene (with abundant use of "close-up" memories—"The light of moon has grown to noon, has paled with eve, and now farewell! Go, vanish from my Life as does the tinkling of the camel's bell"),—in such as these the East comes before one certainly, fascinatingly, and memorably. Where it is much more difficult to follow M. Gudenian is in his philosophical representation of the Orient. By the use of such things as remote melodies (which he claims as the oldest known: one wonders whether they go back to pre-Islamic and pre-Christian times, or even to the Hittite period), unexpected rhythm in drums, and so on, he easily creates the atmosphere, but what do all his repetitions, questionings, comments, mean? Do they amount to such an interpretation of the East as Burton gave us? For the present this section of his compositions present a mystery. One is baffled as was the *hajji*—

> Gazing beyond the thin blue line that rims the far horizon ring,
> Our sadden'd sight why haunt these ghosts, whence do these ancestral shadows spring?

K. W.

The Italian Colony in Bombay has formed a Fascist centre in accordance with the decision of the Fascist authorities in Rome. This is the first centre to be formed in India.

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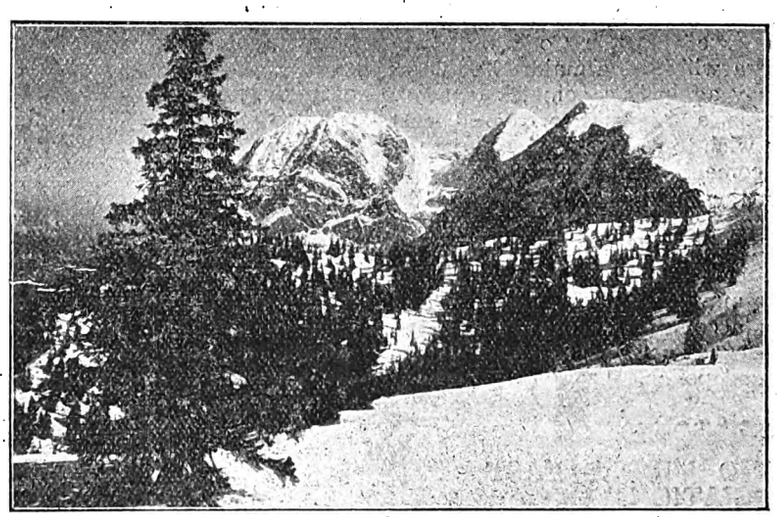
Winter Sports in Yugoslavia

In Slovenia, as in Switzerland, last winter season was more calculated to bring out the Christian virtues of patience under disappointment and fortitude under adverse conditions than to add to sporting records. After a mid-winter that almost made up for the rigours of the preceding summer, March came in, neither a lamb nor a lion, but with a smirk and a frown, and a message from his elder brothers that he would do his best to compensate for their shortcomings. Clean north winds blew, plenty of fresh powdery snow fell; the sporting community took heart of grace and made the most of a belated season. For Slovenia is essentially a sporting centre of Yugoslavia. If you want sports dependent upon water, you must of course go to Dalmatia, or the littoral, where good sailors are bred, and some of the world's best swimmers may be seen disporting themselves in waters that are never really cold. But for an all-round interest in sport the Slovene still ranks first among Yugoslavs, though Serb and Croat offer no worse material, and the spirit of brotherly emulation becomes keener with every year. There are good practical reasons why Belgrade and Zagreb should be the headquarters of Yugoslav motoring and football respectively; but for winter sports Slovenia offers the best terrain in the country, and Liubliana is the only suitable headquarters of the *Yugoslavenski Zimsko Sportni Savez* —Y.Z.S.S. for short— or Yugoslav Winter Sports Association.



Grintovetz and Kochna, from the Krvavetz.

Slovenia is an Alpine region, with a climate at once more temperate and more northerly than Switzerland. I do not know why this should be so. I merely state the fact. Its share of the Julian Alps includes the Triglav massif with most of its approaches. The Italian frontier as now delimited certainly runs over the actual summit, but only at the extreme end of the long crest. The Karavanke south of the watershed (this line includes the famous narcissus fields of Golitsa), and the rocky fastnesses of the Kamnik (i.e., *Stone)* Alps, are also in Yugoslav territory. The highest summits of the Julian Alps come within the line of eternal snow, but even the Karavanke and the Kamnik Alps may drape themselves in white at any moment of the year. So it must be a very poor winter indeed when there is lack of ice for the skaters, or of snow for the ski-runners and tobogganers (or ought it to be tobogganists?).

Skating has an honourable record in Slovenia. Dr. Gilbert Fuchs, a native of these parts, won the world's championship for skating at St. Petersburg (now Leningrad) in 1896. He repeated his record at Munich in 1906, and was unquestionably for many years one of the finest skaters of his generation. During the War, Dr. Fuchs settled permanently at Kranye, not far from Liubliana. As an active member of the Sports Club *Iliriya*, he is the acknowledged patron of the art of skating in Slovenia, and has done more than anyone else to arouse an interest in this graceful, if exacting, winter sport in Upper Carniola, and to improve the standard of performance. He is still a beautiful skater; and on any fair frosty day, when the Iliriya tennis courts are flooded and frozen, admirers of skating may have the pleasure of watching the veteran champion and discovering that even in sport there is a finish, a reposeful assurance bestowed by maturity, which mere youth and vigour cannot hope to possess. Last year's skating competition for the Slovene championship took place on January 18, in the Iliriya grounds and under the auspices of that club, as usual. Improvement upon the standard of former competitions was noticeable, and the number of entries was satisfactory. The first place went to M. Bloudek, civil engineer, of Liubliana. The contests which were to decide the championship for all Yugoslavia were to have been held a week later in Belgrade, but had to be abandoned on account of the sudden wave of warm weather which played havoc with all winter sporting fixtures, and brought the skating season to an untimely close. It will be interesting to watch what further improvement the coming winter will show, if the ice conditions are anything like normal. The best skating near Liubliana is to be had on the lovely Lake of Bled. As a rule this lake is frozen fast for some time during the season, when it is every whit as attractive to skaters as in its summer mood it is to swimmers.

The favourite terrain for tobogganing here is round about Bohinye, the other beautiful lake resort at the foot of the Julian Alps. It used to be well known even in pre-War days for its winter attractions, and it boasts a proper artificial toboggan run—quite an old institution. In the winter of 1922-23 there was a big winter sports meeting at Bohinye, with toboggan and ski-ing races and contests. Any normal winter, there is, of course, plenty of juvenile tobogganing to be had on countless inviting slopes all over the country. And it is to be hoped that the coming winter will bring at least an average allowance of snow.

During recent years ski-running has slowly but surely become an easy first favourite among winter sports. The reasons for this are many and obvious, and there is no point in going into them here. Ski-ing as a sport was

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introduced into Slovenia just before the War. As an ordinary means of winter locomotion, the natives of the Slovene Alpine village of Bloka have been in the habit of using skis—or *smuise*, as they are called here—for several hundred years. I have seen native skis in use at Ratetche, but, strange to say, the use of them is, on the whole, confined to the neighbourhood of Bloka; everywhere else racket shoes are worn for walking on soft snow. The native skis are stumpy and rather wide and the bindings are quite primitive.

The credit for introducing ski-running in Yugoslavia must go in the first place to M. R. Badiura, of Liubliana, author of the standard guide books for the Slovene Alps and a book on ski-running. What with suitable terrain readily accessible and a series of good winters, the sport soon grew exceedingly popular. Of the various sports clubs in Liubliana, three come into consideration in connexion with it—the Liubliana Sports Club, the oldest of its kind in the place; the Iliriya, second in age; and the Tourist Club Skala (Rock), a post-War institution, but very enterprising. At this moment the Liubliana Sports Club can claim the best ski-runner whom Yugoslavia has so far produced, M. Zdenko Shvigelye, as one of its members. M. Shvigelye was one of the four Yugoslav entrants for the Winter Olympiad at Chamounix. His colleagues on that occasion being M. Zinaya and M. Vladimir Kayzelye (Slovenes), and a Croat whose name I cannot for the moment recall. M. Kayzelye is a member of the Skala. Miss Bloudek, who holds the ladies' championship for Yugoslavia, is a member of the Iliriya.

We take our ski-ing very simply in Slovenia, and our ski-runners are, like a conscript army, recruited from all walks of life. We see none of the expensive Solomon-in-all-his-glory woollies that look so fascinating in coloured fashion plates, and—to judge by Swiss photographs—are actually worn. Our uniform is tunic and trousers of navy blue cloth, with a peaked cap to match. A touch of colour in the little puttees and the fancy cap that is sometimes worn for coolness relieves the severity of the dress—which, by the way (oh, may none of our *smutsari* read this!) at a first glance is not unlike the uniform of the Yugoslav Nationalist Organisation; so like it, in fact, that on one of our excursions I overheard an argument as to whether we were the *Oryuna* out to inaugurate a banner, or the *Skala* out for their ski races. . . . Those of us who have not invested in the regulation dress, make shift with ordinary mountaineering kit, both men and girls. Most of our skis are of Yugoslav make, and not expensive; but there are some fine Norwegian pairs to be seen, too—and the rest of us feel jealous.

In 1923 there was excellent ski-ing to be had just outside Liubliana, and this, I beg to state, is what may be expected in normal winters. Last season, of course, we were forced to travel a few stations up country to one or other of the neighbouring mountain resorts. And this is even in good years our usual week-end entertainment in winter. As often as not, we go to Kranyska Gora or Ratetche, two Alpine villages lying within four miles of each other at the very head of the Sava valley in an angle "where three States meet." Both have good terrain in the immediate vicinity; both are convenient starting points for any number of excursions into the Julian Alps, the Karavanke, across the Italian frontier to the famous White Rock Lakes, or to the Austrian side of the Karavanke. Permission to cross and re-cross the frontier can easily be obtained for *bona fide* tourists, and I have never seen anything but the most cordial civility shown to them by frontier guards and police everywhere. Ratetche lies opposite the Planitza Glen, beloved by Sir Humphry Davy: stretches of undulating meadow-land, radiant in spring with gentian and cowslips; dark pine forests clinging to the knees of protecting mountains; and above them the frieze of jagged peaks, stark rock and snow—silver-grey and opal—and at the far end the truculent bulk of the Yalovets walling us in up to the very skies!

The villages round about are accustomed to invasions by hosts of cheery ski-runners. The natives are thoroughly broken in to their ways. They have grown used to the spectacle of trousered females in their streets; they have learned to tolerate even the Sabbath-breaking propensities of their guests—probably on account of the economic uses of the latter—and no attempt is made to soothe the pangs of outraged propriety by exaggerated charges. One's headquarters are established at one or other of the homely inns, where essential comfort is provided, though luxury is neither available nor demanded. Wet clothes are draped around the big green-tiled stove without which no Slovene habitation is complete; the bench that runs round it is at once occupied by the worthies of the party; someone may even hoist himself (or herself, for that matter) on to the top—an excellent place for warmth, and quite roomy. Relays of glasses of hot weak tea, very sweet and with a dash of rum or lemon, are the staple refreshment, the prelude and conclusion of every meal. For Din. 12 to 18 (10d. to 1s. 3d.) you can have quite a good hot meal, or you may bring out your own provisions and even have them cooked for you. The overflow of visitors from the inns is billeted on the farmhouses round about (the average charge for a night's lodging being Din. 15, or about 1s.), and I can assure you that most of us have known far worse quarters than Slovene farmhouse lodgings. The Slovene keeps his house dry and warm in winter; he believes in plenty of bedclothes, the linen is always spotless and often beautifully trimmed and embroidered.

Somewhat similar conditions prevail at Rakek, the frontier station on the way to Trieste, where there is fine hilly terrain at a fair height above Liubliana Plain. In 1923 the ski races for all Slovenia were held here. Last year the snow was unkind and Rakek deserted. A like fate befell Bohinye on the Lake, an old favourite, which needs no fresh praises here. There is also good terrain, reminiscent of our own border, in the Karavanke round Trtsitch, where Colonel Blair lies buried.

For those who do not shirk a little preliminary trouble, there are two favourite "objectives" in the "houses" of the S.P.D. (Slovensko Planinska Drustva—Slovene Alpine Society) on the Velika Planina and the Krvavets on the edge of the Kamnik Alps. These mountains, whose names might be rendered by Great Fell and Bloodstain Fell respectively, are hilly plateaux at an average height of about 5,500 ft., and usually the ski-ing there is good from the first snowfall until Easter. The House on the Velika Planina is provided with a caretaker all the year round. It is one of my particular haunts. Getting there means four hours' tramp from the station at Kamnik, one hour by rail from Liubliana; but the path is well laid out, and the view over the forest-clad hills on the one side and the wide, mountain-girdled plain on the other is very beautiful. The Planina (Fell) itself has something of the charm of an island. On all sides but one it falls away abruptly into surrounding glens; and when river mists rise from below, as is very often the case, and the white welter of cloud comes up to within a couple of hundred feet of the level of the plateau, the illusion is complete. A remote, inaccessible-looking place it is, with more to interest a visitor than even ideal ski-ing terrain, an exquisite view of the main block of the Kamnik Alps and the strath of the Sava, with the Triglav and its foothills beyond. Its sheltered folds are dotted with quaint, tent-shaped wooden huts (*bayta* is the native name)—the last, so I am told, which preserve the style and construction of those built by the first Slovene settlers in these parts. The outer "tent" encloses a cube-shaped cabin, which is the real dwelling. The space between the two is used as

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a storehouse or byre. There is no chimney. When a board rots, it is replaced, and so the building remains unchanged. "But these particular huts are not old," the caretaker informed me; "not much more than two hundred years." One end of the plateau is pitted with deep caves and swallow-holes. The natural accumulations of snow in these pits come in handy for melting down in summer, when a colony of cowherds inhabits the *bayte* and cattle graze on the fell till autumn returns. For, despite its superficial resemblance to a Scottish moor, the Velika Planina is only a big limestone rock thinly covered with turf, and "who can find water on the top of a limestone rock?"

An excursion to the Krvavets can fairly be classed as something in the way of winter mountaineering. The approach leads through a secluded but cultivated valley and a forest belt, both lovely with spring flowers long before the snow on the top has gone. A welcome half-way house is provided by the rambling farm buildings that cluster round a lonely white church just under the actual ascent. Here the indispensable tea and also a night's lodging can be had. This season the new house on the Krvavets will be one of the best-appointed of the S.P.D.'s shelter huts. On the plateau you are face to face with the massif of the Grintavets, king of the Kamnik (Stone) Alps. Cut off from the Julians, yet higher than the intervening Karavanke, the "Stone Alps" are not so much foothills, not a suburb of the greater range, as a toy Himalaya with a titanic character all their own. Deep forest-clad glens and secret valleys; gaunt slopes where deer and chamois brouse; desolate stony peaks, bleak enough in their southern aspect, blankly precipitous to the north—they take some wooing and some winning, the Kamnik Alps, but to my mind they are worth it.

These excursions and others like them are not beyond the powers of a beginner in ski-running. For the expert there is the wide-flung mountainous region in every direction with every variety of terrain. It would be hard for him to find a domain more beautiful than the Valley of the Seven Lakes above Bohinye, and there, as in all the Triglav approaches, good ski-ing may be counted on until Whitsun, when narcissus-laden trippers from Golitsa meet at Yesenitse with the more austere lovers of the snows. As regards accommodation, the shelter huts of the S.P.D. are everywhere available for ski-runners and winter tourists. Fuel there is, but parties must carry their own food. Off the beaten track, the traveller may safely be recommended a night's lodging at any farm or inn he may find; and a perfectly comfortable night (as I know by experience) may even be spent in one of the tiny chimneyless shepherd cots which are to be found on practically every clearing.

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Book Reviews :: Notes :: Supplement.

The "Blue Peter" is published monthly at its Offices, 12, St. Mary Axe, E.C.3, and may be had from W. H. Smith & Son, Wyman & Sons, Ltd., and other chief Newsagents at home and abroad.

Although the interest in ski-running was greater than ever last season, there is little to tell as regards sporting events. Most races had to be abandoned, owing to adverse snow conditions. Indeed, the only races I know of were those of the Tourist Club Skala at Planitsa on March 15. On that occasion M. Kayzelye (generally considered second or third for all Yugoslavia) came in first, narrowly beating M. Ogrin, who—despite lack of training—acquitted himself creditably at the Central European Ski Races in Bohemia. The course at Planitsa was 12 km., rough going.

This season's most important winter sports event will probably be the fifty kilometre ski race with which the Skala intends to celebrate its fifth birthday next February. This race will be the first of its kind on so large a scale in Yugoslavia. The course, snow conditions permitting, will pass through and around Bled, which has much to recommend it for such an event. It is an attractive spot in itself: good terrain is near at hand: and there is ample and suitable hotel accommodation available for competitors, public, and—last but not least—for the staff of helpers needed along the course.

With ski-ing has grown up an increased interest in winter mountaineering. Always beautiful, the "lonely hills" are never more splendid than in winter, when their greater inaccessibility, the arctic purity of the air, the added spice of danger—in short, the lure of the wild at its wildest, always irresistible to certain temperaments—all tend to make winter mountaineering a well-loved sport with Alpine climbers. I had the good luck to be taken for a real winter expedition at New Year to the highest of the shelter huts on the Triglav range, the House on the Kredaritsa, some 8,000 ft. above sea level. I even established a modest record by being the first woman who has paid Triglav a mid-winter visit. My guides on that occasion were two undergraduates, M. Prevets and M. Hudnik, well-known climbers. It was they, by the way, who last summer piloted Miss Rebek, the first woman climber to scale the famous North Wall of Triglav—a bold and honourable record for all three.

And here a word as to guides. There are a few professional ones, but they are never employed for any trip at all out of the way, and none of them go in for ski-running as yet. In fact, they are little more than carriers. The responsibility of acting as guides on any given occasion is undertaken by any of our "star" mountaineers who are considered authorities on that particular tour. By this time most of them are also ski-runners. Of course, the services of these men are given purely as a matter of courtesy. A stranger coming here and anxious to see the Slovene mountains, on ski or on foot, would have to be shown the ropes and get into touch with native mountaineers. There would be no difficulty about that. The Slovene loves his mountains unselfishly, and delights in showing them to a friend. He is also the soul of hospitality and good-fellowship, patient with beginners, an admirer of pluck and perseverance quite as much as of actual achievement. In any of the clubs I have mentioned (Liublianski Sportni Klub, Iliriya, Turistovski Klub Skala) there are men who would prove efficient and reliable guides.

At this moment it seems as though the forthcoming season could not fail to be good as regards snow. Owing to the lateness of last winter, there has been unusually much snow in the mountains throughout the summer. At this time of writing, the cold rain outside tells a tale of fresh heavy falls in the hills. When the sky clears again, we may expect winter.

The director of the International Labour Office, in his report, mentions the fact that, although the Turkish Republic is not a member of the International Labour Organisation, constant relations are maintained, primarily for the mutual exchange of information, between the Office and the Angora Administration and the diplomatic representatives of Turkey abroad.

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NOTES ON PERSIA.

(From a Tabriz Correspondent.)

[We publish the following letter, dated November 14, as it was written to us.—ED.]

"HIS MAJESTY."

Ordinarily, when anything extraordinary takes place in Persia, *the Bazar is at once closed!* This is the Persian style of an English strike! But not on this occasion, altho the occasion is one of the extraordinariest of the extraordinary! A telegram from the Capital announces the following:—"By a vote of 80 members of the Mejliss the Shah is *dethroned*, and the *temporary rein* of the Kingdom of Iran has been trusted to *His Majesty* Riza Khan Pahlevi. The name of the permanent Ruler of the Kingdom will be announced shortly."

The occasion was one of unusual, but not universal, rejoicing! *The Bazar is open!* The shops and magazins adorned with drapery, mirrors, lamps, manchester calico of kleidoscopic colors, rugs and ruglets. This is on daytime. At nights an illumination is added to them, the illuminating instruments or vessels being old-fashion castor-oil wicks, candles and high-priced Warshaw-made lamps and lanterns!

O Jove! Persia is being churned into cream and yet the Bazar *is not closed!* The golden-apple, inscribed on this occasion not "to the most beautiful," but "to the strongest and ablest man in Iram," has been rolled into the Royal Squar of Teheran, but the Iris is sleeping and the would-be owner of it in temporary hiding! I said the rejoicing is unusual but not universal! The commercial class, the Bazar folk and the commons in general rejoice in getting rid of Kajar Dynasty, rejoice that a change has, or is going to, take place in the Ruling and Riening Dynasty. But the rejoicing is *not shared* by the Royal Princes, noblemen, clergy, ulema, and at least by one half of the Army, altho they have no means of expressing themselves!

"His Majesty" and "Khan" are not compatible, but there are, at least, two instances, as precedents, in the History of Persia, where a Shah has been called also a "Khan" or an Agha (Lord). One of these is Karim Shah of "Zand" Dynasty, who reined in Shiraz, and Agha Mohammad Shah, the Eunich and the invader of Georgia, who prefered to keep his former title of "Agha," after ascending the throne of Persia. "His Majesty" and "Riza Khan" sound rather resonant to ones ears, but it is quite an easy matter to drop a minor title for a major one and make it "His Majesty Riza Shah Pahlevi" which would sound more familiar and more to the liking of the Anti-Kajar party, which has been formed since the days of Mozaffer-ed-Din and Mohammad Ali, when they were Crown Prince in Tabriz.

At present everything looks rosy and peaceful, but will it last long? And how long? We hope it will last long if "long lives His Majesty Shah Riza Pahlevi"!

* * * *

"The Shah of Persia and his suite have arranged to leave Paris to-day, sailing to-morrow from Marseilles for Bombay, en route for Teheran." This item of news was in THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA for October 1, and we read it in Tabriz on the 20th of the same month. *The next day the Bazar was closed!* This was just the way it ought to have been. It was like Tabriz itself! I went to Bazar. People and shop-owners were strolling here and there, usually everyone in front of his shop! I enquired one of the first loafers who met me—

"What is the matter, why is the bazar closed?"

"I do not know," was his cut reply.

I made the same inquiry of another man, an intelligent-looking one, who seemed to have a "knowing" face.

He at once replied

"We don't want the Shah"!

"What is the Shah's sin, what has he done?"

"He has been putting on his crowned head frangi straw-hats, eating Ermani*-made bread and spending our money with frangi women! Do you want any more?"

"None of them is a sensible-enough cause to close the bazar and not want the Shah. All our Ambassadors and Consuls are using straw-hats and Ermani-made bread, then they all ought to be fired of their posts, no?"

"They are not Shahs with a crowned head, they are common rayats. A head that can use a two-kran straw-hat is not worthy to wear Nadir-Shah's crown!"

"Has the unfortunate Shah any other faults?"

"Yes! He is a Kajar. Kajarieh have ruined Iran and our best manhood!"

"Whom do you want in his stead; who is to be our next Shah?"

"I do not know."

"Do the people want a Shah, any Shah?"

"I do not know."

"Do they want a republic?"

"I do not know."

"What do they want, anyway?"

"We want nothing. We want to remain and to be just as we are. We have peace and quiet-enough to satisfy us!"

"Then the people want Riza Khan Pahlevi to remain at the head of the State for life?"

"He is second to no man in the Kingdom!"

"Do the people want to see him a Shah?"

"'Pahlevi' is a nice-enough name for a Royal Dynasty!"

"Then, long live Aala-Hazrat* Riza Khan Pahlevi."

"Amen!"

"Long live Iran!"

"Amen!"

The current of opinion is that Riza Khan will soon proclaim himself as the Shah of Persia (with the consent of the Mejliss), but he will be a Shah for life only. He is not to have a crown Prince, nor he is going to be an hereditary King. The next King, after his death, will be elected by the people, again for life only, without an heir! In other words, hereafter we are going to have, as our ruler, a *crowned President* for life!

Did Solomon say "there is nothing new under the sun"? This, certainly, is new! And United States of America might learn something from the old and hoary Persia! This would save them tons of wasted energy, hundreds of speeches and hundreds of thousands of dollars, altho they may have no need of the last!

We are rapidly imitating some of the American ways and manners, at least in the matter of shoes and neckties. In her turn why America should not appropriate a few of the political ways and manners of the antiquated Persia?!

A few weeks ago the *bazar was closed* again. In this instance the closing was by "order from on high," not by the own will of public as usual. A Government orderly now visiting each shop, one by one, and informing the individual shop-owner—"Close your shop at once and come to the X Mosque, a mass meeting is going to take place there to protest against the desacration of our holy cities by the infidels." Another *maamoor* of the High-Priest was informing them—"Come to X Mosque, a *mourning* meeting is to take place there for the Destruction of the holy sepulcre of our holy prophet in Medina by the d—— infidels."

The word "infidel" in both cases refers not to Wahhabis, but to the English, by whose aid, claim the Persians, Wahhabis have destroyed Medina and the prophet's grave!

Another instance of the anti-British spirit of the people is the following:—

Recently a Christian merchant, after receiving a certain sum from a Mohammedan merchant, offered to give him a cheque on the Imperial Bank of Shah-in-Shahi. But the Islam merchant refused it, saying—"We are praying day and night for the downfall of the English Empire and the closing of the doors of the English Bank, do you suppose I would do *anything* to help *that* English Bank to make money at my expence?"

* Armenian Christian.

* His Majesty.

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BOOK REVIEWS.

ITALY AND THE DESERT.

"IF THE GODS LAUGH." By Rosita Forbes. (London: Thornton Butterworth. 7s. 6d. net.)

Mrs. Rosita Forbes has made use of the knowledge she has gained from travel to write a novel in which Italian society and Arab life form the background and in which the scene is alternately the African desert and the houses of the aristocracy in Rome, and in these two contrasted worlds she has described the experiences of a girl of mixed English and Italian descent. The characters of Mrs. Rosita Forbes's book are not living persons but literary conventions who have no existence outside the realms of fiction, and her three protagonists might be called respectively the convention of youthful inexperience, the convention of romantic chivalry, and, by a process of naturalisation, the convention of the strong, silent Englishman turned Italian. As a consequence there is a lack of reality for which the freshness of the setting and the fluent facility of the authoress's style do not compensate. A strong love interest, issuing in a happy conclusion, pervades the story, which is yet one more version of "the eternal triangle."

ANOTHER THESIS.

"THE INDUSTRIAL EVOLUTION OF INDIA IN RECENT TIMES." By D. R. Gadgil. (Oxford University Press, 7s. 6d. net)

It is a good thing that so many Indian advanced students—using the word "advanced" in the technical sense—should be devoting their attention to the economic condition of their country, but we are not quite sure that they are wise in rushing their successful theses into print, for work which satisfies examiners will not necessarily interest either serious scholars or the general public, and those of them who eventually become advanced students in the strict sense will probably live to be very sorry that their crude scholastic exercises should have seen the light. Mr. Gadgil, we suspect, will be one of these. The book before us is "except for a few verbal alterations, almost in the same form" as the thesis which, satisfied the examiners for the Cambridge M. Litt., and we cannot say that the examiners were wrong, but there is nothing in it either to attract the general reader or to interest economic students, and some of it is very crude indeed. The most amusing example of this fault is the chapter on the decline of handicrafts. Mr. Gadgil wrote this under the impression that the term covered only what are usually called art-industries, and he built it up in the usual way on quotations from Royle, Birdwood, Watt, and other familiar authorities. Then he discovered his mistake, and in a last minute note he made a gallant, but unsuccessful, attempt to tackle the production of cloth, metal goods, and other staple products, which should have been the main subject of the chapter. The rest of the book is better. The author has read widely, though he has missed much that is important. He writes easily, his generalisations are commendably cautious, and his work shows no signs of the political obsession which vitiates so many products of modern Indian scholarship. He never gets far below the surface, he is apparently ignorant of nearly everything that happened before his chosen period, and he makes a good many slips in matters of detail: these faults are natural in a thesis of the kind, the subject being too extensive for thoroughness in the time allowed, but they detract rather seriously from the value of a book. When he has leisure, we hope the author will learn how to spell the name of such a classical authority as Voelcker.

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SMALL NATIONS IN EUROPE.

The tenth anniversary of the inauguration of the School of Slavonic Studies at London University was celebrated on December 2, when Dr. Edward Benesh, Foreign Minister of the Czecho-Slovak Republic, delivered a lecture on "The Rôle of Small Nations in Europe since the War." Lord Oxford, who presided, said that the liberating of the small European nations was one of the first objects of the Great War—a liberation which had been realised nowhere more interestingly than in Czecho-Slovakia.

Dr. Benesh dealt at first with the work that Professor Masaryk, now President of the Czecho-Slovak Republic, had performed in making known the ideals of his nation. In discussing the world War, the lecturer stated that the aims of the Central Powers cut right across the demands of nationalism, whereas of the Allies, Britain, France, Belgium, Italy, and America, which had been through the fires of and had tested democracy, the small nations in Europe became the natural friends. Tsarist Russia, with its mediæval economic system and corrupt bureaucracy belonged, he said, by sentiment rather to the Central Powers. Turning to the foreign policy of the small States, he believed that there would be progress in the direction of good order and close economic and cultural co-operation: sooner or later there would be a Locarno for the States of Central Europe. It was, incidentally in their contribution culturally, to the ideas of the world, that the strongest potentialities of the small States lay.

In referring to the foreign relation of the small States, Dr. Benesh pointed out that Hungary, which had changed its mediæval economic system in no way, and which appeared to have undergone no spiritual regeneration as a result of the War, must be looked upon with suspicion. Czecho-Slovakia, nevertheless, had done much in the way of co-operating with Hungary.

The existence and rôle of the small States always depended on the situation and policy of the large States. In the first place it was vitally important for the small States that the League of Nations, in which the deciding factors were and always would be mainly the Great Powers, should be complete, and it should be respected also by the Great Powers. In the second place it was of vital interest for the small States of Central Europe that co-operation with Russia should be arrived at as soon as possible, and that a spirit of mutual loyalty and co-operation with Russia should be created just as it was created at Locarno in regard to Germany.

Finally, while Soviet Russia had awakened a number of nations to racial consciousness at home, its present revolutionary propaganda was doing the same thing on a large scale in Europe, Asia, and Africa, and was thus exerting a very marked influence upon the world-wide aspect of this problem. For the time being he left on one side the question whether this was a good thing or not from the point of view of the common good, but he was fully aware that the Bolshevist ideal was an anti-democratic ideal.

The question of Russia, its definite organisation, its speedy adjustment to the normal political life of Europe and the world as a whole was so important because without this normalising process neither the small Central European nations nor the greatest nations would have peace or certainty, for the question of small nations and of minorities would continually constitute a revolutionary ferment with extensive bearings upon present-day international politics. Russia was the direct or indirect neighbour of a number of small Central European nations. Its influence upon them was, therefore, considerable, and until conditions in Russia were peaceful and normal, those nations would always be in uncertainty about their future. Moreover, Soviet Russia itself was composed of several greater and smaller nations which by its policy from the Bolshevist revolution until to-day it had awakened to national life and consciousness. How these questions were to be solved was an important problem for Russia and for Europe as a whole. The definitive organisation of the small European nations would hence be partly and indirectly influenced by the manner in which Russia dealt with her own nationality question at home.

M. Jan Masaryk (the Czecho-Slovak Minister) and Sir Bernard Pares also spoke.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY

December 10, 1925 (New Style).
November 27, 1925 (Old Style).
Jumada I., 24, 1344 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Kislev 23, 5686, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Aga Khan has left the Hotel Ritz, for India.

Princess Andrew of Greece left London last Saturday for Paris.

Princess Ileana of Roumania will leave for Bucharest on December 19.

Prince Stirbey arrived at the Carlton Hotel, London, last week from Bucharest.

M. Simeon Radeff, Bulgarian Minister to the United States, was a passenger in the Homeric, which sailed from Southampton on December 2 for New York.

Mr. Justice Gad Frumkin, of the Supreme Court, Palestine, who is at present on a visit to England, is staying at the King's Court Hotel, Lancaster Gate, W.2.

The High Commissioner for India and Lady Chatterjee have been called to the South of France on private business. Sir Atul Chatterjee is taking leave during December.

Sir John and Lady Harrington, accompanied by Sir Milsom Rees and Lieut.-Colonel C. P. B. Wood, left Cairo for Khartoum recently on a shooting trip on the upper reaches of the White Nile.

The Prince of Wales received at St. James's Palace on December 1 her Highness the Nawab Begum of Bhopal and Colonel Hamidullah Khan and Mr. H. M. Lidderdale (Director, Imperial Institute).

Mr. W. E. O'Reilly (who kissed hands upon his appointment as his Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Durazzo) was received in audience by the King at Buckingham Palace on December 1.

Earl Winterton, M.P., the Under-Secretary for India, was entertained last week by Lieut.-Colonel H. Gidney and the members of the Anglo-Indian deputation, who came to this country to discuss the future of the community with the Secretary for India.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. Jean Louis Rieu, C.S.I., I.C.S., to be a member of the Executive Council of the Governor of Bombay, in succession to Sir Maurice Henry Weston Hayward, I.C.S., whose term of office will expire on January 4.

The Jam Sahib of Nawanagar gave a luncheon party at the Ritz Hotel on December 2 before his departure from London for India. The Countess of Birkenhead and Lady Eleanor Smith, Lord Southborough, Sir Warden Chilcott, Major-General Seely and the Hon. Mrs. Seely, and Captain Wilson were among the guests.

Among the passengers who left London last Thursday for Bombay by the P. and O. special train were the Right Hon. George Lambert, P.C., and Sir John and Lady Simon. Sir Malcolm Hogg, the Raj Kumar Sahib of Vizianagram, Sir Dhunjibhow and Lady Bomanji, and the Jamsahib of Nawanagar embarked in the Rawalpindi at Marseilles.

Mr. Justice Guy Rutledge has been appointed Chief Justice of the High Court of Judicature at Rangoon, in the vacancy caused by the resignation of Sir Sydney Maddock Robinson, Kt., Barrister-at-Law, and Mr. Robert Edward Otter, Barrister-at-Law, has been appointed a Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Rangoon, in the place of Mr. Justice Rutledge.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Locarno Spirit.

It is a sign of the feeble intelligence of our time that refuge is taken by the cloudy-minded in the loose fashionable words of the day. All the political talk used at one period to be of "sanctions"; then one babbled of "exploring avenues" or of "finding formulas"; and now it is the application of the "Locarno spirit" that is ubiquitously necessary. The assumption underlying all this phrase-making is, of course, that there is a unity somewhere, could men but discover it, that all things are soluble, were only the dissolving agents sensible enough.

Now, to be quite frank, one is a little tired of this Locarno talk. There is still in Europe as much of the Fred Karno (as one used to say in the Army) as of the Locarno touch. Such and such a State does yet, whatever the politicians may chorus, profoundly suspect such and such a State; nor is the post-War spirit of reconciliation very evident even in our internal politics, where bad motives are freely enough imputed to those whose opinions differ from one's own. That there has come over our time a genuine realisation of the folly of anything less than co-operation among former friends and foes is a dream of both noble and shallow minds: it is not yet a fact. There is, however, something to be said for the optimists.

The Irish Agreement.

Mr. Amery has called the agreement by which the Free State, Ulster, and the British Government have appeared to settled the serious problem that had arisen over the findings of the Boundary Commission, an "Irish Locarno," and there can be little doubt that he is right. Not many people would have prophesied that the two Irish States, the one in a commanding position, the other in an impossible one, would have shown such wisdom, and it is particularly gratifying to record that Ulster has made the most magnanimous use of her unexpected opportunities.

The decision to retain the old boundary is an important one, the decision to renounce our debt owing from the Free State in return for that is also an important precedent, but even more important than these, from the long political point of view, is the step that has been taken towards the unification of Ireland. On this subject it is difficult to write before Mr. Baldwin makes his statement in the House to-day on the legislation that is necessary to give effect to the new agreement, but what is quite clear is that the Irish Council, consisting of representatives from both the Free State and Ulster, which was framed in the Government of Ireland Act of 1920, is once more, though in a different way, to function. If this Council, which never had a chance to be born, is called into being by the Northern Government, on that day may the creation of a unified Ireland be said to have begun.

The matter may perhaps be seen in better perspective if Mr. Amery's illuminating parallel he used. This Irish Agreement, he said, bore the same relation to the 1921 Treaty as did the Locarno Treaties to that of Versailles. The Dublin Government, like Germany, has accepted the frontier, although with natural grumblings; and the Befast Government is now rid of the fear of its boundary line. It is a quite definite step towards the realisation that Southerners and Northerners are not enemies, but a people whose interests must increasingly approach one another.

Controversy among Liberals.

No impartial observer can deny that, of all the three parties, the Liberal Party has the worst luck. At a moment when long-sought unity has been attained, when the end of sacrifices on the part of both the "Wee Frees" and the "Nationals" has been reached, when, in fact, the millenium (with the passing of Lord Oxford and of Mr. Lloyd George) was confidently anticipated, is thrown the bomb of dissension. Upon which both sides returned hastily to their pre-unity retreats, thence to call down curses on the enemy.

But out into the chilly open, between the older and younger Liberals and the Lloyd George Liberals, comes, with the white flag of truce, that venerable chirurgical expert, Lord Oxford. He points out to the contending hosts how futile are their quarrels, when in reality their cause is one. Whereupon Mr. Lloyd George offers, would it but resolve the dispute, to resign. The obvious refusal having been made, Mr. Runciman and those who with him opposed the Land Scheme relapse into the gloomiest and most significant of silences.

Somewhat naturally, but rather brutally, these later-day differences have been magnified by the opponents of the Liberal Party; and equally naturally, but somewhat naively, they have been minimised by the Liberal Press. To the ordinary Liberal (if there still be such a creature) whose loyalty towards Lord Oxford detracts not a whit from his admiration of Mr. Lloyd George, the events of the past week have been most distressing: Sisyphus himself could have been no more disappointed. But indeed the Liberals are in the least enviable plight: if they take Mr. George's Land Scheme together with his funds, they become (it seems) a mere annexe of the Socialist Party; and if they do not, they are like to die of starvation. Whither should the hungry flocks go?

The Labour Van.

The Liberal Party is not the only one with its troubles. Some of the fiery steeds in the Labour Party conceive the pace set by the staider nags to be altogether too slow, and there has been formed within it a group of about twenty-five members who shall have the delightful and congenial task of "gingering-up" their fellows. Naturally the ubiquitous Mr. George Lansbury is in this van which is to "make the party more effective for Socialism," but it also, and more significantly, includes two ex-Cabinet Ministers, Mr. Wheatley and Colonel Wedgwood. These two men, whose ability is hardly recognised in Conservative and Liberal circles, are to desert the front Opposition bench for the back bench seats. The results may be profoundly interesting.

There can be small doubt that this "cave" (it denies the name, but that is what in all probability it will develop into) will have on the main Labour Party far more influence than, say, the "Radical" group under Mr. Runciman has on the main Liberal Party. It may shortly be found that this "Ginger Group" will constitute the real vanguard of the Labour Party.

The Bury By-Election.

As those who knew prophesied, the Conservative candidate easily defeated the Liberal aspirant in the Bury St. Edmunds by-election last week. Much more inter-

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esting than the return of the Minister of Agriculture, however, is the fact that considerably fewer votes were polled at Bury than at the previous election. This fact is to the political student more significant than a mere reiteration that Liberals are not wanted at the moment. Decreased polls are becoming a feature of our political life; in other words, parliamentarism is on the down grade.

Nor is England the only country thus tacitly to disapprove of its present system of electing members: discontent with representative institutions is said to be a feature of Continental political life, and everyone will remember that in Australia recently the citizen was compelled by law to exercise his vote. Is the world moving to a Syndicalist conception of the value of the vote?

The General Medical Council.

Personally, I believe the syndicalist idea to be much more deeply rooted than is often imagined. One finds it, for instance, in the Church, wherein one may hear clergymen stating that they would sooner obey the Church than the State; one finds it in the legal profession, which is to all intents and purposes as tyrannical or efficient—it depends on the point of view—as the mediæval Guild; and, most notably, one finds it among Doctors.

The world seemed rather surprised last week when the General Medical Council reasserted, in face of some popular protest, its traditional right of "sacking" medical men guilty of self-advertisement. I, for one, do not query the Council's wisdom and sense; but it is well to remember, when we review the economic system of this country, that our comments might possibly not have been so generous had a Trade Union Council done what the General Medical Council has just done. It is so much easier to suppose of the doctors that they know exactly the limit of their duties to the public than of, say, the railway-men.

The Bank Rate.

The Bank Rate appears to change with amazing frequency these days, so that the decision last week to raise it from four to five per cent. surprised but did not stagger people. The change was in effect the admitting of a mistake. Many judges held the lowering on August Bank Holiday of the rate from 4½ to 4 per cent. to be an error, and they seem now to be justified. The truth is, of course, that the Bank of England is as much in the dark in the present abnormal conditions as is a less august institution, but it has to live up to its reputation for omniscience.

It is said that the Bank of England is in close co-operation with the Government for the furtherance of trade, but that the loss of £15 million since the rate was last lowered has been too much for it. But I am a child in these dark matters. The idea of such infallible things as Governments and Banks of England experimenting is too much of a shock.

Fog.

Such a fog come over London last week—and not only London, but most of Southern England—as could be enjoyed only by the omnivorous foreign visitor or by the philosophical chimney-sweep. True, it was not a pea-souper; no flares were used, nor did one ask a blind man to lead one across the road; but it blackened life. It attacked one's every vulnerable spot, so that one's nigrescent handkerchiefs were shameful to see and one's throat became full of hoarse objurgations. It impartially swarmed round motor-buses and the shops' Christmas decorations, so that the speed of the one and the dazzlingness of the other equally became a myth.

Oxford v. Cambridge.

This week, to-morrow and on Thursday, in fact, the two University football matches are due to be played. It is futile to prophesy upon the result, not only because they are 'Varsity matches, but also because this year's elevens and fifteen do really appear to be very equally matched.

At Rugger Cambridge have an advantage forward, but it is not so large as it should be (though the Oxford backs, I happen to know, are anxious about the number of times that their forwards will heel the ball), but behind the scrum the Light Blues will have to be very much better than they were last year if they are to make any impression upon the very good Oxford backs. As far as one can see, the game will resolve itself in what since the War has become the traditional way into a struggle between the Cambridge forwards and the Oxford backs. Pray, therefore, for a fine or wet day, according to the soundness of your views.

Nor is there much apparent difference between the Soccer sides. Oxford's forwards are probably better than the experimental Light Blue line, but Cambridge has the pull in the line that matters most—the halves. One notable feature of this match is the number of Blues which have been gained by the less known schools.

An Old-Fashioned Winter.

Winter, such as our fathers knew and our poets described and as Christmas-cards illustrate, is not only upon but in us. It has us in its grip and seems, after all these years of absence, to like the feel of England. From Southern England it is true the snow has largely gone, but the ice is everywhere, from the railway carriage to the milk-bottle. There has been nothing like it here since the end of 1916. Then, one recalls, there was in a training camp at Newmarket no water for days, so that a hut which caught fire was simply left to blaze merrily.

Everyone has rushed to his box-room to hunt for boots and skates, for, though the ice is not of the finest quality, skating is not so frequent a delight that it can at any time be scorned.

ALTER EGO.

THE WAR AGAINST MALARIA.

One of the primary objects of the founding of the Ross Institute and Hospital for Tropical Diseases, Putney Heath, S.W. 15, was to create interest throughout the Empire in waging a relentless war against malaria. There is possibly to-day no disease causing more suffering and financial loss than malaria. Over twenty-five years ago Sir Ronald Ross made the discovery of the carrier of this disease, and although the successful application of his discovery has rendered certain tropical areas comparative health resorts to what they were at one time, proportionately little progress has really been made throughout tropical and semi-tropical countries.

Sir Ronald Ross, in addressing recently members of the Ceylon Association, proposed a scheme calling for the co-operation of all Plantation Companies, believing it should be possible, within a short time, to drive malaria right out of Ceylon. He is leaving for Ceylon on the Yorkshire to-morrow.

In certain parts of Malaya, Southern India and Assam, groups of Plantation Companies are dealing effectively with malaria, but if Sir Ronald Ross's mission succeeds it will not be a question of small areas being cleansed but the whole country. It is his intention to group Plantation Companies geographically, and each group will be dealt with by a resident malarial expert, who will carry out malaria control measures according to the conditions peculiar to his particular group, and report from time to time to a Central Committee the progress made and difficulties encountered. Every facility will be given to individuals effectively to combat the disease.

Sir Ronald Ross, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., F.R.S., is Director-in-Chief of the new Ross Institute and Hospital for Tropical Diseases, and it is hoped that his visit will create world-wide interest in the urgent necessity of dealing drastically with tropical diseases generally. This will be very beneficial to the Empire and will hasten its profitable development.

Riza Khan Pahlevi, the Head of the Persian State, last Sunday afternoon opened the Constituent Assembly in the presence of the chief clergy and military, the Cabinet, former Prime Ministers and Ministers, representatives of the administrative offices, members of the Diplomatic Corps, and other foreigners.

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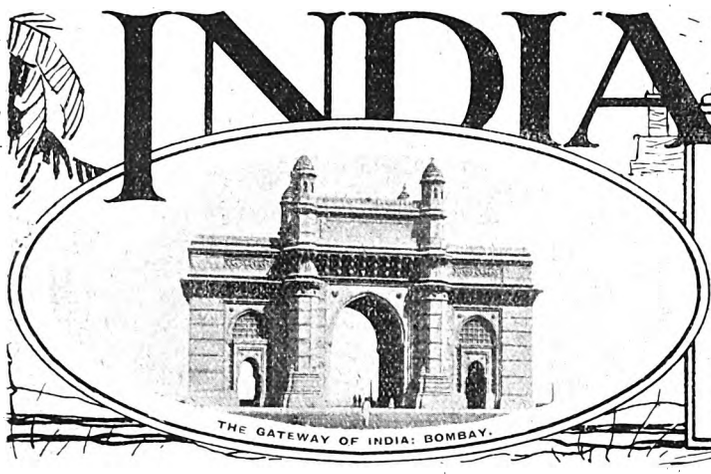

THE GATEWAY OF INDIA: BOMBAY.

THE VICTORIA MEMORIAL: CALCUTTA.

THE COTTON EXCISE.

The decision of the Government of India to suspend the excise duty on cotton from December 1 was briefly mentioned last week: and the full statement, made by the Viceroy in announcing the decision, is printed elsewhere in this issue. This statement mentions that, when the resolution advocating immediate suspension was moved, last September, in the Legislative Assembly, the Government spokesmen explained that, if the resolution were carried, this would be taken to mean that the Assembly considered the total abolition of the duty to be urgently necessary: and announces that the Government of India intends to adhere to that position. Though, when the Assembly passed the resolution, the state of India's finances did not admit of the immediate suspension of the duty, it was decided that it should be suspended the moment that they did admit of it; and it was also decided that, as soon as possible after suspension proved to be feasible, proposals should be put before the Assembly for complete abolition, which can only be brought about by vote of the Legislature, though temporary suspension can be, as in this case it has been, effected by an ordinance issued by the Governor-General in Council. The Viceroy's statement says that effect will be given to this decision by the introduction, as early as possible in the next session of the Assembly, of the necessary legislation, "unless next year's budget estimate substantially fails to confirm the present anticipations." Matters having gone so far already, it may be taken as certain that abolition will be proposed, and voted, before the end of the current financial year, even if this should entail some difficulty in balancing the budget: and that the cotton excise duty has gone for good. The yield of the duty forms a comparatively unimportant part of the total revenue of the Central Government, amounting approximately to two crores of rupees (1½ millions sterling, at the existing rate of exchange): thus the suspension, for the last four months of the current financial year, will reduce the Government's income by half a million pounds.

There had been no general import duties in India since 1882 when, in 1894, a general *ad valorem* duty of five per cent. was imposed as a means of raising revenue, without any idea of protection. The Government of India wished to include cotton goods, forming as they did a large and valuable proportion of India's imports; but the Home Government, in the interests of Lancashire, refused to allow them to do so, and cotton goods were exempt. Strong representations were made by the Indian Government regarding the necessity for including so productive a duty: and, in the following year, the Home Government sanctioned an import duty of 3½ per cent. on cotton goods, but saddled the sanction with the proviso—still in the interests of Lancashire—that it should be set off by a countervailing excise duty, of the same amount, imposed on all cotton goods produced by Indian mills. In 1916 the Viceroy (Lord Hardinge) gave a pledge that the cotton excise duty should be abolished as soon as financial considerations permitted. It is, of course, possible that, when making this statement, he was also thinking of the financial effect that would be produced by the simultaneous abolition of the import duty on cotton goods, the imposition of which had only been sanctioned by the Home Government on condition that a countervailing excise duty was also imposed; but it is more probable that the Home Government authorised the pledge without any such condition. This conjecture is supported by the fact that, in the following year, when the general import duty, which included cotton goods, was raised to 7½ per cent., no corresponding enhancement of the excise duty took place, in spite of the representations of a Lancashire deputation to the Secretary of State. It is generally believed that the view of Lancashire, as expressed by that deputation, helped to encourage the boycott of Manchester goods which was one of the main planks in Mr. Gandhi's programme; though it is to be remembered that his "khaddar" campaign went further than this, since it was in favour of hand-spun cloth, and was directed not only against imported cloth, but against the products of the Indian mills as well. In 1921 the general import duty was raised to 11 per cent., still without any enhancement of the excise duty: and, in 1922, it was proposed to raise it still further, to 15 per cent., though the proposal was rejected by the Legislative Assembly, not on its merits but as part of the policy of refusal of supplies: and the Finance Bill was passed without it. The pledge to abolish the excise duty as soon as financial considerations permitted was repeated by the present Viceroy; who, on his return from leave in England, received a deputation from the Bombay millowners, which declared that, if the excise duty were not abolished, it would be necessary for them to reduce the wages of their operatives. A reduction of 11½ per cent. in wages was announced, to come into effect with the wages payable on October 15; but the mill hands struck against the reduction in September, the date chosen being obviously the result of political manœvres; since it synchronised with the introduction, into the Legislative Assembly, of the resolution in favour of immediate suspension of the duty. The effect of the suspension that has now been announced has been the end of the strike; since the millowners have notified the retoration of the previous rate of wages; though the mills have not yet resumed work, since the great majority of the workmen left Bombay for their homes shortly after the strike was declared, and some little time must necessarily elapse before they return. Moderate Indian newspapers acclaim the suspension of the excise duty as a triumph for constitutional agitation: extremist newspapers hail it as a victory for labour—that the workers' threat of a permanent strike has won, where the millowners' threat to reduce wages failed; and claim that it is yet another example of the doctrine that they regularly preach—that nothing is to be got out of England except by threats, and that the most efficacious threat of all is one that touches British pockets. Whichever view is right, it is undesirable that the excise duty on cotton exemplified a policy by which England, in her own interests, forced on India—and, be it noted, on the British Government of India also—a tax which was economically disadvantageous to India besides being distasteful to her Government: and the removal of the duty not only brings with it a measure of justice, however

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tardy, to India, but evidence of a change of policy that should have far-reaching and beneficial results in the domain of politics. As to the opportuneness of the time chosen for the announcement, opinions differ. Some will acclaim it as an act of statesmanship performed at the psychological moment, since it not only ends a long-standing injustice but also settles a widespread strike: others will represent it as yielding to clamour, and will hold that it would have been better to wait until the duty could be abolished by legislation, rather than to prejudice the result of legislation by a temporary suspension granted in such circumstances. It is, of course, easy to be wise after the event; but, after all, it is the business of a statesman to foresee: and, when it has been decided to offer what the accepted phraseology of India calls a "boon," the exact moment when it becomes advisable to do so should be selected before its necessity has become apparent to the general public. To avoid even the appearance of making concessions under compulsion, it is better to run some risk—such as the financial risk run in this case—to ensure that they shall be realised to be spontaneous.

As a matter of fact, it seems unlikely that the abolition of the excise will seriously affect Lancashire, except perhaps indirectly. Its most serious effects should be felt by Japan, and one may reasonably suppose that this is what is intended. As things are, Japan, who buys most of her cotton from India, is able to sell her cloth in India at a lower price than the product of the Indian mills themselves, in spite of the import duty and the freight both ways. This is due to a combination of circumstances. India is loyally carrying out the International Agreement that limits the working week to 60 hours: it is said—up to the present, without contradiction—that the Japanese mills are working 22 hours daily, in double shifts, and that women and children are working at night. The dispatch of Japanese products to foreign countries, including India, is assisted by the practice of granting shipping subsidies, followed by the Japanese Government: Japanese industries competing in foreign countries are at an advantage owing to the fall in the sterling value of the yen, while India is at a corresponding disadvantage owing to the rise in the sterling value of the rupee, besides her direct handicap in the matter of the excise duty. The removal of the latter may just make the difference, especially as the exchange value of the yen is already showing signs of improvement. But, if this turns out to be so, and Japanese cotton goods will no longer be able to compete with Indian products locally, it will stimulate Japanese competition with Manchester goods, not only in India but in the other Eastern markets where they compete already. It has been argued that the present import duty of 11 per cent., against Lancashire goods, does not really act as a protection to India at all; since the rise in the value of the rupee from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d. amounts to an increase of about 12 per cent. in the purchasing power of the rupee, when expended on British goods. But, in fact, for a considerable time past, there has been but little direct competition between India and Lancashire: the Indian mills, using short staple Indian cotton and employing relatively unskilled workmen, have already ousted Lancashire in the coarser cloths; and the latter's imports are now practically confined to the better classes of goods. The abolition of the excise duty is unlikely to make any appreciable difference in retail prices in India, so that matters, as between India and Lancashire, are likely to remain very much as they are with one important exception. On the whole, Lancashire has accepted the decision philosophically: she recognises that she will now, more than ever, have to concentrate on the finer goods, and hopes that the removal of the excise duty will bring about an improvement in trade that will put more money into the hands of her Indian customers, and that they will spend more on her superior products; though she does not intend to refrain from asking for the removal, or at least the reduction, of the present rate of import duty. It is generally believed that one of the chief handicaps to the cotton industry in India is over-production a belief that is borne out by the calm with which the millowners, who had a large accumulation of stocks on hand, at first accepted the strike. The removal of the excise duty is likely to lead to even larger production, which should soon do more than fill the gap left by the disappearance—if that takes place as expected—of competing Japanese cloth, now amounting to appriximately 5½ per cent. of the production of the Indian mills: and it is at least not improbable that the Indian consumer, finding at his disposal a plethora of cheap goods, will be slow to open his purse for more expensive fabrics. Though it is probably true that India and Lancashire do not at present compete directly, to any appreciable extent, and that they are likely to do so even less in future, it is also true that the loss of potential orders, through the customer being content to put up with an inferior article, is only less serious than the loss of actual orders. Japan is already beginning to compete with Lancashire in the finer cloths—it is reckoned that only 70 per cent. of her imports are in direct competition with the products of the Indian mills. If, as seems likely, the removal of the excise duty makes that competition no longer profitable, it is to be expected that she will increasingly compete with Lancashire. In that case, Lancashire's chief hopes would seem to rest on an Indian policy of Imperial preference: but it will have to be an Indian policy, and not one dictated from England; so that Lancashire's request for a reduction in the import duty will have to be addressed to India. At present, political India is strongly opposed to any scheme of Imperial preference: and Lancashire's special duty, at the moment, would seem to be to persuade India that that attitude is wrong. The removal of the long-standing injustice of the cotton excise duty appears to present a favourable opportunity for the inception of such a campaign; though, as already remarked, it is a pity that the removal could not have been invested with a greater appearance of spontaneity, and made to look less like the implementing of a promise, long admitted in theory to be binding, but only in fact tardily yet hurriedly redeemed in response to clamour.

CURRENT TOPICS.

A New Political Party.

Recent cables from India announce a new movement among advanced Indian politicians who are in revolt against the domination of the present leaders of the Swaraj Party. This movement appears to have been brought to a head by the dissensions that followed on the acceptance, by the Central Provinces Swarajist, Mr. Tambe, of appointment as Executive Councillor in the local Government. The immediate result of Mr. Tambe's action was a movement in favour of "responsive co-operation"; the policy of considering Government proposals on their merits, in preference to the Swarajist method of meeting them with blind obstruction. Several important members of the Swaraj Party resigned, on this issue: one at least of the Provincial Congress Committees passed a resolution in favour of responsive co-operation: and personal recriminations ensued between the leaders of the Swaraj and Independent parties in the Legislative Assembly. The present proposal is that the Independents, the seceding Swarajists, and the Liberals shall form a coalition to fight the Swarajists at the next general election, due to take place a year hence: and meetings, in furtherance of this proposal, have been held at Bombay and Calcutta. The result of the former has not transpired, though it is stated that "an agreement was reached": at the latter, it was resolved to form a coalition of all those who are prepared to work for full Dominion status by constitutional means, as opposed to direct action; to undertake educative propaganda along these lines; and to call an All-India Conference.

It seems unlikely that the Liberals will be prepared to work along with the Independents and ex-Swarajists, as it is almost certain that the leader of the new party would be drawn from the ranks of one or other of the latter; but, if the dissentients are really in earnest, they would perhaps be willing to sink their own individual claims to

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leadership, and offer it to one of the Liberals. If they can bring themselves to do this, they will have taken an important step towards the coalition of those Nationalist politicians who resent Swarajist pretensions and domination, and a still more important step towards meeting Lord Birkenhead's condition for a further instalment of the Reforms. It is only the most obstinate among the Swarajists who refuse to admit that the British Parliament has the right, as well as the power, to decide the future destiny of India: and who decline to take notice of the fact that the sands are running out, that 1929—to say nothing of an earlier date—is not far away, and that persistence in their refusal to face facts is bound to react unfavourably on their prospects when the time comes for the promised Parliamentary Commission on the Reforms to formulate its proposals.

It is certainly a matter of real importance that a number of advanced Indian politicians should have awakened to the facts, and should have shown a disposition to adjust their actions accordingly. Whether or no they succeed in forming a cohesive party, their future progress will be watched with sympathetic interest by all who have the real interests of India at heart.

Indian Forestry.

In a paper read by Professor Stebbing before the Indian Section of the Royal Society of Arts, on November 20, the lecturer gave an interesting and important account of the progress of forestry in India. A great deal of the paper was technical, but a number of points of general interest emerged from it. He expressed the opinion that the progress recently achieved, in every Province, was so remarkable as at times to be almost unbelievable: and that the Indian Forest Department is at present, in some respects and in some localities, in a position professionally second to no other in the world. Among the examples that he adduced in support of this opinion, perhaps the most striking was that of the afforestation work achieved in the United Provinces—in "a howling waste of hot ravine lands" that had become barren owing to the sinking of the bed of the Jumna River, had been scoured into deep ravines during the heavy monsoon rains, and was swept by fiery winds during the hot weather. Experimental work started in 1912, and this was continued on a large scale in 1919. Since the latter year, about 12,000 acres have been afforested, and about 2,300 acres are being planted annually. "This," said Professor Stebbing, "is perhaps one of the most remarkable pieces of afforestation work that has ever been undertaken, even more remarkable that the planting of the sandy tracts of the Landes by the French Government, for long considered to be the classic example."

The lecturer's remarks on the recent policy of the Government of India of making the Indian forests a Provincial subject and appointing Provincial Chief Conservators, independent of the Inspector-General—the retention of whose office has, for several years past, been "under consideration"—were of special interest, due to the fact that they were uttered with authority and obviously after full consideration of the subject. He said that the Indian Forest Department controls an area of 224,000 square miles, approximately one-fifth of British India, and that the net revenue, in the financial year 1922-23, amounted to nearly 1½ millions sterling. The fact that, in several Provinces, forests are already a transferred subject under an Indian Minister, leads to a general belief that the other Provinces are sure to follow suit before long. There are many people, well qualified to form an opinion, who think that this would be a mistake; but, even if they are wrong, it still seems vitally necessary that the Central Government should retain the services of an officer who would be their agent in the matter of the general control of forest policy, from which they would be most unwise to dissociate themselves. Professor Stebbing declared that the history of most of the Forest Countries of the world furnishes evidence that, when a forest policy common to the country as a whole has been absent, sooner or later waste and bad management have inevitably supervened, terminated at length by the central authority taking change: and that decentralisation in forest matters, at so early a stage in the new form of Government, would at least imperil the fine work of sixty years, and might well spell disaster. It would appear, he said, of the first importance that the Government of India should announce a general forest policy and should definitely lay down the extent of Provincial control and the point where it will have to give way to that of the Central Government.

There can be no doubt that Professor Stebbing does speak with authority, and with a knowledge of his subject which few can boast: and much as one may, on general principles, deplore the fact, yet it is not to be wondered at that he is of a similar opinion to that of practically all experts in any of the great departments of the Indian Government. All freely admit that it is fitting that Indians should be given a greater measure of responsibility, and that this is the inevitable result of the policy that has now been embarked on in the governance of India; but each is definitely of the opinion that the particular department, of which he himself has expert knowledge, is not a proper subject for such an experiment. Opinion, indeed, seems to be hardening in the direction of subordinate responsibility—of its extension in a limited sphere, and subject to strong supervision, preponderatingly if not exclusively British, during the period of tutelage, the completion of which must be a necessary preliminary to an advance to full responsibility.

Six Months' Cotton Imports.

The report of the Senior Trade Commissioner in India, which has just been issued by the Department of Overseas Trade in London, on the import trade of India during the six months April-September, 1925, contains some figures that, in view of the suspension of the cotton excise duty, are just now of special interest.

The report says that the total imports of cotton yarns, when compared with those of the corresponding period of 1924, fell from 30 to 27 million pounds in quantity and from 541 to 409 lakhs in value. The decrease in the British share was more than the total decrease, since it fell from 10¾ to 7 million pounds, while the share of Japan rose from 17½ to 19 million pounds. In spite of the rise in the Japanese quantity, its total value fell by over 22 lakhs of rupees, "as a result of the exceedingly low prices at which the business was booked."

In cotton piece-goods, the total imports fell in quantity from 875¾ to 775½ million yards, and in value from 3,398 to 2,698 lakhs. The decline in British imports accounted for a little more than the total fall, being from 790¾ to 634¼ million yards in quantity, and from 3,007 to 2,243 lakhs in value. Japanese imports improved from 65½ to 98½ million yards in quantity and from 247 to 324 lakhs in value. The Japanese advance was entirely in piece-goods unbleached, and coloured, printed or dyed: her imports in bleached piece-goods showing a slight decline. The report says that "Japan is forcing the sale of her cloths at such low rates that both the Indian mills and importers from Lancashire are finding it practically impossible to compete with her in those types of cloth in which she specialises."

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, November 19.

Obstruction to Go.

To co-operate or to obstruct is the burning question of the hour. Its prominence is due to the campaign which has been started in Bombay by two Mahratta Swarajists, Messrs. Kelkar and Jayakar, for "responsive co-operation." None the less true Swarajists, by their declaration that non-co-operation and obstruction are useless weapons, these gentlemen appeal to the common sense of the public by their statement that, ever since the Swaraj party adopted the principle of Council entry, they have been virtually co-operating responsively. In a speech at Poona, Mr. Jayakar outlined the steps which had been taken to this end. In 1924, Pandit Motilal Nehru told the Government "We have come here to offer

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our co-operation if you will have it. If you care to have us, we are your men." Subsequently, changes in the Swaraj policy had tended toward the abolition of obstruction in practice; but, while the Pandit himself had been following a co-operative policy, he had so far refused to give it that name. The speaker prophesied that, within the year, the Pandit would be advocating responsive co-operation.

The decision of the Bombay Swarajists is being watched keenly in Bengal. The *Bengalee* welcomes the gesture as a step in the right direction, and is of the opinion that Liberals and Independents should offer the right hand of cordial fellowship to the honest and courageous efforts of Messrs. Kelkar and Jayakar. "Let us waste no more time in irritating verbal disquisitions. Let us concentrate our scattered forces, and, in God's name, settle down to work," is how it concludes its editorial. *Forward* seeks consolation in the hope that before long they will be welcoming the delinquents back into the Swaraj fold in their old position: and proceeds to point out that, if anything could hasten their return, it would be the welcome they have received at the hands of the enemies of Indian aspirations. Pandit Motilal Nehru is busy giving explanations of this, that and the other, which is his usual line when he finds himself in difficulties. His bombastic attitude is not adding to his popularity, and consequently his fervid appeals are losing their power. India desires self-government; the party which calls itself the Swaraj Party has proved itself a negative influence in the attainment of the popular ideal. India is waking up to the fact that the measure of self-government which has been offered to it is no small thing. The gesture which has come from Bombay has its origin in two years' experience in the Bombay Council. Is it not implied that its originators have begun to realise their own limitations? If so, it is a healthy sign.

A Protest Against Swarajist Dictation.

Discontent in Swaraj circles is not confined to the Bombay Presidency. Sen Gupta, the leader of the Bengal Swaraj Party, has succeeded in raising a protest in Dacca, where it is reported that he has issued a mandate calling meetings of the party. The members of the Swaraj party have resented his dictatorial manner, and have intimated that they propose to hold meetings as and when they consider them necessary. A further cause of trouble is that, in August last, Sen Gupta agreed to an arrangement by which the election of office bearers of the Dacca District Congress Committee was set aside and, while those in office were to remain in power until the middle of November, a fresh election was to take place in which Sen Gupta would not interfere. As a result of his issuing a circular, ordering the election of office bearers on definite dates, the Committee have closed the door in his face. They will hold their election, but he will not be allowed to have any hand in it. In Calcutta, too, he has brought himself into disrepute by moving the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation to prohibit members of the public from crowding about the Council Chamber. The curiosity of the Indian is proverbial, and it is one of the customs of the country that, if it is possible to pry into affairs of either public or private interest, this is a perfectly legitimate thing to do. It is not so long ago that the Swarajists were glad to have unofficial onlookers during their proceedings; a chorus in the gallery, and round the verandahs, of the Corporation Council Chamber formed a good setting in which to create the impression of unanimity: and some of the papers may well ask who will cry *Bande Mataram* if the crowd are not permitted to follow him wherever he goes. It is surprising that, with the expressed hatred of the bureaucracy of the Swarajists, Sen Gupta and Pandit Motilal Nehru are not more careful in their bearing with their followers. But the leaderships which they both enjoy have been the result of chance, not of fitness for the distinction. Beggars in ideas are on horseback at the moment.

Markets.

Both the jute and gunny markets have ruled very steady during the past week, with a tendency at the close for a firmer tone for jute; business has been on a small scale owing to sellers standing out for top prices. The piece-goods market continues weak and unsettled. The tea market may almost be described as buoyant; sales here have shown most satisfactory results, almost all descriptions participating in a substantial rise: and, with stocks almost on a par with last year's, and the probability of a substantial decrease for November, there is every likelihood of a further enhancement in prices. The decrease for this month is estimated at about fifteen million maunds: and, if these figures are correct, the market should be in a sound and healthy position.

The outstanding features in the Stock Exchange have been the strength of Teas and Rubbers; a large business has been done in the former shares at hardening prices and, with sellers holding off, the more popular scrip has been difficult to obtain. Rubbers have continued their rise, the dollar shares being particularly in demand. Jute shares have appreciated all round, with Bombay paying a keen attention to the better class investment stocks. The revival of interest in cotton shares has been more than maintained, there being a more open market for the shares. Coals continue an almost neglected market.

Money rates have remained unchanged with Exchange steady.

BOMBAY LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bombay, November 20.

The Mill Strike.

The Municipality took the extraordinary course of voting a lakh of rupees from Municipal funds for the relief of the strikers, after a most instructive debate in which the strike was described as a reflection on modern civilisation. The Government was accused of taking a morbid pleasure in the sufferings of the poor millhands, and the Corporation was urged to remember the prevalence of sickness in the city. The supporters of the resolution do not seem to have been quite clear in their minds as to whether they wanted to give doles or to institute something in the nature of famine relief works.

Mr. Clayton, the Municipal Commissioner, pointed out, first that a very large proportion of the hands had left Bombay, and secondly that, probably for that reason, the health of the city was, in fact, better than it had been for thirty years. He then went on to deal with the question of relief works. There is a regular scale, laid down by Government, for wages on such works, which is dependent on the prices of foodstuffs: and Mr. Clayton pointed out, no doubt accurately, that the rate at present would be something in the nature of six annas a day, as against the wage of at least double that amount that labour can earn by resuming work.

The debate had its humorous side. Not only are several of the Council themselves millowners, but the Corporation is in itself naturally a very large employer of labour in the public utility services, and the precedent that it has created for itsef, by eventually passing this resolution by a small majority, would be quite funny if it were not so serious. But the debate obviously afforded the speakers an almost unlimited opportunity of attacking the Government. While one side was able to accuse the Bombay Government of callous indifference to the sufferings of the strikers, the other party once again pointed out that all would be well if the Government of India would only remove the Excise Duty. So everyone had their fling: and, as presumably the expenditure is entirely illegal under the Municipal Act, everyone will be satisfied in the long run.

Meanwhile the strike continues, and the end seems more remote than ever. But there is no real sign of distress in the mill area, and it is probable that a very large proportion of the strikers are still in their villages. It must be remembered throughout that conditions are very widely different from those that obtain in any centre of industry in Europe. The percentage of regular hands who have their homes definitely in Bombay, and who are dependent solely on their work in the mills for their living, is no doubt increasing every year. But still the very

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great majority have at no time the intention of working for more than two or three years at a spell, after which they rejoin their villages for a rest and change. Consequently, even when circumstances arise which force them all to take their holidays at the same time, the disturbance of the ordinary routine is very much less than it can be in communities where the cessation of work leaves labour with nowhere to go and nothing to do. This is the fundamental difference between labour conditions in Europe and in India: one that naturally escapes the notice of itinerant labour leaders from Home. India is still an entirely agricultral country, with a population which is not averse from earning money by spells of work in mines, factories and tea-gardens, but of which, at present, only an insignificant percentage is in any way at the mercy of the employers of labour.

I had expected, myself, that the pinch would come about the middle of November: but there is no sign of it as yet, and the time of serious distress, and possibly of disturbance, still seems remote.

The Weather.

As a rule we cease to take any interest in the weather after the end of September, when the anxiety about the rains is ended one way or the other; but this year conditions are rather abnormal throughout India. In Bombay, we have chiefly to comment on the fact that the temperature has not fallen below the true hot weather figure, and is now about six degrees above the normal for the time of year. Up-country, there have been heavy rains almost all over India. The immediate result is uncertain; but, in the long run, the more rain that sinks into the subsoil of India, at any time of year, the better. It is expected that these late rains will eventually increase the size of the cotton crop to an appreciable extent. But early arrivals are likely to be later than usual, owing to the mud in the country roads, and of disappointing quality, owing to the wetting of the plucked cotton. The weather is due to an unusually heavy storm, which has done much damage to the fishing boats down the Malabar Coast. These boats, which are always beached throughout the moonsoon, are not built to stand any heavy weather: and a sudden storm in the fair season, which catches them afloat, always has disastrous consequences.

SUSPENSION OF INDIAN COTTON EXCISE.

(India Office Communiqué.)

The following announcement has been issued by the Governor-General in India:-

In August last, when replying to a deputation which waited upon me on behalf of the millowners of Bombay and Ahmedabad to urge the relief of the mill industry from the cotton duty, I affirmed that the Government of India stood by the letter and spirit of the pledge given by my predecessor, Lord Hardinge, that the Excise duty would be abolished as soon as financial considerations permitted. At the same time, while fully recognising the special difficulties with which the cotton mill industry in India was faced, it was necessary for me to explain that it was impossible to grant this request in the middle of the financial year, before the year had fuly declared itself and before the commitments and prospects of the next year were known.

Again, on September 18, 1925, when a motion for the suspension of the cotton Excise duty was debated in the Legislative Assembly, it was made clear on behalf of the Government that suspension must inevitably be followed immediately by abolition, and abolition ought to be considered only in connection with the finances of the year as a whole: that is, at the time of the Budget, when the claims of the cotton mill industry could be balanced against rival claims.

It was definitely stated that a vote for the suspension would be taken by the Government as an expression of the view that abolition of the cotton Excise duty should take precedence of other claims. The Assembly accepted by a large majority a motion for suspension.

The time has not yet come when a detailed estimate of the revenue and expenditure for the current year or of the prospects for 1926-27 can be made; but the final results of the monsoon are now known, and it is possible to make a more reliable estimate of the financial position than in September. On such information as is now before them, the Government of India are satisfied that there would be no serious risk of a large deficit in the current year if the cotton Excise duty were suspended for the rest of the year, and that there is a reasonable prospect that the Budget for the year can be balanced without assistance from the cotton Excise duty, in the absence of any big change for the worse in the next few months.

I and my Government have therefore come to the conclusion that the moment has arrived when financial considerations permit of the abolition of the duty. This can, however, be finally accomplished only by the passage of the necessary legislation by the Indian Legislature.

In the meantime, having regard to the emergency caused by the grave difficulties confronting the industry, to the pledge given and reaffirmed, and to the expressed views of the Legislative Assembly, I have decided that, with effect from December 1, 1925, the duty shall be suspended by Ordinance. It is the intention of my Government, unless the financial position as disclosed in the Budget estimates for the next year substantially fails to confirm the present anticipations, to place before the Legislature, at the time of the Budget, proposals for the abolition of the duty.

THE INDIAN MAIL.

Durbars.

The cabled report of a speech at Lucknow, delivered by the Governor of the United Provinces, which represented him as expressing doubt whether there was still sufficient reason for a provincial Governor to hold official Durbars, and whether it would not be enough for him to express the views and policy of the Government through the Legislature, aroused a certain amount of interest at the beginning of November. In particular, it prompted that very distinguished ex-Governor of the Punjab, Sir Michael O'Dwyer, to write to *The Times* strongly upholding the value of "the time-honoured Oriental Durbar": which, he said, affords those who attend it an admirable means of representing their views and their needs to the representative of the Sovereign, and offers to the Governor an easy opportunity of publicly announcing the policy of Government, of rewarding good service, of tendering authoritative advice or timely warning in times of crisis or difficulty; so that its discontinuance would not only be an error, but one that would be deeply resented by those who have been accustomed to attend it. He expressed the opinion that the Durbars, that he himself had held in the Punjab during and immediately after the War, had proved an invaluable method of maintaining confidence between the Administration and the people: and that it was largely through their agency that the Punjab made such a splendid response in the War, by providing 360,000 out of the 680,000 combatants raised in India.

The last mail brought a detailed report of the speech of Sir William Marris on the occasion referred to. It shows that Sir William's views on the subject coincide with those of his critic: and that he put forward the suggestion only to reject it. His actual words, indeed, were in many cases almost an exact paraphrase of those used by Sir Michael O'Dwyer in his letter to *The Times*. He said that he felt a doubt "whether the old and honoured ceremony of the Durbar should not henceforth be reserved for wholly special occasions like the visits of Royalty or the Viceroy": but that, after consulting his advisers, he had reached the conclusion that "there were still advantages in the practice by which the Governor occasionally sought an opportunity of assembling and directly addressing the notables of the Province": and that he had been impressed by the fact that the Durbars held by his

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immediate predecessors "had been of great value in stimulating the immense effort which the Provinces made in men and money during the Great War."

Fortunately, therefore, there seems no prospect of the discontinuance of the formal Governor's Durbar. The Oriental always loves a "tamasha"—a spectacular display: and, though the advent of the motor car has done a good deal to reduce the splendour of official progresses, the Durbar itself remains a show that is—or, at any rate, can be made spectacular as well as popular. The Indian idea of a Governor's state arrival at a public function is still what it was in "the good old days"—that the great man should ride an elephant and be attended by an escort of cavalry. That this sort of thing does not happen nowadays is a deprivation to the man in the street; but his more fortunate brother, who is entitled to entry to the Durbar itself, is still able to enjoy a brilliant feast of display and colour, as well as the more solid advantages claimed for such a function by Sir William Marris and Sir Michael O'Dwyer. Unfortunately, it not seldom happens that the Governor himself is not obviously the central figure in the spectacle: one has often thougnt that a special uniform, of surpassing brilliance, should be designed and provided by Government for the highest officials, to enable them to look the part as well as act it. The writer of these notes was once at Calcutta when Lord Curzon attended a Proclamation Parade: and his servant went to see the "tamasha." On his return, he was full of the fine spectacle that he had enjoyed: but said that, since he had last seen him, Lord Curzon had grown a long pair of moustaches. His employer denied this, and the argument waxed quite warm; until it occurred to the writer to ask what clothes the Viceroy was wearing. "Oh," was the reply, "he had on a fine uniform, all red and gold, and covered with medals and stars." When it was suggested that this was the Commander-in-Chief, the servant looked thoughtful. "Well, now you say so, I believe you are right—yes, of course you are right, and it was Power Sahib" (Sir Power Palmer). "But where was the Viceroy?" "He would have been in front of the Commander-in-Chief, wearing a black coat." "Well, well—there *was* a Sahib in a black coat, out in front, but I didn't look at him: I thought he was the Padre Sahib."

A "Country Party."

The speech of Sir William Marris at Lucknow, besides its reference to the question of the continuance or discontinuance of Governors' Durbars, contained an interesting exposition of his views regarding the future of the landowning class—the "zamindars." The speech was specialy addressed to the "Taluqdars," or Barons, of Oudh the great territorial magnates of that part of the United Provinces. The Governor pointed out that, with the inauguration of the Reforms, it had become the accepted policy that the actions of the Government were ultimately to be decided according to the wishes of the individual affected by them—not by those of the people of Great Britain, nor according to the expert views of trained administrators, whether European or Indian; but by the wishes of the Indian "man in the village," who formed, in the aggregate, 97 per cent. of the people and 91 per cent. of the registered voters. Though there is no immediate prospect of the rural voters showing themselves capable of playing the predominant part in politics which the constitution has ultimately assigned to them, yet all the indications point to the fact that the transfer of power, from the classes that at present enjoy it to the rural voter, is only a question of time. Ignorance, poverty and disorganisation may delay the process, but will never stay it in the long run. The Indian legislatures are at present mainly composed of professional men and landlords: and, though there is no reason why this should not continue to be so, as it is in the case of most representative Parliaments eleswhere, it is undoubted that, whoever the actual legislators may be, they will come to feel the pressure of the electors behind them much more exigent than they feel it at present, and that policy will ultimately come to conform to the wishes of the village voter.

Some people feared, said Sir William, that representative government would, in time, involve the disappearance of the landlord order. However well a good landlord might treat his tenants, he could not outbid the extravagant promises held out by popular agitators, who promised the peasant and the workman the total abolition of rents and taxes—"incomes for all but burdens for none": a future calculated to make a great appeal to men incapable of forming a practical judgment for themselves. The ignorant elector must be saved from becoming a danger to himself and to others: and, in a country like India, whose social structure has been based for centuries on religious and aristocratic principle, on deference to sanctity, merit, birth, power and position, while it would be a calamity if the landlord order should disappear, it was peculiarly their duty to realise that privileges involve service, to show that they were the sympathetic allies of the peasant and the working man, and to play the great part, that was open to them, in educating their fellows. If the world situation to-day pointed any moral, it was that power in ignorant hands is a danger: and it behoved all without distinction—landlords, public men and the whole order of public servants—to strive earnestly to make good what was, at present, a palpable and dangerous deficiency, and to "educate their masters." The most obvious lines on which progress should advance were those of agriculture and education: it was a matter of good augury that the Minister who had been selected to fill the office of Viceroy had been specially concerned with both: the problem was a great one, but it needed to be grappled with in earnest: and for this was necessary the co-operation of all public men, none of whom would deny the need for such an effort.

For some little time past, there has been a growing desire to bring into existence a "country party" in Indian politics: to be composed of men with a real stake in the country, particularly of the landholding and commercial classes. Some English observers in India prophesy a great future for such a party, and believe that events are shaping in the direction of its early formation: if started by the right people, and on the right lines, it should soon prove itself a valuable counterpoise to the coterie of professional politicians who now preponderate in the Indian legislatures: and the age-long ideas of Indians, confused though they have been by the "slogans" of professional agitators, should, when such a party has proved its value and power, afford it increasing support. If the speech of Sir William Marris assists the inception of this campaign as it appears to have been intended to do—it will have performed a great service not only to his own Province but to the whole of India.

The End of Obstruction.

A new recruit to the growing number of Indian politicians, who are expressing dissatisfaction with the Swarajist programme of obstruction, has appeared in the person of Mr. Yakub Hasan, a Madras politician of extreme opinions and a prominent supporter of the Khilafat agitation at the time that it attained its maximum. He has given notice of a resolution that he will move at the next session of the Indian National Congress, due to be held at Cawnpore in Christmas week. This resolution states that the previous Congress resolutions in favour of non-violent non-co-operation are no longer operative, and that the scheme based upon them should be unreservedly withdrawn; though by this "it is not to be understood that the Congress necessarily extends its hands of co-operation to the British Government in any of their schemes for the governance and administration of India, particularly in the working of the Reforms."

As a prominent supporter of the Khilafat agitation, it is interesting to observe that Mr. Yakub Hasan expressed the opinion that the conclusion of the Treaty of Lausanne "does not leave any grievance against Great Britain that requires redress through such a drastic measure as that of non-co-operation." He also declared that the Swaraj Party had deliberately acted in opposition to the non-co-operation campaign by entering the Councils, and that many Congress members had done the same by voting for Swarajists at the elections. His argument amounts to

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admitting that non-co-operation is dead: and, if it is dead, why not say so?

It is true that the resolution, and its explanation, are ambiguously phrased. Non-co-operation is to cease, but the action that will replace it is not to be called co-operation. Great Britain's guilt in the matter of the Khilafat has been purged—though not wholly: grievances remain against her in the matter, but not of so serious a nature as to require "drastic action"—presumably all that is now needed in what Mr. Dooley called "a strong diplomatic protest—such as Tut Tut, or Well, I declare!" But, whatever the phraseology, the intention is clear. Swarajist obstruction has served its purpose—if it ever had one: and its continuance will not only serve no purpose, but will be a hindrance to all who have a purpose to serve. It remains to be seen whether the solid phalanx of Swarajist admirers will be capable of carrying through the programme of their leaders at the Cawnpore session of the Congress—a programme that is now purely negative. But, even if they suceed, it will be a "paper" success only. Towards the end of Lord Chelmsford's administration, many extremist newspapers came out daily with the displayed heading C.M.G.—which stood for Chelmsford Must Go. It amused them, and did not hurt him: even the most flamboyant among them knew that it did not, and could not, mean that Chelmsford would go; but any newspaper in India that headed its front page with the motto O.M.G.—Obstruction Must Go—would have the satisfaction of knowing that it not only must go, but is going: for all practical purposes, indeed, it has already gone.

English Surnames.

A Calcutta newspaper observes that the new Viceroy's name will be more easily pronounced by Indians than those of some of his predecessors, and is unlikely to undergo any more serious mutilation than "Ood." Lord Reading's name—except that it was often pronounced as if it were the the present participle of the verb to read—presented no difficulty; Lord Chelmsford's was not so easy, and usually required an extra syllable—Chellumsfort, with the accent on the last syllable, was the popular variant. The Indian usually coins a name of his own when confronted with a really difficult one—Labillière was always "Lublubi," and Meiklejohn was always "Jan Michael." One of his most noticeable difficulties, in this respect, is a consonantal diphthong, especially when it begins a word, and particularly when the first letter is S. "Smith," for instance, is always "Ishmitt." Some years ago, it happened that a British regiment in India contained two young officers of the name of Hastings, one of whom was plain Mr. Hastings, while the other was the Honourable Mr. Hastings. The Indian surmounted the difficulty of distinguishing between them by naming one "Ishtink Sahib," and the other "Horrible Ishtink Sahib."

It is not an infrequent practice, among small Indian traders, to assume an English name for commercial purposes. There appears to be a law in India (of the lèse-majesté type, one may suppose) that prevents them from assuming the name of a Viceroy or Governor: for a Bombay firm, who, during Lord Curzon's Viceroyalty, assumed the style of "Curzon and Co.," were restrained, by legal process, from doing so. It fell to a Judge of the High Court, who may be called Mr. Justice Stareleigh, to pronounce the veto. The firm bowed to the decision and, the next day, put up a new sign: Stareleigh and Co. If Mr. Wood follows a number of recent examples, and retains his own surname in his title as a peer, it may perhaps be difficult to object to the assumption of the style of "Wood and Co." by Indian firms; since they might reasonably argue that their choice of so "ordinary" a name had no personal significance.

INDIAN EXCHANGE.

London, December 7.

Movements in Rupee Exchange during the past week have been insignificant, and the quotation in Calcutta and Bombay has remained stationary at 1s. 6 3-16d. T.T., at which there has only been a moderate inquiry. This has obliged Banks and some other remitters to have recourse to Government again, who have been purchasing quite freely in the Indian markets, at the rate, and Government remittances must amount to close upon one million pounds. To-day markets are quieter there, with Banks disinclined to sell for ready or near delivery over 1s. 6 5-32d.

It is interesting to note that Government purchases in October amounted to £4,653,000, and their total purchases since April 1 come to £25,201,500. Of this amount, two million pounds were remitted on account of the paper currency reserve. In consequence of the increase in the Bank of England rate, and the consequent rise in Discounts in our market, the quotation for three months' credits has widened, and in both places it has been raised to 1s. 6 15-32d., at which, however, little business has been reported.

During the week the Imperial Bank of India has advanced its rate to 6 per cent., and it may be assumed, therefore, that the demand for money to finance arrivals of cotton is beginning to be felt. Forward quotations are easier and are called 1s. 6 5-32d. T.T. from now on to the end of February, with next to no business passing.

In the London markets rates are perfectly steady at 1s. 6 7-32d. T.T. available freely and no indication of anything better at the moment.

In connexion with the suspension of the Indian Excise Duty of 3½ per cent. by the Government of India, although the decision will have an adverse effect upon shipments from Lancashire, a representative meeting in Manchester of spinners and manufacturers issued an official statement a few days ago, to the Press, accepting the decision as a reasonable and generous act for the good of India.

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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

170, *Strand, London, W.C.2.*
Tuesday Morning.

The Bank Rate.

It cannot be said that the change in the Bank Rate took the commercial world by surprise, for it was realised that the continued efflux of gold was rendering such a step inevitable; in fact, the change took place later than was expected. Opinions seem to differ very much as to the effect of the alteration on trade, but very obviously it must place a further handicap on enterprise, because the bankers will charge more for accommodation; and the increase is, therefore, in a sense a tax on profits. Clearly it will also have the effect of making the London market less accessible for foreign loans, and will thus tend to counteract the raising of the embargo on these issues. But perhaps that is not a very important point at the moment, for there has not been (and, be it added, no one expected that there would be) any immediate rush for accommodation here. But it is vital that no unnecessary obstacle should be placed in the way of commercial expansion at the present time, and it may be hoped that the effect of the 5 per cent. Rate will be so immediate that it will be possible in the near future to retrace the step. That, however, must remain to be seen.

The P. and O. Report.

The outstanding feature of the P. and O. report for the year to September 30 is the way in which this great organisation has maintained its earning capacity despite the exceptional difficulties of the period under review. The profits after allowing for depreciation amount to £1,273,533 as compared with £1,346,938 for the previous twelve months, and I think it will be agreed that in the prevailing circumstances a reduction of only slightly over £117,000 is a very good showing indeed. As already recorded, a reduced final dividend on the deferred stock is recommended, making the distribution 10 per cent. as against 12 per cent. last year, and this the Board explain has been done, because they "consider it prudent in present circumstances to husband the company's resources." The proposed allocations include £261,607 for debenture stock redemption as against £249,150, bringing the provision in this respect up to nearly £700,000, and £40,000 to the provident good service fund, and the carry forward will be £142,143 as compared with £101,034. At the general meeting which takes place to-morrow Lord Inchcape will, no doubt, have something to say with regard to the general outlook not only for shipping but for industries in general, and it may be hoped that he will be able to confirm the view, to which utterance has been increasingly given of late, that the signs really point to the gradual improvement in trade, and that at long last the corner of the trade depression has been turned. For shareholders in the P. and O. Company the outlook is bright indeed when trade revives, for if the company can hold its own as it has been doing in the most adverse circumstances, it is assuredly in a position to reap a handsome return with the renewal of commercial activity, and the knowledge of that fact will be compensation for the present reduction of 2 per cent. in the deferred dividend.

Egyptian Salt and Soda.

Considerably improved results are reported by the Egyptian Salt and Soda Company for the year ended August 31 last. The gross profits amounted to £E29,920 as compared with £E7,244 for the previous year, while the net profits were £E20,443, as against £E243. The amount brought in was £E44,789, making the disposable surplus £E65,232. It is proposed to pay a dividend of 5 per cent., leaving £E40,966 to be carried forward. Last year no dividend was paid, and as the company in the past has paid dividends ranging up to 60 per cent., it will be realised how it has been affected by the factors referred to in the report—trade depression and competition.

The Tea Position.

In recent years tea companies have enjoyed considerable and increasing prosperity, and the statistical position combined with the evidence that consumption of this commodity continues steadily on the up grade suggests that the outlook for the producers is most promising. An interesting review of the situation is given in the annual report of Brooke, Bond and Co., in which it is pointed out that in September the market was very depressed, as at that time the crop in Northern India showed an increase of more than 22,000,000 lb. Conditions have since undergone a great change, and it is now thought probable that the crop will be from 10,000,000 lb. to 15,000,000 lb. below that of last year. Conditions in Java have also been unfavourable, but the reverse has been the case in Southern India and Ceylon. China, as was to be expected, has not been an important factor this season, and it is suggested as probable that of the surplus of 40,000,000 lb. that London carried last summer, half to three-quarters will have gone by June next. As regards consumption, the figure for Great Britain and Ireland is now 8.76 lb. per head, while in the United States the total for last year was .93 lb. per head as compared with .87 lb. for the year before. Since then, however, there has been a strenuous campaign in favour of the British national beverage in America, and it may reasonably be assumed that subsequent figures will show a much more striking advance. Russia is still not a considerable importer, but if conditions in that country improved and tea was again taken on the pre-War scale the possibility of a shortage of the commodity would have to be envisaged. But that is, of course, the case in respect of other things besides tea.

Correct.

For once in a way the temptation to say "I told you so" is too strong to be resisted. Some four week ago (I write without the book, so I may be a week out either way), discussing the future of the rubber market, I said that whatever happened in the intervening weeks I was certain that the beginning of December would see a sharp

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upward movement in the shares. My reason for this view was that a very large sum fell to be distributed last week in War Loan dividend, and I was confident that the attractions of rubber would be irresistible when it came to reinvesting some part of that amount. The share movements in the last few days of last week and especially yesterday, when there was something approaching a scramble for shares, have fully borne out my view. Even now at the prices reached I am not inclined to go over to the bears, and I see no reason why, with the inevitable fluctuations, the market should not continue to improve for another month or so. February 1 will see the companies at liberty to produce up to 100 per cent. of their capacity if they can (and very possibly to the limit of their productive power, though it may be, of course, that further increases will be regulated under the scheme) and the increased output should at least compensate for any decline that may take place in the commodity. And as consumption continues on the upgrade, the outlook is unmistakably bright, and would be distinctly rosy if one knew that there would be no trouble over the coal question here in the spring. That is unfortunately the uncertain element in every business equation.

COMMENTATOR.

ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, November 26.

Grain Exports.

Greater activity is reported at the ports, especially as regards shipments of grain, owing to a general improvement in the grain market. This improvement, however, is not so marked as to have prevented three of the largest flour mills in Bucharest from deciding to close down until greater facilities are offered them for the export of their surplus stocks. This decision has been taken after a trial had been made to work eight hours a day instead of twenty-four as they normally do.

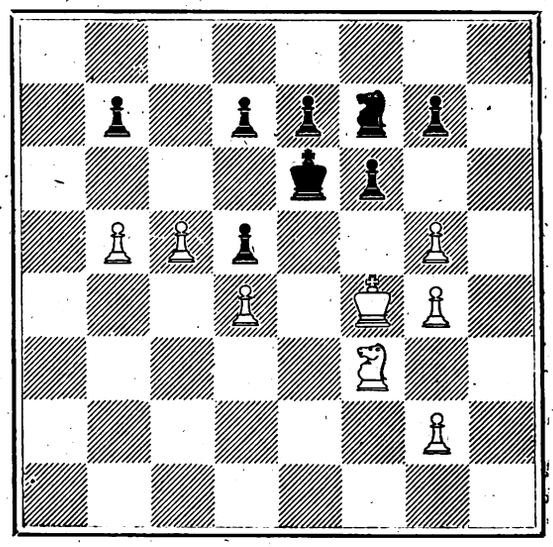
Miscellaneous News.

Great hopes are expressed in the Press that the negotiations now going on in England in regard to compensation for petroleum wells destroyed during the War will result in a settlement of this long outstanding and very sore question to the advantage of Roumania.

The Roumanian delegates who attended the recent conference of the Succession States at Prague to discuss the question of the distribution of the Austro-Hungarian pre-War Public Debt, have returned, having refused to sign the arrangement proposed. The Roumanian argument is that as the total sums to be received by Roumania under the Peace Treaties, as War indemnities from Austria and Hungary, have not yet even been fixed, there is no reason why Roumania, as a victorious ally should be required to make payments to these countries on account of their pre-War public debts.

CHESS.

By "CARO-KANN."



PROBLEM No. 25.
White to play and win.

Solution to Problem No. 24:—1, P—Kt4, P—B4 (ch); 2, K—B4, K—Q4 (if K—B3; 3, P—R5, K—K3; 4, P—B3, K—B3; 5, K—K3, K—K4; 6, P—B4 (ch), K—Q4; 7, K—Q3, K—K3; 8, K—Q4, K—B3; 9, K—K3 and draws); 3, KxP, K—B5; 4, K—Kt4, KxP; 5, P—B4, K—B5; 6, P—B5, P—Kt5; 7, P—B6, P—Kt6; 8, P—B7, P—Kt7; 9, P—B8 (=Q), P—Kt8 (=Q); 10, QxP, KxP and draws.

Interest in the Moscow Tournament has been sustained right up to the end; indeed, I can scarcely call to mind an event in recent years which has provided such possibilities of a dramatic finish. M. Bogolgubow now stands out as one of the world's best players, while Dr. Lasker has shown that he is still as good as ever he was. After a very poor start Senor Capablanca made a wonderful recovery, and to finish with the score he did was, in the circumstances, a very fine performance. His record suggests that he is a better match player than a tournament player. *En passant*, I see that it is suggested that the Russians will endeavour to arrange a match between the winner of the tournament and Capablanca for the championship.

Reuter reports from Washington that the Roumanian Debt Commission have accepted the terms offered by the American negotiators for the funding of the Roumanian debt to the United States.

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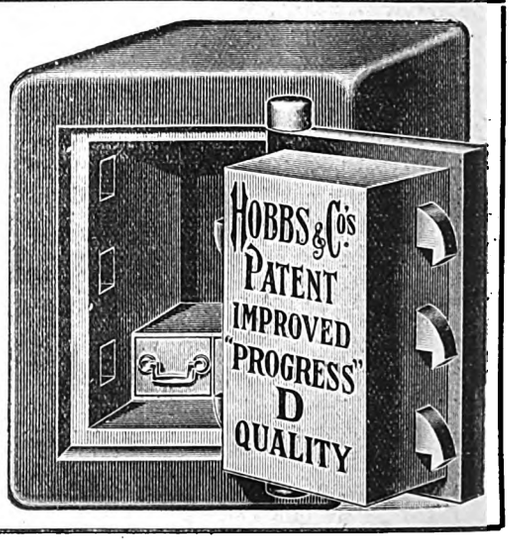

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THE ROUMANIAN BUDGET FOR 1926.

The following is an explanation of the Roumanian Budget for 1926, given by M. Vintila Bratianu, Minister for Finance.

The estimated revenue of the 1926 Budget amounts to 28,250 million lei, to which must be added 1 milliard lei available surplus from the 1925 Budget, making a total of 29,250 millions, an increase of 6,205 million lei compared with the Budget for 1925.

This increase is derived from the general augmentation of the various items of revenue included in the present Budget, and in addition to these a sum of approximately 1,300 millions under the following new headings:—

(a) About 400 millions from the new Stamp Law, which will be laid before Parliament within the new few days.

(b) About 400 millions by the increase of postal tariffs, which at present are much below those of other European countries.

(c) About 500 millions from various modifications in the details of the tariff on products of the State Monopolies.

The only heading under which the revenues show a reduction is that of export taxes, and here the proposed policy of a gradual reduction of these taxes is expected to diminish the revenues by about one milliard lei.

The estimated expenditure amounts to 23,912 million lei, that is to say, 23,517 millions for ordinary expenses of the various departments and 395 milions as a subvention from the State to the communes and districts, under the terms of the new Administration Law.

This year, owing to the new (autonomous) organisation of the Railways, the Railway budget will be entirely separate from that of the State. The Railway Administration will henceforth have its own Budget, which this year will amount to between 8 and 10 milliard lei.

Thus the estimated revenues amounting to 29,250 million and the estimated expenditure to 23,912 millions, there will be a surplus balance of about 5,300 millions, which has been distributed as follows:—1,300 millions for the opening of extraordinary credits, a fund which has been increased this year (although the requirements of the railways are no longer included) in order to provide for the settlement of the Inter-Allied Debts now in course of arrangement.

The greater part of the available surplus, i.e., 4 milliard lei, has been earmarked for the increase of the salaries of State officials and employees. Of this sum 3 milliards will be distributed at once, on January 1, 1926, and 1 milliard on July 1, 1926, that is to say, after the final closing of the 1925 Budget. This sum of 4 milliard lei will permit of an increase of the salaries of State officials and employees by about 65 per cent. as compared with their present salaries.

The Budget of 1926 is influenced by several new factors:—

(1) One of the most important is the law for the decentralisation of administration, the effects of which are already beginning to be felt and will become more and more important as time goes on. The sum of 400 millions above mentioned as having been allotted to the districts and communes, must be considered only as a beginning in the scheme of decentralisation. The Ministry of Finance has suggested to the Council of Ministers that this sum be allowed to the departments and communes, and that the extra quotas of the tax on agriculture for the districts and on buildings for the communes be augmented, in order to provide these institutions with the possibility of financial autonomy, and to enable them to benefit by an eventual increase in revenues.

(2) An important modification in the new Budget is the separation of the Railway Budget from the general Budget of the State. This could not be done till the position of the railways had reached a stage when their receipts balanced expenditure. This point has now been reached, and the railways are entering upon an independent existence.

(3) The application of the Pensions Law also represents an important modification, as the Pensions Budget has also been separated from that of the State generally. For the moment this modification is more a formal one, for owing to the "war pensions and dear living allowances," which remain at the charge of the State, the subvention paid by the State Treasury to the Pensions fund is still a large one.

(4) The carrying out of the Commercialisation Law and the Mining Law has already begun to bring in important new revenues, which on the one hand serve to meet the expenses of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, and on the other permit of the payment into the fund for the liquidation of State issues (National Bank) of a sum of more than 600 million lei, which is in effect an advance redemption of part of the internal public debt.

(5) The new organisation of the departments which, in several cases, has already been put into application, has begun to bear fruit, but the real results cannot be estimated until all the reorganisation laws and the law for the co-ordination of salaries have been passed. This last event must also be awaited before the final adjustment is made of the salaries of State officials: hence the delay till the end of 1925 Budget year, i.e., July 1, 1926.

With the 1925 Budget past obligations have been entirely liquidated, and thanks to the experience gained during the last four financial years it is possible henceforth to estimate both the requirements and the available Budget resources of Greater Roumania.

The sums allowed in the Budget for the liquidation of past and present debts have increased during these last years.

With the consolidation of the Budget assured, however, and all obligations known and their payment assured by ordinary budgetary resources, the Government can now for the first time consider, without apprehension, a new stage in the development of the country, and the utilisation of foreign loans.

So long as Roumania was still a debtor with unpaid bills, or had debts of which the amount was not known, she could not seriously think of engaging the credit of the country, already severely compromised.

But although the Roumanian Government may not consider raising loans abroad, its policy in this connexion must be extremely prudent, as the budgetary policy has been hitherto.

With a credit not yet entirely established, it can only embark upon the most urgent and strictly necessary loans at short terms which should not in the meantime exceed three years.

The most urgent requirements fall into the following four categories:—

(1) The more speedy execution of the programme laid down in the recent Conventions with the National Bank, with a view to currency consolidation, and in order to strengthen the guarantee for the fiduciary circulation. A foreign loan might provide a fund for the more rapid

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liquidation of the debt of the State to the National Bank, which must be effected within 15 to 20 years.

The revenues from this fund and the discounts from the State petroleum royalties would facilitate this operation.

(2) The consolidation for a longer period of certain short term obligations which are a heavy charge on future Budgets up to 1930. (Debts to Skoda, Ringhoffer, Baldwin (which is consolidated for 5 years), and the Belgian loan of 1919.)

(3) Co-ordination of the railway system and the opening up of new points of access to the Black Sea and the Danube; works in the ports, etc.

(4) Education and Public Health. Such a loan would be supplemented by the annual payments of 80 millions made by the State into the "Caisse des Dépôts" for the special fund for Education and Public Health, created by the law of direct taxation by a tax of 3 per cent. on movable property.

Other needs might be mentioned, but in contracting engagements in the future the Government must not neglect to profit by the experience of other States which, having contracted large loans, the redemption of which was therefore, spread over a long period, have found that the third, and even the second instalment of the loan has been refused them.

Shipping Intelligence.

KHEDIVIAL MAIL LINE.

Renewal of Cyprus Mail Contract.

The Khedivial Mail Company's mail contract with the Government of Cyprus has been renewed and will come into operation from January 1 next. Under the new contract the company has undertaken to provide a weekly mail service throughout the year between Egypt, Cyprus and Syrian ports. The service will be maintained by the steamers Belkas and Bilbeis, with departures from Alexandria on Tuesdays and from Port Said on Wednesdays for Cyprus, Beyrout, Tripoli, Lattakia and Mersina, the weekly steamer returning via the same ports (with a call homewards at Alexandretta) to Famagusta, Larnaca, Limasol (Cyprus), Port Said and Alexandria. A call at Paphos on the return voyage will be substituted for the call at Larnaca every fourth week. The new weekly service is timed to connect at Port Said outwards and homewards with the weekly P. and O. steamers to and from India, etc.

Under the contract now expiring the company maintains communication between Egypt and Cyprus at intervals of ten days only, and it is known that the more frequent service will be especially welcome to the community of Cyprus.

The former separate services from Egypt to Cyprus and from Egypt to Syria will thus become merged into one, which besides offering an interesting itinerary for tourists, wil establish direct communication weekly in both directions with advantage to the commercial houses of Cyprus and Syria and to the traffic by the desert motor route between Syria and Baghdad, etc. For the Palestine ports of Jaffa and Haifa separate arrangements are under consideration by the Khedivial Mail Company.

FRANCE AND DANUBE SHIPPING.

The part played by France in the shipping traffic of the Danube is very much deplored by the French Press, which points out that the port of Sulina received, in October last, 77 vessels measuring 122,561 tons net, of which two were French vessels measuring 4,460 tons. Outwards, there were 64 vessels representing 104,977 tons, of which six only were French, of a total tonnage of 10,603 tons.

The principal exports of the port of Sulina were, in the second fortnight of October: wheat, 4,700 tons; maize, 6,820 tons; barley, 2,623 tons; beans, 8,219 tons; millet, 1,040 tons; wood, 63,112 cubic metres. In these shipments, France's share was: wheat, 1,296 tons; maize, 3,282 tons; barley, 477 tons; beans, 5,168 tons; wood, 9,383 cubic metres. It is pointed out that France can justly be described as one of the two or three principal clients of the Danube exporters and it is all the more regrettable to see the insignificant part played by the French flag in the traffic of Sulina.

SECOND-CLASS SLEEPING CARS IN ITALY.

The London office of the Italian State Railways and State Tourist Department announces the introduction not only of second-class sleeping cars on the chief night trains from Milan, Turin, Venice and Triest to Florence, Rome, Naples, Brindisi, and from Rome to Taormina, Syracuse and Palermo and vice versa, but also of trains composed entirely of first and second-class sleeping cars. The second-class compartments have all the amenities of, and are only slightly smaller than, the first-class compartments. This new consideration to travellers in Italy, it is stated, is proving very successful.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses :—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Elysia for Bombay (Liverpool, December 23). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—M.v. Somersetshire for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 12); s.s. Malakuta for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 24).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Leicestershire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, December 30).

British India Line.—S.s. Gharinda for Bombay and Karachi (London, December 19); s.s. Mashobra for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 19).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Brescia for Patras, Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Swansea, December 16).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Birmingham for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 24).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 26).

P. and O. line.—S.s. Nankin for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 12); s.s. Kaisar-i-Hind for Bombay (London, December 24).

Prince Line.—S.s. Syrian Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, and Beyrout (Manchester, December 24).

According to a message received in Belgrade from Tirana, the Bank of Albania was inaugurated on December 2.

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*CIRCASSIA, Jany. 12, 1926.	*ELYSIA, April 13.
*CASTALIA, Feb. 2.	*CIRCASSIA, April 30
*OLYMPIA, Feb. 19.	*CASTALIA, May 14.
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Motors and Motoring.

By G. B. B.

Every day brings fresh rumours as to the advent of the really cheap car, and, although at present these seem to have little or no foundation, it may be taken that a marked reduction in the price of some of the smaller models will be announced before long. Every manufacturer is paying increased attention to the high speed, high efficiency car engine and its possibilities, particularly the type of engine which uses heavy oils as fuel. I do not mean to say that in the near future overseas buyers will be able to buy British-made cars, at a low price, fitted with engines of the Diesel or semi-Diesel types, but there is a distinct and decided trend in that direction. The advantages of the heavy oil consuming engine are many; heavy oil is cheaper than petrol for one thing and can be obtained in many localities overseas, as in the Near, Middle, and Far Easts, far more easily and cheaply than can good quality petrol. The actual cost of running, therefore, is lower and there is less fear of interruption to a journey through running short of petrol, whilst other advantages are that electric ignition is done away with altogether and there is consequently no possibility of trouble through magneto or sparking plug faults, or breakdowns. The risk of fire is also eliminated.

Some Other Factors.

At the same time there are certain points in connection with the heavy-oil engine as adapted for motor car service which have to be borne in mind, and which do, to some extent, act as deterrents to buyers and so delay the coming of the heavy-oil engined car. Of these, perhaps the most important is the difficulty of starting such an engine from cold, and it will be noted here that it is of little use to devise means whereby the engine can be started up on petrol and changed over to heavier oil as soon as the cylinders are warmed up. The whole idea of the engine is to produce a more efficient power unit than the petrol engine and to do away with the use of the lighter fuel. If one has to carry a tank of petrol for starting purposes, one might as well carry a tank of petrol for power purposes; and again, if it is difficult or impossible to get petrol for power, it will be, probably, just as difficult to get a supply with which to start up the engine. Consequently special apparatus must be incorporated in the design or used as an auxiliary for starting the heavy-oil engine when it is cold. It may be mentioned also that designers have not been able, so far, to give us a heavy-oil engine with a sufficiently wide range of speed for pleasure car purposes, and as the point which is at fault is not the maximum speed but the range of speed, it is evident that the last word has not yet been said in connection with the design of this type of engine.

Indian Roads.

Some few days ago a writer in one of the motoring journals which usually is extremely well informed said, regarding India, that there are probably not more than ten miles of paved highways in India. It is not easy to understand why so extraordinary a statement should be made. Of course, the word "probably" allows a loophole for escape; the writer can reply to any forthcoming critics that he had not made a definite statement, but had only given an opinion. It would seem to me that where this matter of overseas trade is concerned every writer should be particularly and peculiarly careful lest anything he may say may have a prejudicial effect on the overseas trade of this country. This specially applies to India, where there is a large and waiting market for motor cars, provided our manufacturers will offer the kind of vehicle that is needed. As it stands, the statement referred to above seems to imply that India is "hopeless so far as the sale of cars is concerned as the roads are uniformly bad; in fact, there are not more than ten or twelve miles of paved road in the country." That, I say, is what was implied in the statement, and anything further from the truth could hardly be imagined.

The Facts.

One need not point to the very large sales of Rolls-Royce, Napier, Sunbeam, and other "luxury" cars in India and emphasise the fact that such cars would not have been bought in such numbers had there been no roads in the country on which they could travel. Nor need one point to the quantities of American cars that have been sold in India, or remind British manufacturers of light cars that they, also, have in the past done good business in India. It is sufficient to say that any large firm of makers of road-making machinery and plant will tell him that large quantities of machinery for the production of tar-macadam for roads have been imported into India, and that one of the big technical expert papers runs, or ran, a regular feature of "Indian Notes" dealing with the progress of road-making and road-paving in India.

Further, to go into particulars, I would ask the writer whether he has ever heard of Calcutta with its scores of miles of made, paved, and tarred roads; or the big main road from Calcutta to Chandernagore, nearly 50 miles in length and beautifully surfaced throughout; or the miles of fine motoring roads round Bombay, and of the splendid stretches of paved highways in and around Madras, which is one of the best paved district of India: or of the excellent road system in the vicinity of Allahabad? I would ask that writer whether he is aware that many Indian newspapers make a feature of giving as full information as they can to their readers on motoring subjects, and would ask him whether he things any sane editor would give that space to motoring of there were no roads in his district on which people could motor? Then, across the great plains of India are tremendously long stretches of road which, though certainly not tar-macadamised, are perfectly suitable for light cars and which to-day compare favourably with the average second-class roads of this country before the tar-spraying era set in.

I have said before, and say again, that there is a big market in India for the British light car provided our manufacturers will study, and seek to fill, the requirements of the Indian market, and it would be a thousand pities were any of these manufacturers to gain an impression that there are no paved roads or roads suitable for motor work in India.

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EAST LONDON—Messrs. Dunn & Co.
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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended November 26, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has been rather firm for Ashmouni and dull for Sakel. The net changes on the week are the following: Sakellaridis, 1.12 dollars down for January, 1.17 dollars down for March, 1.20 dollars down for May, 1.12 dollars down for July, 0.83 dollars down for November 1926; Ashmouni, unchanged for December, 0.05 dollars up for February, unchanged for April, 0.42 dollars down for October.

We have had rather quiet sessions this week, and the relative firmness of Ashmouni compared to Sakel must be attributed to straddling operations between these two varieties.

Nothing further has been heard regarding the projected intervention of the Government in the futures market, and it is understood that the project has been dropped, at least for the time being. Newspapers report that the Decree restricting cotton acreage to one-third of the total area of cultivated land will be published next week.

On the 21st instant a further official estimate of the American crop was issued, the figure given being 15,298,000 bales against 15,386,000 a fortnight ago; this figure was within the expectations of the market and accordingly had no effect on prices.

The demand from abroad has been somewhat smaller than during the last few weeks. Spinners do not show any great anxiety to buy, but should the market steady itself at about present levels, we think that a much larger business will result.

Egyptians in Liverpool still keep firm, especially Ashmouni; it is probable that the present premium of Liverpool over Alexandria will increase, as the existing quantity of tenderable cotton in Liverpool is rather low and Fully Good Fair spot price considerably dearer than Fully Good Fair futures.

On the third tender day of November, 1,250 kantars dockets were issued.

The movement of the crop in the Interior continues to be slow and, as a result, the daily Alexandria arrival figures compare unfavourably with the figures of the corresponding period last year. The big growers think that present prices are too cheap and accordingly are not, for the present, marketing their cotton.

The week's receipts amount to 198,116 krs. against exports 209,575 krs.; the stock stands at 1,807,862 krs.

Spot: Minet el Bassal has been rather less active this week and demand from abroad has fallen away a little. Sales amount to about 22,000 bales of which we estimate 11,200 bales Sakel, 8,500 bales Uppers, 800 bales Zagora, 200 bales Pilion, 50 bales Brown and 250 bales White.

The Egyptian Government has bought during the week under review about 600 bales, of which 450 bales Sakel Fully Good Fair, and 150 bales Uppers Fully Good Fair.

The movement in the Interior has been much smaller this week, due partly to transport having been interrupted by bad weather and partly to the unwillingness of growers to market their crops at present prices.

Sakellaridis: has been in fair request and all styles have been dealt in. Spot differences are generally without much change.

Ashmouni and Zagora: A fairly good business has been done, covering all grades. Spot differences are steady and unchanged.

Pilion: A small business has been done at last week's rates.

Brown: has been in retail demand without change in prices.

White: A fair business has been done. Spot differences are unchanged from last week.

MANCHESTER COTTON MARKET.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Ottoman Bank for the week ended December 5 states:—

Whilst the volume of business has again been unsatisfactory, a more hopeful feeling prevails. The final American Bureau Report is due on Tuesday next, and the market will be very glad to have these disturbing publications at an end.

The suspension by the Indian Government of the 3½ per cent. Excise Duty on cotton goods has been taken with equanimity, although, of course, it is recognised that it cannot but be detrimental to Lancashire's interests.

Yarn.—The turnover in this sector has again been poor. It is said that very low prices have been taken by some sellers, presumably because they must clear superabundant stocks. Both for American and Egyptian yarns inquiry has been on a low scale and quotations are weaker.

Cloth. The only feature of the week has been the renewal of the Indian demand for dhooties. For other classes of goods inquiry from that market continues to be disappointing. There is no business worthy of mention from China, but rather more activity has been displayed by Egypt. A fair business has again transpired for the Continent, but the Home trade has been the best section.

Raw Cotton. A weaker tone has been in evidence and quotations are substantially reduced. The weather reports from the United States have been favourable and Tuesday's Bureau Report is awaited with interest and a sense of relief that it is the last. Actual business in Liverpool has been on a small scale. Reports from Egypt have also been favourable, but the crop does not seem to be moving freely as yet. The moderate Government purchases have been without effect in checking the decline in prices. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows:—American Middling, 10.43; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 18.90.

SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co. report as follows for the week ended November 21:—

Sultanas.—The arrivals are estimated at 19,300 tons and the sales to date are put at 17,650 tons. Closing prices, Smyrna, per cwt. c.i.f. London/Liverpool: Type 12, 55s.; type 13, 57s.; type 14, 59s.; type 15, 61s.; type 16, 65s.; type 17, 72s.

A marked change in the situation has developed in the course of the week. About 1,000 tons of fruit has been bought and the demand remains active at progressively advancing rates, prices showing a net gain of about 3s. (fls. 3). The close is very firm. Statistically the position is becoming interesting and merits watching. So far as this side goes, the figures given above show that about 17,650 tons have been liquidated, not calculating local consumption, which may be assessed at about 1,500 tons additional. Stocks remaining available for export are estimated at round about 9,000 tons. Supplies on consuming centres are generally light. Continental advices would indicate that a buying movement may be looked for towards the end of the year or during January. U.K. stocks as per Board of Trade returns figure as under to October 31 for sultanas and raisins combined:—

	1925	1924	1923
Tons	7,800	12,550	17,500

Remaining stocks of sultanas in Greece are estimated at: Cretan, 1,000 tons; Greek, 600 tons.

Figs. The arrivals are estimated at 190,832 bags and the sales to date are put at 186,357 bags.

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"BALKAN LIFE AND ACCIDENT" and
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Capital - Leva 5,000,000 each.
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COMPANY MEETING.

ANGLO-BELGIAN COMPANY OF EGYPT, LTD.

At the twentieth ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Belgian Company of Egypt, Ltd., held on December 1, Mr. Francis FitzGerald, C.B.E., Chairman of the company, presiding, the directors' annual report and accounts were adopted and the retiring director, Mr. F. Casimir-Lambert, together with two new directors, Henri Naus Bey and Mr. Elie Mosseri, were elected to the board.

At a subsequent extraordinary general meeting the directors' proposals to eliminate from the balance-sheet the debit balance on profit and loss account, by a reduction of capital to the extent of £2 10s. on each of the 69,138 issued shares of £5 each, were also duly carried.

The Chairman, in moving the resolutions, explained that the debit balance referred to was due to the accumulation of annual deficits in past years occasioned by interest charges on loans to the company and the loss borne in the past two years by the realisation of certain investments.

He further explained, in reference to the creation of 69,138 new shares of £2 10s. each, that this was a formal procedure designed to preserve the original nominal capital of the company at £1,000,000, and stated that no emission of these shares, or of any of the shares at present unissued, was contemplated.

The resolutions adopted at the meeting will be submitted for confirmation at a further meeting of shareholders to be held on December 16, and will be further submitted to the Court for final approval as required by law.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

P. AND O.

The report of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company for the year ended September 30, states that the accounts show that after providing for depreciation there is a credit balance on the year's accounts, including £101,033 13s. 8d. brought forward from last year, of £955,002 10s. against £1,072,997 2s. 4d. in the previous year. The directors propose to deal with this amount as follows: (1) 5 per cent. Dividend on the ferred Stock (of which 2½ per cent. was paid as Interim Dividend), £152,000; (2) 10 per cent. Dividend on the Deferred Stock, free of Income Tax (of which 6 per cent. was paid as an Interim Dividend), £359,251 16s.; (3) Reserve for redemption of Debenture Stock £261,607 10s.; (4) Provident Good Service Fund £40,000; (5) To carry forward to next year £142,143 4s. £955,002 10s.

The poor state of trade generally, the unrest in China, and the loss caused by the labour troubles compel the Board to recommend a reduction in the dividend on the Deferred Stock from 12 to 10 per cent. as they consider it prudent in present circumstances to husband the Company's resources. The Sinking Fund for the Debenture Stock repayable at the Company's option between 1930 and 1940 now stands at £693,757 10s. and this is invested in Government securities.

The "Assaye" has again been chartered by Government for the trooping business, and continues to prove an efficient and suitable steamer for this class of work. The "Ranpura," "Ranchi," Rawalpindi" and "Razmak" have been delivered during the year and are now giving effective service between London and India. They have been built specially to cater for the Indian Mail and Passenger Service, and have already shown their suitability for the work, both in regard to speed and in their comfort to passengers. A new feature in these ships is the provision of small refrigerating chambers for the conveyance of fish, fruit, etc., for which there is a demand, and it is hoped this will become an important business. The "Cathay," "Comorin" and "Chitral," built expressly for the Australian Line, have also been delivered during the year. They have made successful voyages to Australia, and the experience of their working already shows that they are well suited for the service for which they were specially constructed.

The "Rajputana," a sister ship to the "Ranpura," etc., was launched on August 6, and is now fitting out at Greenock. She is expected to be delivered at the end of the year in time to take her place on the London-Bombay Line in January. The "Caledonia," "Sardinia," "Sicila" and "Soudan" have been sold for breaking up purposes, the two latter since the accounts were closed. These ships, especially the "Caledonia," which in her day was the fastest ship of the Fleet, gave good service during the years they were running. The prices realised were considerably in excess of the book values, and the difference goes to the depreciation of the rest of the fleet.

The P. and O. Company's ships have been navigated without any serious accident during the year. The Insurance Fund shows an increase of £60,197 19s. 10d. at September 30 last. Nothing has been brought from the fund into Profit and Loss.

Since 1850 the Company has had a wharf at Singapore in what is known as Keppel Harbour, which was used by the Company's steamers. The Harbour Board in Singapore being anxious to acquire the wharf to extend the facilities of the Port made an offer for it which has been accepted. The Board relinquished this property with regret, but felt they could not stand in the way of improvement of the port of Singapore which will soon be one of the most up-to-date ports in the world.

The Mail Service has now resumed its full pre-War programme.

The Directors can repeat what they said this time last year as to trade conditions in all the Company's spheres of operation; things have been very difficult during the past twelve months, and it is well-known that until the exports of the country increase this state of affairs must continue. The Company and other British Shipowners trading to Australasia and the Cape have lately been involved in a serious shipping strike of an unofficial character, with lawlessness and breaches of agreements. This strike has involved the Company in very serious loss.

In China the outstanding feature is the continual quarrels between the various Chinese politicians, together with the influence of Russia in South China and the anti-Foreign movement due to the strike which started in Shanghai in a local Japanese Cotton Mill. Until things settle down the Directors can look for no improvement in our trade with China. The homeward trade from India has been active but rates have been unremunerative.

As regards the passenger traffic this continues satisfactory, and with the new and large steamers put on the various lines, together with the considerable activity in short sea traffic to the Mediterranean and Egypt, there has been an increase in passenger traffic in the past year. No efforts are being spared to make passengers comfortable and the steamers attractive.

Two Directors, Sir Walter Roper Lawrence, Bart., and the Hon. Alexander Shaw, go out of office by rotation and being eligible, offer themselves for re-election at the Annual Meeting.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria	Piastre to £	97⅛	97½
Athens	Drachmæ to £	25 22½	368—371
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	273½
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.38½
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.15½
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 3/16—7/32
Brussels	Francs to £	25.29½	107
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	1,033—1.038
Budapest	Kronen to £	24 02	345-348,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 3/16—7/32
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	910
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.85¼
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	126½
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	163½
Rome	Lire to £	25 22½	120½
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	665
Teheran	Krans to £	50	43¾
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	34.41
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	41—44

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CAPITAL (fully paid) - £650,000 | RESERVE - - - £420,000

Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

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Branches in Iraq (Mesopotamia) :—Bagdad, Basra.
Branch in India :—Bombay.
The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia ; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

London Office : 33-36, KING WILLIAM ST., E.C.4 ; Chief Office in Persia, TEHERAN

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Established 1839.

Capital Authorised - - - £600,000
Capital Paid up - - - £485,580
Reserve Fund - - - - £190,000
Total Assets- - - - £6,536,314

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N. M. MURRAY, Esq.
Manager in London :—
Sir S. A. H. SITWELL.

Authorised Capital **Rs. 11.25.00.000**
Paid-up Capital - **Rs. 5.62.50.000**
Reserve - - - **Rs. 4.77.50.000**

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Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

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Subscribed Capita ... £4,000,000 | **Reserve Fund** ... £2,800,000

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RESERVE FUNDS - Drs. 38,150,045.40

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COLIN FREDERICK CAMPBELL, ESQ.
THOMAS CUTHBERTSON, ESQ.
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Managers—J. S. BRUCE and G. MILLER

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BATAVIA	HANKOW	MEDAN	TAPING (F.M.S.)
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CALCUTTA	ILOILO	PEKING	TIENTSIN
CANTON	IPOH	PENANG	TOKYO
CAWNPORE	KARACHI	PUKET	TSINGTAU
CEBU	KLANG	RANGOON	YOKOHAMA
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		SEREHBAN	

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Reserve Liability of Shareholders - - - - - £1,000,000
Paid up Capital - - - £1,000,000
Reserve Fund - - £360,000

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(Under Contract with His Majesty's Government).

Steamer.	Tons.	London.	M'rse'ls.	Destination.
¶*MALWA	11,000	——	Dec. 11	Straits, China, Japan
RANCHI	16,000	Dec. 11	Dec. 18	Bombay and Karachi
†NANKIN	7,000	Dec. 12	——	Colombo and Calcutta
¶‖KARMALA	9,000	Dec. 18	——	Straits, China, Japan
*MALOJA	21,000	Dec. 18	Dec. 25	Colombo and Australia
KAISAR-I-HIND	11,430	Dec. 24	Jan. 1	Bombay and Karachi
‡§CATHAY	15,000	Jan. 1	——	Colombo and Australia
¶*MANTUA	11,000	Jan. 1	Jan. 8	Straits, China, Japan

* Taking passengers for Bombay via Aden. † Calling Malta. § Taking passengers for Port Sudan. ‡ Taking Passengers for Algiers. ¶ Calling Southampton.

BRITISH INDIA SAILINGS.
(Under Contract with the Govts. of India and Queensland.)

Steamer	Tons.	M'boro.	London.	Destination.
¶*HATIMURA	6,666	——	Dec. 9	Madras and Calcutta
¶*GHARINDA	5,306	Dec. 12	Dec 19	Bombay and Karachi
†MASHOBRA	8,324	Dec. 12	Dec. 19	Madras and Calcutta
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A Weekly Review of the Politics and Commerce of the Balkan Peninsula, Turkey, Egypt, and the Sudan, Syria, Palestine, Arabia, Iraq, Persia and India.

No. 762.—Vol. XXVIII.
Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.

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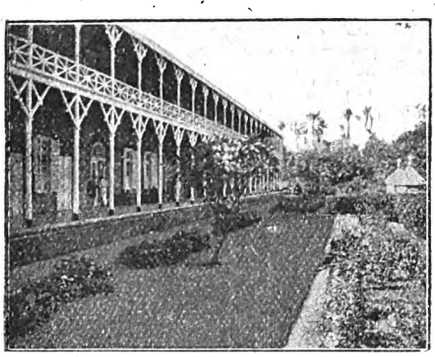

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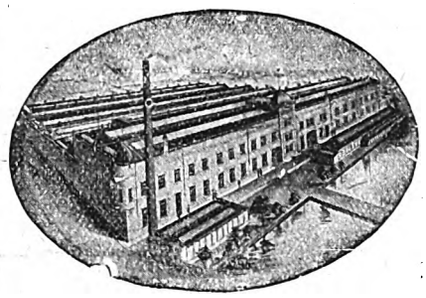
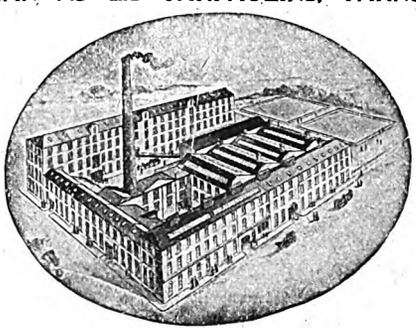
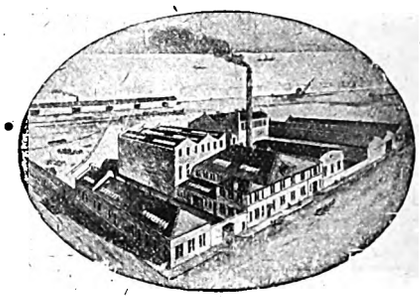

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No. 762. VOL. XXVIII. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1925.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	Page
NOTES OF THE WEEK	733
SPECIAL LETTERS—	
Egypt	736
Sudan	73
Cyprus	737
Bulgaria	738
Turkey	739
LEADING ARTICLE—	
Turkey and the League ...	735
THE WEEK AT HOME	743
CORRESPONDENCE	740
PERSONAL AND GENERAL ...	741
BOOK REVIEWS	742
INDIAN AFFAIRS—	
The Civil Services Bill	745
Current Topics	746
Special Letter: Calcutta ...	747
Conflict or Synthesis	748
Indian Mail	749
Commercial Notes	749
Indian Exchange	750
COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
Notes and News	753
Shipping Intelligence	754
The Sudan in 1924	753
Company Meetings—	
1. Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation ...	751
2. Steaua Romana (British) ...	753
Motors & Motoring. By G. B. B.	755
Cotton and Cotton Goods ...	760

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

At Geneva.

The chief actors at Geneva, where the Council of the League of Nations is wrestling with the Mosul question, are inclined to keep their own counsel, with the result that those whose business it is to discover what is happening or going to happen draw different conclusions. All that is clear for the moment is that the Turkish delegates have continued their traditional tactics, and, in the face of their repeated declarations that they will not accept an arbitral award, the Council left the matter last week in the hands of the sub-committee of three members representing Sweden, Brazil and Uruguay, in the hope that it would be able to bring the Turks to a more reasonable frame of mind. Unless the latter experience an eleventh-hour conversion, the sub-committee will have had to report this week its lack of success, and while these lines are being printed the Council will record its decision in whatever form it can achieve unanimity. Unless that decision is a clear-cut delimitation of the Mosul frontier, the dispute will not have been advanced from the position which it occupied at Lausanne. From that circumstance Turkey's present rulers are entitled to derive what satisfaction they like. They may be inclined, however, to modify their views when they find that Great Britain, having hitherto treated with them as equals in intellect and international comity, but to no purpose, leaves them alone and allows them to take the next move.

Britain and Iraq.

The Iraq controversy is to form the subject of a debate in the House of Commons this week on the motion of the Liberal Party; but it will be unfortunate, as far as the completeness of the discussion is concerned, if the debate takes place in the absence of the Colonial Secretary, who has had charge of the British case before the Council of the League of Nations. Mr. Amery's directness of speech would seem to be necessary, if the debate is to be removed from the realm of fancy or "might-have-been" and brought down to the stern logic of actual realities. In dealing with occasional questions in the House, Mr. Baldwin has been too kind to those who identify themselves with a would-be policy of pledge-breaking. He did remind the House that, when in May, 1923, it was informed that the Iraq Treaty in its present form would terminate at a certain date, since fixed as 1928, it was also told that the terms of the Treaty stipulated that negotiations for a new treaty to regulate the relations between the two countries would be opened before that date. It has been entirely in keeping with the dishonesty of the tactics employed by the advocates of a policy of "scuttle" from Iraq that this essential provision of the Iraq Treaty of 1923 has been deliberately suppressed, and the more ignorant section of the public has been told, without any foundation in fact, that the termination of the Treaty in 1928 was synonymous with a "pledge" to evacuate the country. One or two Members of Parliament, whose conscience has stricken them, have since made out that Mr. Baldwin's original statement in May, 1923, which referred in the clearest possible terms to the negotiations before 1928 for a further treaty, was "interpreted" by a large number of Members as a pledge to evacuate. The country, however, is not bound by the "interpretations" that certain Members may choose to place on perfectly plain statements. Thus when Mr. Amery was asked by the Council of the League of Nations whether Great Britain would accept an extension of the Iraq Mandate for twenty-five years, he replied that an extension would be accepted, but the British Government did not consider that it would be necessary to bind itself for a period of twenty-five years. Yet this statement is also deliberately misquoted as committing Great Britain for twenty-five years. Thus the Member for Leith asked the Prime Minister last week whether he was aware that the Colonial

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Secretary had said that we were prepared to take a Mandate for twenty-five years. Mr. Baldwin was content to reply that if Captain Benn were to read very carefully what the Colonial Secretary had said, he would find it would be difficult to extract that meaning literally. A very correct form of reply, no doubt, from the point of view of the dignity of the House; but, having regard to the deliberate falsification and misrepresentation with which the campaign against the Government's policy in Iraq has been conducted, we fear that more vigorous tactics will be required in this week's debate, if the more unscrupulous protagonists of the "scuttle" policy are to be convinced of the error of their ways.

Riza Shah Pahlevi.

Persia and her new ruler are to be congratulated upon being resolved to call a Shah a Shah. In spite of an epidemic of despotic republics, the Persians have decided that the proper term for one-man rule is a Monarchy. Accordingly the Constituent Assembly in Teheran has introduced the necessary amendments to the Persian Constitution, and Riza Khan Pahlevi has been formally proclaimed Shah and the founder of a new dynasty. This development we hold to be far more in keeping with the genius and traditions of an Oriental people than an artificial attempt to sow republican ideas among them. Already, before ascending the throne, Riza Khan has done more for the country than three generations of his predecessors, and in spite of his humble origin he has satisfied the Persians of the day that in him they have found, if not the ideal ruler, at least one who is head and shoulders above his contemporaries. By investing the succession in the eldest son of the Sovereign the Persians are taking the best possible precaution against the civil strife that sooner or later will rend the new republics of the East as soon as the strong man who has forced his way to the leadership of the country has been removed.

The Roumanian Political Riddle.

The new electoral law submitted by the Government to the Roumanian Parliament has now reached the administrative committee of the Senate, and as soon as the measure has been passed by both Houses the term of office of the present Parliament comes to an end. The current session has passed more quietly than was expected before the opening day. So much uncertainty envelops the future that political parties appear to have been too engrossed in manœuvring for position in regard to the elections to carry out their threatened attacks on the Government. M. Bratianu is well known to be tired of office, and the Roumanian system provides that he should recommend to the King his successor, whose Government will then proceed to hold the elections. It is generally understood that M. Bratianu's choice has already fallen on General Averescu, even if there is no formal agreement on this point between the two politicians. In view of the state of parties in Parliament and as a result of the closing up of the ranks of the official Opposition, the proposed nomination of General Averescu is stoutly challenged by the National Party of M. Yorga and M. Maniu. The Roumanian electorate is notoriously partial to changes of Government, and the Nationalists claim that there have been ample indications that popular feeling has veered round towards them. If, therefore, they were given the opportunity of "holding" the elections, they would be sure of a working majority in the next Parliament. On the other hand, they argue, the People's Party under General Averescu has no chance of being able to carry on the Administration on its own merits. It is more than likely, therefore, it is urged, that immediately after the elections General Averescu will have to resign and that he will retire in favour of the National Liberals, who would thus come into power again, supported by the People's Party, in direct opposition to the will of the nation. As far as Roumania's interests abroad are concerned, she needs to realise that the very definite policy of the brothers Bratianu has carried her steadily along the path to financial equilibrium, and she should make up her mind not to allow political strife at home to interrupt the liquidation of her foreign indebtedness and the stabilisation of her exchange.

The Fall of Medina.

The surrender of Medina to the Wahhabis is an important landmark in Sultan Ibn Saoud's conquest of the Hejaz, and lends additional force to his invitation to various Mohammedan States and communities to send representatives to Mecca to discuss the future administration of the Holy Places. King Ali has now left to him only Jeddah, Yanbu and Wejh on the coast. His position at the former may, from a strictly military point of view, have shown some improvement with the relaxation of the enemy's pressure; but it is plain that the Sultan of Nejd has satisfied himself that he is master of the situation and that he is content to wait until his victory over the Hejaz can be completed without further bloodshed, or with as little as possible. Accordingly, the main interest in the affairs of the Arabian Peninsula shifts from the condition of stalemate as between the forces of King Ali and Sultan Ibn Saoud to the scheme propounded by the latter for the future government of the Hejaz. He has, it is true, invited representatives of the Moslem world to discuss the matter, but it is evident that he expects his own scheme to be carried out. By this plan, after the expulsion of the Hashimite family, the Hejaz is to have internal autonomy under a Governor chosen by the people, who will be under the control of a representative Moslem Commission. The experiment, if carried out, will be watched with the closest interest. The Hejazis will, no doubt, accept eagerly any proposal that promises them better government than they have hitherto enjoyed; but the people who stand to benefit most are the pilgrims who were the chief sufferers under the Hussein régime.

Heavy snowfalls in Yugoslavia and in the Trieste region of Italy have been causing delays of from four to five hours to the Orient express.

The *Vreme*, says a Belgrade message, understands that the next meeting of the Little Entente will be held at Ragusa at the end of January.

The Times Jerusalem correspondent reports that Captain T. F. Burke, D.S.O., British Gendarmerie, has been killed in a motor accident on the Jerusalem-Nablus road.

The Emir Zeid, who had been acting as Regent of Iraq until the return from London of his brother, King Faisal, arrived in Cairo by air last Saturday from Baghdad. The Emir was the guest of Lord Lloyd at the Residency and left for England the following day.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1925.

TURKEY AND THE LEAGUE.

A recently published story-book for girls has chosen for its heroine a clever, spirited girl who by virtue of a scholarship goes from a National School to one very much higher in the social scale. There she proves a serious problem to her schoolfellows, for she is spirited, undisciplined and plebeian; clever enough at work, but a female Ishmael out of school hours, insubordinate to prefects, using bad language and crowding into the day a wonderful variety of things that "are not done" in a decent school. No tale could offer a more faithful allegory for Turkey's appearance as a "new boy" at Geneva. The past week has seen the Council wrestling with the problem of trying to make the undisciplined un-Westernized representatives of Angora see things from the Western point of view. So far its efforts have been in vain. Secure in the knowledge that corporal punishment is not practised at the school, the Turkish representative imitates the bad girl who swears and puts out her tongue at prefects, by flouting the judgment of the Hague Tribunal, by presuming to dictate to the League itself, and by many other acts which are among the things not done in polite international society. (In these very trying circumstances the Council is to be congratulated on having followed the dignified course of displaying the utmost patience and forbearance.) Although it may not have convinced the Turkish delegates of their own shortcomings in a gathering composed of representatives of more advanced countries, it will have satisfied the rest of the world that, in so far as she chooses to be represented by the men sent by the Angora Government, Turkey remains on a level by herself below the plane occupied by all other civilised nations. She is, however, one of the nations, and her case is by no means hopeless. The girl in the story-book found salvation through a new junior, who gave her self-respect by crediting her with its possession already and by taking it for granted that she would behave as a rational girl should behave. In time she did. As soon as Turkey can free herself from certain demoralising influences, she too will realize that it is more advantageous to conform to the standards of the rest of the world than to imagine that the bazaar methods of an Asiatic tribe can set the standard of diplomacy for civilized nations.

Owing to the blocking tactics adopted by the Turkish representatives the Council of the League of Nations was unable last week to record any final decision on the subject of the Mosul frontier. It did resolve to adopt the opinion of The Hague Court that its verdict must be an arbitral award; but in face of the refusal of the Turks to accept such an award it deferred its pronouncement on the subject in the hope of being able to avoid the complications that it feared might follow from an attempt on the part of the Turkish Government to repudiate the Council's award. Some of the members, it is understood, are so timorous of jeopardising the League's position that they are now reluctant to pronounce an arbitral award, and the necessary unanimity may for this reason be not forthcoming at the last moment. In this case the Council might find itself obliged to be content with a unanimous recommendation, which would save the face of the Turkish delegates by leaving it to the Angora Government to decide whether it will act upon the recommendation or not. The result in the long run would be the same. It is inconceivable that the Mosul vilayet should be handed back to the Turks, and no sane person, after the publication of General Laidoner's report, will expect a body of responsible men to recommend that the Turks should be allowed to advance one yard beyond the line that they now hold. A recommendation, however, in contradistinction to an award, would leave the question of the frontier still open to a bargain, from which the Turkish Government hopes to benefit. They are unlikely to attempt to advance in force beyond the Brussels Line, but they would hope to receive a financial *quid pro quo* for their formal recognition of this boundary. From the outset this has been the obvious solution, and it is probable that, if the Turks had been as Western in their methods and outlook as they are anxious to be regarded from their adoption of Western headgear, a settlement on these lines could have been reached more than a year ago. They have preferred to bluster and to threaten, to prevaricate and to procrastinate; they refused to face facts at Lausanne, and hoped to achieve the impossible in separate negotiations with Great Britain; when they found themselves defeated in these as well, they had recourse to the League of Nations, only to repudiate its authority as soon as they realized that its verdict too must be against them. In the end they will flatter themselves that they have gained the goal that they really had in view all the time, ignoring the fact that more than a year has been lost by their foolish tactics—a year that with a settled Turkish-Iraqi frontier would have been as valuable to them as to Iraq.

There is nothing new in the Turkish tactics to cause surprise; but it is disappointing to those who want to see the new Turkey forging ahead to find Angora unable to realize the injury done to Turkey's interests by the tactics adopted. In England public opinion cannot be divided into anti-Turk and pro-Turk, as there is a general attitude of good will towards Turkey, which, strangely enough, no unfriendliness on the part of the Turks has hitherto succeeded in estranging. The Mosul dispute has not actually raised the question of personal feelings towards the Turks; any difference of opinion that has been displayed has turned solely on the question whether Great Britain should or should not remain true to her treaty pledges to Iraq—the point studiously ignored in anti-Government quarters, where the attempt has been made to injure the Cabinet by raising the bogeys of finance and war. In the carrying out of this campaign the anti-Government forces threw themselves with much zeal on the Turkish side of the dispute, and out-Turked the Turks in seeking to prove the injustice of the British case. Since the publication of General Laidoner's report on the fate of the Assyrians north of the Brussels Line there has been a complete abandonment of any championing of the Turks. Indeed, one newspaper that has consistently sought to undermine the British case and to bolster up Turkish intransigences now pathetically complains that people are still talking about the frontier and where it should be instead of concentrating on the British evacuation of Iraq. In other words, it is recognised that after General Laidoner's report the anti-British champions of Turkey in this country must refrain from appearing to support the Turks. A sounder policy on the part of the Turkish Government would have put the Mosul controversy out of the way eighteen months ago, and there have been no opportunity for this reversion to atrocities, which has been responsible for the reluctance of European Powers to treat Turkey as civilised, must less as an equal. Those who believe that the Turks are capable of better things are constrained to denounce the folly of their rulers, who have thus deliberately retarded the day when Turkey will take her place as an equal in the comity of nations.

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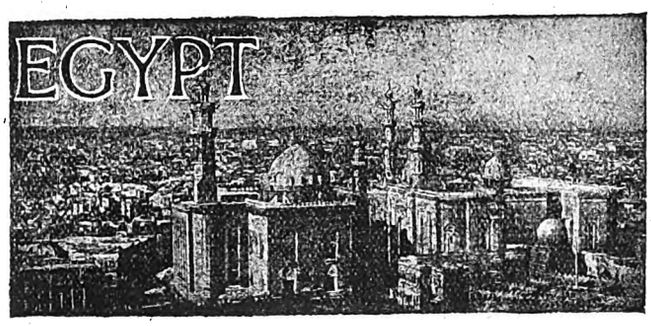
The Near and Middle East*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, December 6.

Exchange of Portfolios.

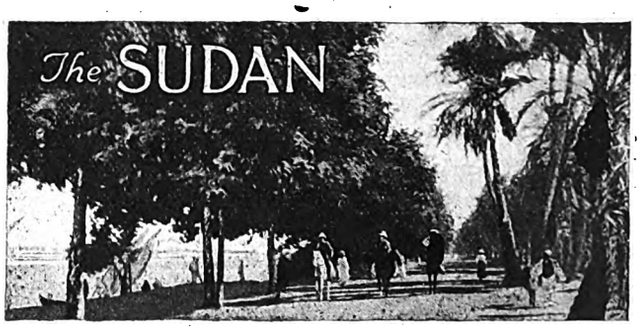
The redistribution of Ministerial portfolios, announced on Tuesday last, by which the Prime Minister becomes also Minister of the Interior, displacing Hilmy Issa Pasha, who returns to his former Ministry, of Communications, *vice* Tewfik Rifaat Pasha, transferred to Wakfs, would have occasioned no surprise had it come a little earlier. For Ziwar Pasha, while still in Europe, had stated that he intended to make these changes at the earliest possible moment. But after recent developments in the political situation, notably the Opposition's successful defiance of the Government's prohibition of the meeting of members of the late Parliament, the Ministry's position had seemed so much weakened as to need something more than a mere exchange of portfolios. The re-inclusion of one or more of the Ministers who left the Cabinet last September, or the addition of other influential neutral ex-Ministers, seemed eminently desirable, and that this was the opinion of Ziwar Pasha was indicated by his public declarations. But nobody has shown the least anxiety to join a Ministry whose chances of long life are so problematical, and so the Government is going to do without the support which would have been so valuable in facing the several difficult problems now presenting themselves for solution.

Problem of Jarabub.

One of these problems is Jarabub, for, although the Italian delegates to the recent Italo-Egyptian conference on the question have recommended the Egyptian Government to accept the Italian proposals regarding the frontier in the neighbourhood of Jarabub, provided that Egyptian reservations in connexion with the tomb of the Senussi founder are agreed to, and provided also that Egypt receives advantages in the way of boundary readjustment in the vicinity of Sollum, the Ministry is finding difficulty in making up its mind to this course. This Jarabub question is indeed a thorny one for the Cabinet, since agreeing to what is called in Egypt the "cession" of Jarabub will afford the Opposition an opportunity for rousing popular feeling against Ziwar Pasha and his colleagues while, on the other hand, refusal to agree might mark the end of Italian patience and lead to the seizure by force of what negotiations had proved ineffective to obtain. In that event Egypt would presumably not obtain the territorial compensations now being offered in return for Jarabub. Whichever way it decides, the Government's position is not enviable, and for that reason there is no display of haste in coming to a decision. The Ministers were meeting yesterday from early in the afternoon until late in the evening, but, according to this morning's Arabic newspapers, they were not then able to reach finality and unanimity of views.

M. de Jouvenal in Egypt.

M. de Jouvenal's visit to Egypt, during which he seems to have made the best impressions upon all who met him, concluded with an unfortunate little "incident" that made it necessary for him to administer a somewhat sharp lesson to one of the several politically active groups of Syrians domiciled in Egypt. The particular group in question, the Syro-Palestinian League, had been given the opportunity, through a delegation, of expressing its ideas to the new French High Commissioner, who had asked that the opinions he had heard might be embodied in the form of a memorandum. The League thereupon produced an extraordinary document, the tone of which could scarcely have been more arrogant had the League—which is not even the most important of a considerable number of this Syrian agitation centres in Cairo—represented a victorious Power that had just defeated France in war and was now dictating terms of peace. M. de Jouvenal lost no time in making clear to the misguided Leaguers that they had lost their heads and that the propagation of ideas of the kind contained in the document submitted to him was the surest way of preventing the realisation of what he and they were both aiming at, namely, the restoration of peace.



Khartoum, November 24.

Armistice Day.

There must always be, in a country like the Sudan, an additional feeling of solemnity about the celebrations of the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. At home, one is liable to think only of the England that emerged into safety on that morning after long years of trial, and one loses sight of the countless numbers belonging to other races who also found security in the events of that day. But for the Armistice of November 11, no hospital ship "Lady Baker" would have been launched to bring magic cures into lands where western medicine and surgery had never before penetrated: there would have been none of the many new dispensaries and hospitals that are springing into being all over the Sudan; there would not have been a thousand things that

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have brought understanding to replace mistrust and prosperity to replace insecurity.

As was only appropriate, the collection at the service of Commemoration at All Saints' Cathedral went to the greatest of the War's sufferers—the blind of St. Dunstan's. In the afternoon, sports and a very successful fête were held in the grounds of Gordon College, followed by a Victory Ball in the evening, from both of which events Earl Haig's Fund will derive substantial benefit.

Return of the Governor-General.

H.E. the Governor-General and Lady Archer arrived in Khartoum on November 12, and were met at the station by the Acting Governor-General, the Colonel Commandant of British troops, and the Acting Kaid el 'Amm. After inspecting the guards of honour, Sir Geoffrey proceeded to the Palace, where he was welcomed by members of the Council, and afterwards received in the grounds of the Palace the Heads of Government Departments, the principal officers of the Army, and the leading notables.

Foreign Press.

A point of rather curious interest at the moment is the amount of attention that the Sudan is receiving in the German Press. Undoubtedly the confidence in the country that is felt by those responsible for its administration and development is shared by many of Britain's trade rivals on the Continent, and study of the Continental Press, of which I have only referred to one example, could teach many people in England lessons that they would do well to take to heart.

The Khartoum Season.

The coming season promises exceedingly well. The Grand Hotel re-opens on December 1 this year, under the management of the Sudan Government Railways and Steamers Department, and the bookings are good. The opening meeting of the racing season was held on the 20th, and proved highly successful. And one sees many new faces in the streets after the arrival of each mail train.

Death of the Queen Mother.

The universal sorrow induced by the news of the death of H.M. Queen Alexandra was, for many in Khartoum, rendered even more poignant by the fact that she was Colonel-in-Chief of the Green Howards, whose first Battalion is at present stationed here. The memorial service held this morning was of the most impressive character and was attended by H.E. the Governor-General and practically the whole of the British community. The choir stalls were occupied by the Battalion Band, and I doubt whether any in that large congregation will forget the Regimental Funeral March which preceded the British and Danish National Anthems.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, November 24.

Administrative Economies Proposed.

The Legislative Council should be adjourned on November 27. In discussing the estimates, elected members recommended various economies, not all of a wise nature. Amongst them it was proposed that the office of the second assistant to the Colonal Secretary should be abolished, that the number of District Commissioners should be reduced from six to three, and that their salaries should be reduced. The island is divided into six administrative districts, with a British Commissioner in charge of each. The proposed reduction has been contemplated, or considered, on several occasions, but has not been deemed desirable, even by the natives themselves. An increase of the grant for education was asked for, and also one for the Public Works Department for roads; also an increase of medical officers for rural districts, and a reduction of postal charges for papers.

Afforestation.

As regards the forests, it was proposed by one member that all felling of trees should cease. It is true that a large, perhaps extensive, cutting of timber took place during the late War, for the needs of our troops in Palestine and Egypt. But this was an exceptional and pressing call; and it is satisfactory to know that in many, if not most, mountain areas there is an excellent growth of young trees, and much reafforestation by natural process. The proposal shows how times are changed. Only a few years ago there was nothing but grumbling over the severity of the Forest Laws, and the exclusion of flocks from the State forests. An amalgamation of the Departments of Agriculture and the Forests was recommended, but this would be distinctly injudicious. It has been tried in some past years, and was far from being a success. There is plenty of work for both Departments in Cyprus, and any changes, if adopted, should be in other directions. An annual contribution, for ten years, is made to the School of Forestry in London, which will continue to take two students from Cyprus.

Alternative to the Fez.

The substitution of a cap for the fez for the Military Police was again recommended, and, in view of the changes adopted by Turkey, under Mustapha Kemal, more weight might now be given to this proposal. An increase of the allowance to Members of Council was suggested, and regarded favourably in respect of travelling expenses and hotel charges.

Cyprus and Wembley.

The Governor referred *inter alia* to the benefits already derived by Cyprus, and probably to come, from the Wembley Exhibition. As an example, it might be mentioned that the excellent brandy made by Messrs. Hajjipavlou Bros., of Limassol, which now has a wide reputation, is to be used for the medical needs of the British Army, and will probably be shortly introduced also into other Services, and find on its merits increasing sales in Great Britain. The silks, lace, and other products of Cyprus industry met with much favour, and many articles were admired and purchased by Her Majesty the Queen and other members of the Royal Family.

Miscellaneous.

It is probable that the petitions for annulment of the elections of certain members of Council will be dropped, as a deposit of £400, in each case, is required as guarantee in the event of failure.

The Governor in a recent interview with the Greek Archbishop is understood to have discussed various matters of local importance.

A student of archæology is now in England, as an exhibitioner of the Cyprus Museum at Nicosia, in order to qualify as Curator, and for other work in Cyprus. It

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would appear that in order to take a degree three years more of study will be required. The Museum cannot bear the cost unaided, and the question of a Government grant will probably come up for consideration.

Sofia, December 8.

The Rumbold Commission Report.

The report of Sir Horace Rumbold's League of Nations Inquiry Commission into the Græco-Bulgarian frontier dispute was received here at the end of last week, and has caused great satisfaction throughout Bulgaria. First, because the report recognises that Greece overstepped her rights in invading Bulgaria, secondly, because Bulgaria's action in appealing to the League is shown to have been right, and thirdly, because Greece is recommended to pay a money indemnity of thirty million levas. Regarding the suggestions made by the Commission for the avoidance of future trouble of this kind, these will be discussed at Geneva this week. The authorities here favour the idea that neutral officers should be attached to the respective frontier commanders. As to the suggestion, however, that a distance of one kilometre shall separate the Greek and Bulgarian frontier posts, it is pointed out such is neither practical or desirable. Partly because *komitajis* and other types of brigands will be able to operate with more impunity than before, and partly because the loss of land involved by creating a "zone" of one kilometre will be considerable.

The League and the Balkans.

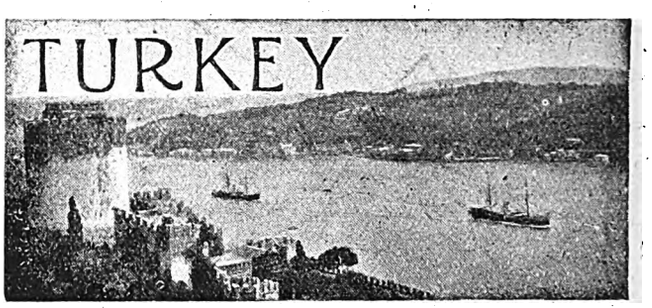
There is no doubt that the prompt manner in which the Council of the League acted at the beginning of this dispute, and the Rumbold Commission afterwards, has greatly impressed Balkan opinion. It may in fact be said that for the first time in its history the League has become a living reality for the Near Eastern nations. It has shown that it possesses authority and it is probable that in future no Balkan State will dare to have recourse to arbitrary methods without first of all appealing to Geneva.

The Bulgarian Attitude.

As regards the purely Bulgarian attitude, there is no doubt that the Commission's report is a great encouragement for those people who advocated an appeal to Geneva, and a corresponding setback for the "Firebrands" who wanted to go to war and disregard the consequences. The only criticism that is levelled against the report is that the money indemnity demanded for damage caused by Greek troops should not have been admitted in full. Bulgaria asked for thirty-one and three-quarter million levas, and the Commission recommends that only twenty should be paid. But the final word rests with the League's Council, and at Geneva to-day this body will give its decision.

The Mosul Dispute.

A good deal of interest has been evinced in Bulgaria over the Anglo-Turkish dispute regarding Mosul. Since Bulgaria is a neighbour of Turkey she is bound to interest herself in this matter, although there are no grounds for believing that any conversations have taken place between Bulgarian and Turkish statesmen. If, however, the dispute is not amicably arranged, then Bulgaria's situation might become rather invidious as the Treaty of Amity she concluded with Turkey at Angora two months ago has never been published. Here again there are no reasons to believe that anything secret exists, but the fact remains that the Treaty has not yet been made public, and this gives rise to suspicion which may, or may not, be well founded.



Constantinople, December 1.

Iraq and Turkey.

In view of the approaching renewal of the League of Nation's activities, Mosul is again taking a conspicuous place in the columns of the local newspapers. The reception here of what The Hague considers to be the League's competence was the signal for the usual outburst of criticism on the Court of The Hague and the League of Nations as institutions of international justice, and the opinions—as expressed at the time the League referred the question to The Hague—upon the influence exercised by England on these institutions were repeated and reproduced. The Court of The Hague is described as being another of England's victims, and complete indifference to what the former says is assumed. The war trumpet is not, however, being sounded as loudly as it was during the last Geneva discussions, and to judge by the readiness with which any publication in the British Press which suggests or envisages a mutual compromise by the two interested parties is reproduced without the customary abusive comment, it would appear that such a settlement is considered as acceptable, if not satisfactory.

Reaction in the North-East.

Trouble has again broken out in the North-Eastern Provinces, and again the fanatical and recalcitrant elements appear to be in for a bad time. It is difficult to judge the real seriousness of the situation, as any sensational rumour is immediately denied by the official agency, which invariably reports that calm and perfect peace reign throughout. Nearly two hundred arrests have, however, been made, and executions are becoming a daily occurrence. The reactionary movements are stated to be caused by an aversion on the part of a portion of the populations of these districts from the recently adopted hat, and these factions have selected the means of sticking up posters on the walls of public buildings to manifest in impolite terms their desire to go on as before

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and submit to no new and—to them—unnecessary reforms. In Erzeroum, Sivas, and Marash the Courts Martial have commenced to wield the small tooth comb, and the *Hamidie* has gone up to Rizeh so as to be on the spot in case of necessity.

This movement is, as all movements derogatory to Turkish interests, no exception to the rule, inasmuch as its instigation, according to some papers, is to be attributed to the machinations of England, proof for such attribution being held to be the close proximity of the Mosul discussions. To-day, however, telegrams from Angora point to the discovery of yet another instigator and describe an attack in the Grand National Assembly yesterday on Noureddine Pasha, an anti-hatwearer, which was made by Refik Bey, the proposer of the law envisaging the closing of the *tekkes*. Noureddine Pasha's objection to the passing of a law making the adoption of the new head-dress obligatory which he manifested in the Assembly some days ago has been seized upon and held by Refik Bey as being sufficient to give heart to a trouble-loving few to flaunt the Government's orders and rebel against the efforts at reform. This accusation, whilst in some measure clearing England from the childish and ridiculous charge, has the appearance of possessing serious consequences for Noureddine Pasha, as his accuser suggested that his place was beside that of a leader hanged three days ago at Sivas. Whether the attack on Noureddine Pasha because of his unfortunate championing of the fez will have any other result than that of getting him expelled from the Assembly remains to be seen, but it is certain that inquiries will be made in order to ascertain, now that the possibility has been suggested, whether any connexion exists between the outbreak of trouble in Erzeroum and the simultaneous objection to the obligatory wearing of hats.

The Lira.

A question which is occupying the Government's serious attention at the present moment is that of the insecure position of the Turkish Lira. Since the announcement of the Turkish Government's intention to replace the money which is at present in circulation and which was issued under the Imperial régime by a new emission of Republican notes the Turkish Lira has suffered a very considerable drop. In spite of the Government's repeated assurances and explanations that only the exact number and value of notes actually in circulation will be substituted a fairly large portion of financiers are either fighting shy of the possibility of being left in the lurch or are taking advantage of the present easily adaptable situation for frenzied speculation. During the last week something of a record was established when the pound sterling rose to 920 piastres and in the same day dropped back to 883, subsequently closing at about 894. This fluctuation was too much for some banks, which simply could not keep up with the rapid changes and suspended operations of their exchange departments. The Authorities have now made speculation a very difficult and risky (from the point of view of the arm of the law) undertaking, as measures have been taken to watch for all offenders who will, it is threatened, be sent for trial before the Angora Tribunal of Independence. Rumour has it that as a last resort the Government intends to purchase abroad a large amount of sterling (effective) and to flood the Constantinople money market in an attempt to stabilize Turkish currency, but the truth of such a rumour would appear as much open to doubt as the success of such an effort.

The annual celebration of the liberation of Jerusalem from the Turks in 1917 was held on December 10 in St. George's Cathedral, Jerusalem, on the anniversary of the signature of the surrender of the city by the last Turkish Governor, who was then residing in the Anglican Bishop's house adjoining the Cathedral. The service was attended by the Greek and Armenian Patriarchs and the heads of other Oriental Christian bodies, and also by the leading Moslems and Jews. Portions of the service were in Hebrew, Arabic, Greek, and Armenian.

ART AND HISTORY.

Although there is very much more, in Mr. William Walcot's exhibition of water-colours and etchings at the Beaux Arts Gallery, Bruton Street, W., than the reconstruction of history, it is to that particular branch of his notable art that readers of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA will most eagerly turn. For there they will find, preferred before their very eyes, scenes with which, through Gibbon and Flaubert, they must have long been familiar. Nowhere, so far as one knows, have the "Decline and Fall" and "Salammbo" been so vividly, so masterfully illustrated, for Mr. Walcot has gone not only to the text of the historian and of the novelist, but to the spots of which they have immortally written. Rome in the Dark Ages and ancient Carthage are actually recreated by him.

It seems hardly necessary to touch upon the spacious ease with which Mr. Walcot moves in edificial monuments of Christian times: his interiors of churches are perennial proof of that. But he seems to be in an especial position to interpret pagan times and their gradual dissolving into the Christian era. Whether it be ancient Babylon or Egypt or Greece, he draws with delightful certainty and power. So forcible are his reconstructions, in fact, that he could almost bring to life the "Cambridge Ancient History." And his etchings of such things as the wedding of Justinian to Theodora or the interior of Carthage are infinitely more illuminating than all the learned annotations of Gibbon or of Flaubert.

For mere pedantry is abhorrent to Mr. Walcot. He is essentially a seer, not an historian; alike in his personages and in his shadows, he selects and sifts evidence judicially rather than scientifically. It may be objected, perhaps, that these things were not as he makes them: his answer is easy—men saw them so. But you must see these drawings and etchings (especially the etchings) for yourselves. The exhibition is open until December 23.

The Rev. P. T. B. Clayton, Padre of Toc H., arrived in Jerusalem on December 7 in order to found Toc H. groups in Palestine. He left last Thursday so as to arrive in London in time for the birthday of Toc H.

By 257 votes to 3 the Persian Constituent Assembly last Saturday elected the former Prime Minister, the Sardar Sipah Riza Khan, as Shah of Persia and made the Crown of Darius hereditary in his family, limiting the succession to sons born of a Persian mother. His Majesty was then proclamed as Shahinshah (King of Kings) Riza Shah Pahlevi.

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SARAYEVO.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—I should like an opportunity of referring to Miss Edith Durham's book; "The Sarayevo Crime."

At a time when the League of Nations is putting forward its most earnest endeavours, and at a time too, when the so-called "Locarno spirit" is in the air, it would seem to be reprehensible for anyone to be a party to the perpetuation of feud or discord which is opposed to that spirit of constructive value that a wounded Europe needs at this time, and particularly the perpetuation of feuds that carry with them such bitterness as Miss Durham's book exhibits. At the same time it seems to me that Miss Durham's book has served, and will serve a very valuable and important purpose as being a record of historical fact which it is important should be recorded, if a high moral code is to be recognised as of value in International affairs. Unless history is allowed to speak, it seems to me that our standards of right and wrong will have to be re-adjusted.

I entirely agree with your critic that Balkan ethical standards are not ours, and cannot be expected to be—the Balkan peoples apparently have no dread of the verdict of history: they do not mind if a record is given against them, so long as they achieve their purpose.

It is, however, just a question, as to how far this policy of "hushing up" should be carried out in the interests of right—a matter that I think the Press of this country should consider carefully, as also on the other hand, those of us who are devoted to individual causes, should consider how far, even with the best intentions, we may be doing harm by perpetuating feud and stories of injustice and wrong.

I have no doubt whatever that this practice of "hushing up" any disclosure of the state of affairs in the Balkans has been adopted in the interests of pacification and construction as opposed to what one might call the destructive criticism of a nation newly formed; but is outrage to remain unregarded? Is history to be perverted? Is murder and unlawful annexation and cruelty to be permitted? Outrage after outrage has laid desolate a simple mountain people, and even if success has crowned these methods, are we to ignore the facts of truth in favour of the otherwise noble sentiment of "Let bygones be bygones"? I would ask:—"What about the poor victims, and above all things what about the present suffering that is still going on?" One can understand regret: one can understand expressions of sorrow and attempts at pacification, and a desire for justice and right in place of old wrongs, but to stand aside and calmly to witness these atrocities and to put everything on one side from motives of pure policy is an argument that is beyond me, and that makes me sympathetic to Miss Durham's book and to the record of history that she has disclosed to the world. As to the truth of history:

"If this fail, the pillared firmament is rottenness,
And earth's base built on stubble."

I am, etc.,

ALEX DEVINE.

Northwood Park, Winchester, December 8.

[In a portion of his letter that has been omitted our correspondent cites in support of what he calls the policy of hushing-up the case of an article appearing in the first edition of a morning paper which contained a series of paragraphs describing the state of Montenegro to-day that were omitted from the second and later editions.—ED.]

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir,—May I be allowed to congratulate you on the sound sense which distinguishes your review, in your issue for December 3, of Miss M. E. Durham's book, "The Sarayevo Crime"? There is a deep-felt reaction in these days against the War, and in this mood Miss Durham's propaganda, if taken at its face value by the war-weary public, might do a great deal of harm. Miss Durham has a habit of quoting as gospel the evidence of all and sundry whose statements fit her *ex parte* case. But for the fact that one fails to see what good could come of it, one could set to work collecting and annotating evidence which would show that certain sections in Berlin, Vienna, and Budapest no less than in Belgrade, had reasons in 1914 for welcoming the sudden death of the Arch-Duke Franz-Ferdinand. There was considerable opposition in these capitals to the Arch-Duke's plan for reconstructing the fabric of the Austrian Empire upon a liberal basis which included the setting up a triune system, in which the Slav minorities would have participated, in place of the old dual system of the Austro-Hungarian administration. Also, after the unofficial warning of the Serbian Minister in Vienna, the Austro-Hungarian authorities took no steps adequately to protect Franz-Ferdinand.

The full story of those dark days covers much wider ground than is covered in Miss Durham's Serbophobe book. But one hesitates to follow Miss Durham's example and drag more skeletons from the cupboards of the tragic past at a time like the present when all the more constructive minds in Europe are bent upon removing past bitterness and seeking to build a happier future in Europe.

Miss Durham's book is, however, skilfully compiled, and, in the absence of any official reply from Belgrade, it might well produce a deplorable effect upon the mind of the lay reader who cannot be expected to know at first hand the intricate workings of Near Eastern politics. I think, therefore, that it is in the interests of truth to point out that Miss Durham's book is not so impartial as she would have her readers suppose. As Dr. Seton-Watson wrote in the *Morning Post* early this year, "the connexion with German propaganda is quite open." Dr. Watson referred to the fact that Miss Durham and her friends contribute to the German *revangiste* paper *Die Kriegsschuldfrage* (War Responsibility), which publication exists for the purpose of exculpating the Central Powers.

All the fresh light Miss Durham throws upon Sarayevo leaves the major question of war-responsibility in the outer darkness. She has made much of M. Liouba Yovanovitch's careless personal jottings. She has nothing to say of the admission of the late Field-Marshal Count Conrad Von Hoetzendorff, Austraian C.-in-C. during the War, and Austrian Chief of Staff before the War, who admitted that during the years immediately preceding the outbreak in 1914 he repeatedly urged the Vienna Cabinet and the German Great General Staff to attack Serbia in order that Austria-Hungary might combat the "ethnic claims" of her Slav minorities.—I am, etc.,

9, John Street, Adelphi. C. F. MELVILLE.
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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

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December 4, 1925 (Old Style).
Jumada II, 1, 1344 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Kislev 30, 5686, of the Jewish Caltndar.

Baroness Beaumont has returned to 2, Pont Street, from Smyrna.

Prince Toussoun arrived last week at the Carlton Hotel, London, from Egypt.

Sir Ronald Ross left London last Friday in the s.s. Yorkshire for Ceylon.

Princess Ileana of Roumania is leaving England for Bucharest next Saturday.

Ann Lady Neumann has left England for Egypt, and is expected to be away for some months.

Lady Currie left London last Thursday *en route* for Port Sudan. Sir James Currie will leave to-day to join her.

Lady Bell and Lady Finney left London last Thursday by the P. and O. special train to join the s.s. Malwa at Marseilles.

Sir Philip Wigham Richardson has returned home, via the Nile, from an extensive tour through Kenya, Tanganyika, and Uganda.

Sir Charles and Lady Stewart-Wilson leave at the end of this week for Fasano, on Lake Garda, and will be away for six weeks.

Sir Edgar Bonham-Carter and Mr. and Lady Margaret Loder left London last Thursday in the Llanstephan Castle for Port Sudan.

Major the Hon. Alastair and Lady Sibyl Fraser left London on December 7 *en route* for Rome and India. They will be abroad for about three months.

General the Right Hon. Sir John and Lady Maxwell said from London last Friday in the P. and O. Ranchi for Port Said. They hope to spend the winter months in Egypt.

The Hon. Mrs. Peters and Miss Constance Ward left last Saturday for Bombay, where they will join the s.s. Empress of Scotland for a cruise round the world. They expect to be back in April.

Professor Antonio Baldacci, of Bologna University, President of the Italian Committee for the Rights of Montenegro, is at present in this country, and is the guest of Mr. Alex. Devine, of Northwood Park, Winchester.

Major-General W. H. Hay, C.B., D.S.O., has succeeded Major-General E. H. Willis as artillery adviser to Field-Marshal Sir William Birdwood in India. He went to the Royal Military Academy from Rossall, and was a Horse Artillery adjutant at Secunderabad and afterwards staff captain. He had a major-general's appointment in the War.

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Book Reviews and Notes.

ANCIENT SEA POWER.

"SEA POWER IN ANCIENT HISTORY." By Arthur MacCartney Shepard. With a foreword by Admiral William A. Moffatt. (London: Heinemann, 15s.)

Two motives have combined in Mr. Shepard to produce this book, the absence of any work in English dealing adequately and exclusively with his subject, and the fascination which the subject itself exercises over him. He has set out to make himself the naval historian of ancient Greece and Rome, to disentangle his subject from the mass of contemporary general history, and to present clearly and concisely the nature and influence of ancient sea-power. In doing so he has laid himself open to the obvious criticism that, by concentrating solely upon one aspect of events, he has given a distorted view of their importance, a criticism against which he defends himself by the plea that "his subject is special writing and cannot hope to stand alone." This is undoubtedly true, but it serves merely to call in question the usefulness of his book. To those who have only a nodding acquaintance with Greek and Roman history Mr. Shepard's book would be the most dangerous of guides, while the serious student will prefer to go direct to those authorities, ancient and modern, that Mr. Shepard has consulted. For Mr. Shepard, as we understand him, makes no claim to original research or discovery. He has simply rewritten those chapters of ancient history that specially appeal to him, and by omitting all other relevant factors, has drawn his picture of ancient naval warfare in a false perspective. Important to Athens as her fleet was, her history is more than the history of a series of naval defeats and victories. But it is in dealing with Rome, that essentially military power, that Mr. Shepard's method is open to the greatest objection. Readers must judge for themselves whether, in Mr. Shepard's words, they gain "through the separate presentation of a large and vital phase of Greek and Roman annals a clearer and fuller appreciation of classical history and civilisation as a whole," or whether on the other hand, they find their impression blurred and distorted.

H. L. C.

BUDDHISM FROM THE FOUNTAIN HEAD.

"SOME SAYINGS OF THE BUDDHA, ACCORDING TO THE PALI CANON." Translated by F. L. Woodward (Oxford University Press 5s. net.)

Historians of the Roman Empire in decadence tell us that a multiplicity of exotic religions superseded the national cult established by August Cæsar. The self-same phenomenon characterises the troublous times in which our lot is cast. Neo-Buddhism struggles with theosophy for acceptance; but both are far removed from the teachings of the royal mendicant. Professor Woodward has laid earnest seekers after truth under a lasting obligation by giving them the gist of early Páli tests in the form of a pocket volume. We see the Buddha seated in a deer-park, near Benares, or in a Hall with a peaked gable, or in the park of Anáthapindika, "Feeder of the Poor," and hear him expounding his doctrine to disciples. Existence, he told them, was an unmixed evil, inasmuch as it involves an endless succession or re-births into a world of pain and sorrow by subduing earthly passions and stirring for self-perfection. There was no room for a personal God in the precepts which fell from the Master's lips. He held that all phenomena were produced by a chain of causes and effects; and that salvation could be attained only by the individual's persistent efforts. Nor did he hold out any hope of a personal existence in the hereafter; but he vouchsafed the following reason for his silence:—

> This is a question not concerned with profit or with the first principles of the holy life. It does not conduce to aversion, disgust, cessation, calm: to supernormal powers, nor yet to perfect wisdom, nor to Nibbána (Nirvána).

Primitive Buddhism is evidently a science rather than a religion: and regarded in that light it was an advance of its age by twenty-five centuries at least. Extremely interesting are the Master's incursions into the realm of autobiography; and the following passage proves that, in one respect at least, human nature has not changed since the days when he enunciated a creed which, in a more or less diluted form is still professed by a quarter of the world's population:—

> There are five characteristics possessed of which a sick man is hard to nurse. He will not take remedies, or he observes no moderation taking remedies, or he does not follow the drugs prescribed; does not disclose the real nature of his ailment to the nurse who desires his welfare, nor does he tell him whether his sickness wains or waxes, or stands still; lastly, when he is impatient of his bodily feelings that arise, painful, cutting, bitter, grievous, unpleasant, life-destroying.

F. H. S.

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HIDDEN TREASURE.

"SNOW RUBIES." By "Ganpat." (Edinburgh: Blackwood 7s. 6d. net.)
"THE TREASURE OF ALI MUBARAK." By Raymond M. Clark (London: Hutchinson. 7s. 6d. net.)

These are both stories of adventure in the East. One tells of the search for a forgotten ruby mine in the mountains of Tibet, and the other of search for hidden treasure in the Egyptian desert. "Ganpat's" book can be described as simply an adventure story. It begins with the arrangements for the search, and ends with the return of the return of the four travellers to Kashmir after many exciting experiences. The idea of a valley which is inhabited by a race of former slaves, who have been cut off from communication with the outside world, suggests a Rider Haggard romance. The characters are sufficiently real for us to be interested in their hairbreadth escapes, but we do not feel that even their creator takes much interest in them apart from their place in his plot.

On the other hand, Mr. Clark, although he gives the authentic treasure-hunt appearance to his book by adding a map and a glossary of Arabic words, seems to be most concerned with the character of his hero, Guy Hayward. Hayward's escapades as a boy on the Kentish coast, which make up the first chapters, and his courage at the end when he is back in England, an invalid waiting for death, remain quite as vividly in the mind as do the desert scenes.

Both these books are enjoyable to read and provide many thrills while the nature and whereabouts of the mysterious treasures are being discovered.

J. B. AINSLIE.

Major-General J. F. S. D. Coleridge has been placed on the unemployed list on vacating his appointment as Assistant Commandant at the Staff College at Quetta.

It is reported that a Decree announcing a general amnesty for political crimes in Yugoslavia will be published to-day (December 17) on the King's birthday.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Reconstruction of Vickers.

Although business quarters affected to show no surprise at the announcement last week that Vickers were to be demobilised and reconstructed, the general public were hardly cheered at seeing the £1 shares of this great firm drop in a twinkling to 6s. 8d. But subsequent consideration of the functionings of this conglomerate company, which, unlike the Lever concern, had no magnetic personality at its head, enabled one to see how inevitable this reconstruction was. It was the War which dominated Vickers, and when Peace arrived no man was found who knew the secret of selling enough sewing-machines to make up for one battleship.

How this vast accretion of interests will prosper now that motor-cars and machinery are, for many years at any rate, to replace armaments, it is difficult to guess. It is the opinion of many judges that the depression in the iron and steel industry is at an end; if they are right, Vickers will have shown to the world a notable example of unloading ballast and of tacking their ship at precisely the right moment.

Admiralty and Dockyards.

The Admiralty's decision to close the Rosyth and Pembroke Dockyards was confirmed last week by the House of Commons, not, however, without some opposition. This opposition came for the most part from the Labour Party, which, curiously enough, appears to approve of every naval reduction except one on shore. The reasons advocated for the retention of work at Rosyth and Pembroke ranged from the suggestion of Mr. MacDonald that the Admiralty were economising here only that they might spend prodigally at Singapore, to the threat of Mr. Adamson that the closing of Rosyth was the first step in a Scottish demand for Home Rule.

The debate, from the very fact that Rosyth happens to be in Scotland and Pembroke in Wales, was not without its amusing side. The idea that England gains enormously from these two countries was played with most ingeniously; no one even so must as hinted that these two countries derived the slightest benefit from England. England is not to be omitted (has she ever been?) from these persecutions, which inevitably entail hardship on somebody. It is a distinguishing mark of our "nationalisers" that that somebody must always be somebody else. Truly Parliament suffers as much from our "Have it both ways" as from our "Facing both ways."

British and Continental Trade Unions.

The representatives of British Trade Unions have been getting into hot water on the Continent. Their proposal whole-heartedly to support the "Red" Trade Unionists of Russia has been unequivocally turned down by Continental Trade Unionists at Amsterdam, and one might have thought that subsequent consideration of the Amsterdam International's judgment would have been long and deep. Not so, however. The British and Russian delegates have fallen even more closely into each other's arms at Berlin, and have issued a joint manifesto which is quite definitely hostile to Continental Trade Union opinion.

In all probability this Berlin decision on the part of the British to get the Russians lined up with the Amsterdam International will cause much trouble here in Britain. The General Trade Union Council is, it seems, still more deeply committed to joint propaganda with the Russians—the very Russians whom the British Labour Party so definitely refused to countenance at Liverpool. It looks as though the conflict between the "economic" and the "political" Socialists here is very far from finished. With Continental support, however, the "politicals" are in a very strong position.

The Kitchener Chapel.

The figure of Kitchener, whatever smaller men may say, will always be a commanding one; to this generation, at any rate, he appears infinitely great. There was, therefore, very general interest taken in the Kitchener Memorial Chapel (in the base of the Bell Tower of St. Paul's Cathedral), which was ceremonially opened last week. The chamber is a permanent addition to the art of ecclestiastical building, the architect being Mr. Detmar Blow and the sculptor Mr. W. Reid Dick. What posterity will say upon this chapel it is useless to speculate, but controversy upon its appropriateness has already begun.

Nonconformist Catholicism.

Some weeks ago I referred to the Catholic form of services which are being held, under the auspices of Dr. Orchard, at King's Weigh House, a Congregational Church. Dr. Orchard's services have, as I anticipated, raised very considerable discussion: he has found many to dispute both his soundness and his right to use a Congregational Church for Mass, and equally he has found many devoted followers. On the whole, if one may judge from the religious Press, he has found more supporters than opponents, a surprising number of Nonconformists subscribing to his own postulate that there are no limits to the liberty of an independent church, and that so long as he is confirmed in his actions by his church he is within his rights.

If a kind of Anglo-Catholic movement is to thrive in the Free Church, what becomes of the threatened junction of the Broad or Evangelical Church of England with the Nonconformists?

'Varsity Football Matches.

The past week was a good one for Cambridge, who drew the Association match with Oxford, and, on the following day, smothered them at Rugby. The Soccer match at Stamford Bridge was a very bright affair, greatly entertaining the five or six thousand spectators. The game, judged by pre-War standards, showed that in goal-keeping and in centre half-back play the Universities are up to standard, that back play is incomparably inferior, and, most notable of all, the wing halves had not even learned to mark their outside man. And of the ten forwards, Oxford had the only man who really was one. But it was a splendidly hard and fast game, in which, strangely enough, merit was matched with equity.

Of the Rugger match it is scarcely decent to rake it all

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up again, so saddened are the Oxford enthusiasts. It is useless to point out the Dark Blues' weaknesses; they simply never got together, and anyone who knows the game realises that that sometimes happens to every side. No one would pretend that the Cambridge fifteen was essentially and potentially thirty points superior, even if on Thursday they might well have been forty-five points ahead. One was of course glad that the right side won; but one was sorry for Oxford.

The B.B.C.

The papers recently have been recording a good deal of adverse criticism of the programmes of the British Broadcasting Company, but the trouble with newspaper critics is that they so seldom know what they want—and negative detractors are the most superfluous, if perhaps the most abundant, people on this earth. It is impossible to classify complaints, but the largest category seems to contain the charge that the programmes are too "high-brow." (Who was it, by the way, who defined a high-brow as the main thing that demarks mankind from monkeys?) Now whatever the B.B.C. programmes are, they are not high-brow. There is not by any process of reasoning the slightest argument for saying that Mozart, for example, is any more high-brow than Oscar Strauss or Berlin. People so much love labelling things that they judge extrinsically, not intrinsically. If, for instance, it were possible for the announcers to make a mistake and attribute to Scriabine a composition by Chaminade, those who intended to listen would recoil in disgust equally with those who did actually listen.

The whole conflict that is supposed to exist between "classical" and "popular" music is in fact largely a fictitious one. Remove the labels and the names of the composers, and you at once get the most amazing results.

Nor are the attacks on the "talks" whilch the B.B.C. give much more intelligent. As often as not, these are judged by the nature of the speaker's voice, just as our social church-goers are apt to judge the work of a sermon by the vocalisation or the delivery of the preacher. It is one's firm opinion, in fact, that the B.B.C.'s programmes must always be chosen by a discerning minority, and that all this talk of bowing to public opinion is so much eye-wash.

ALTER EGO.

The King has appointed Mr. Thomas Alexander Vans Best Lieutenant-Governor of Malta and its dependencies.

Hafiz Wahba, the Wazir of the Wahhabi Sultan of Nejd, has telegraphed to the Caliphate Committee of Bombay confirming the news of the fall of Medina.

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THE PROBLEM OF THE DERVISHES.

At a meeting held at 14, Queensberry Place, South Kensington, on December 3, Mrs. Margaret Hasluck read to the Near and Middle East Association a Paper on "The Problem of the Dervishes," Sir Harry Lamb being in the Chair. Mrs. Hasluck began by affirming that in suppressing the dervish orders in the summer of this year Mustapha Kemal Ghazi Pasha attacked a religious institution, which appealed to the majority of Turks. In support of this thesis the speaker adduced the enormous number of the dervish orders, each founded by some saintly man who cared enough about Islam to disagree with his predecessors about its ritual or dogma and to face the opposition his disagreement roused. Each order, once founded, depended entirely on the freewill offerings of the pious living or the voluntary legacies of the pious dead. Lay members as well as dervishes being allowed to join the orders and the worship of buried saints providing almost the only outlet permitted by Islam to religious emotion, nearly every Turk had some more or less definite connexion with the dervish orders.

Moreover, the dervish orders were the only organised religious force in Turkey which touched the hearts of ordinary men and women, and suppressing them was, therefore tantamount to attacking the Mohammedan religion itself. From his experience of the various nationalities which formerly composed the Turkish Empire, the Ghazi cannot but have been aware of the cohesive power of religion in a country such as Turkey.

For these reasons he must have had very strong reasons for interfering with the dervishes, since that interference was bound to rouse hostility against himself and almost to disintegrate Turkey. Neither religious scepticism, current in Turkey under French influence long before the rise of the Soviets, nor a desire to plunder the *tekkés*, seemed so likely to have influenced the Ghazi as did political fear, which is at the root of every trouble in the Near East. When he rebelled against the Sultan in 1919, the powerful Mevlevi of Konia, as the Court party, opposed him bitterly: the sheikhs who organised the recent rebellion in Kurdistan and the agitators now at work round Sivas and Erzeroum were Bektashi, and no doubt enormously helped by the secrecy which surrounded that sect. In such circumstances it was difficult to see what else in self-defence the Ghazi could have done. It was at least to his credit that he did not order a general massacre of them, as Sultan Mahmoud did in 1826 of the Yanissaries and Bektashi in order to rid himself of their political menace.

It was difficult to say how far this suppression was final. If the different orders of dervishes were organised under a single head, as Western orders of monks were subordinate to the Pope, the dervishes could not be suppressed finally. As, however, they lacked a central organisation, the Ghazi's policy had a greater chance of success. On the other hand, he could not live for ever and no strong successor had as yet appeared on the horizon, nor did he seem to be planning anything which should fill the vacuum he had created in the national life of Turkey.

The following were amongst those present:—Prince Mirza Arasteh (The Persian Chargé d'Affaires), First Secretary, Afghan Legation, The Viscountess Dupplin, Sir Henry and Lady Burt, Sir John Foster Fraser, Sir William Clark, The Venerable Archdeacon Potter, The Hon. Mrs. Fielden, Mrs. Stewart Erskine, Mrs. De Bunsen, Mrs. Hugh Spender, Mrs. L. Cobham, Miss Harley Bacon, Monsieur Ardalani (Persian Legation), Major Christie, Captain Bennett, Dr. Ernest Griffin, and Mrs. Charles Hancock.

Colonel D. G. Ridgeway, D.S.O., has been appointed as principal staff officer, G.S.O.I., on the Lahore District staff, where he has been serving as Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster-General. He is being succeeded in the latter appointment by Colonel C. R. Lloyd, D.S.O. Both officers have been officiating in the appointments now approved, the change arising from the transfer of Colonel E. D. Giles, C.M.G., D.S.O., from the Lahore staff to the 4th Indian Cavalry Brigade as officiating commander.

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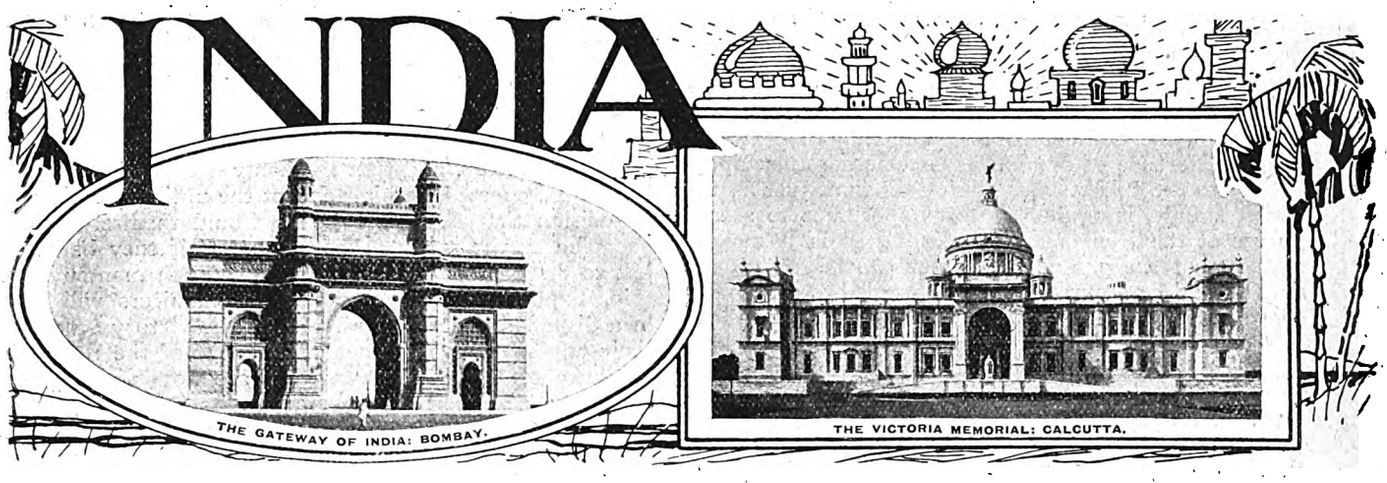

THE CIVIL SERVICES BILL.

The debate on the second reading of the Government of India (Civil Services) Bill in the House of Commons seems to have disclosed considerable unanimity of opinion in favour of the Bill, in spite of the opposition to it voiced by Labour members. It may, indeed, be confidently asserted that the latter would have regretted the success of their amendment, to defer for three months the second reading of the Bill: it was, of course, obvious that it was brought forward in the full knowledge that it could not succeed. The passing of the Bill during the present session of Parliament does not really affect those of the officials concerned who are now serving in India, since its provisions have already been acted upon by the Government of India, for whom the present Bill is in the nature of an Indemnity Act for the past, as well as an Enabling Act for the future. The necessity for its immediate enaction is due to the need for the continuance of British recruits for the All-India services—this year's encouraging response, after a succession of lean recruiting years at Home, was largely the result of knowledge that the Government had determined to pass the Bill at the earliest possible moment. Failure to carry out this determination might seriously shake the confidence that is only now beginning to return to British Universities: and might even reintroduce, in India, the doubts that the recommendations of the Lee Commission did so much to allay. Sir Henry Craik, the member representing the Scottish Universities, voiced this feeling when he said that, in supporting the Bill, he was not looking at the interests of the Indian Civil Service, but at those of the three hundred millions of India. A stream of worthy recruits to the British services in India was of essential advantage to India: and it was his duty to his constituents—those Scottish Universities which had, in the past, supplied so large a proportion of the members of the Indian Civil Service—to see that nothing was left undone to assure the continuance of that essential stream. An Indian administrator had told him that he had, at a railway station, once said to an Indian, "In the days of your grandchildren and mine, shall we still be here?" The Indian pointed to two water butts on the platform, labelled "For Hindu gentlemen," and "For Mohammedan gentlemen": and replied, "So long as those two inscriptions are there, we cannot do without you." The course of the debate showed that these considerations were present in the minds of the Labour members who opposed the second reading, one of whom struck the same note when he said that it was common ground between the supporters and opponents of the Bill that any unfavourable conditions in the Indian Civil Service would react unfavourably on the Indian people, to whom it was of the utmost importance that the I.C.S. should be a contented, a happy and efficient service. All that the Labour members urged was, that this is not the right way to bring about that result: that to take away from the Indian Legislative Assembly the power to deal with the officials whose salaries they pay is a poor method of showing trust in India and of begetting trust from her in return: that "pin pricks" to Indian sensitiveness, such as the one contained in the Bill, are destructive of the mutual confidence on which the whole future of the connexion between Britain and India depends, and undermine the power for good which the British official in India is able to exercise: and that, if the means now to be adopted are really the right ones to employ, Parliament ought to find the money to carry them out, instead of leaving the Assembly to pay the piper while denying it the right to call the tune. The conclusion is, indeed, irresistible that the Labour opposition was only formal—a gesture that should be satisfactory to Indian politicians, the true significance of which would be perfectly well understood by their British colleagues.

As was probably inevitable, some of the opponents of the Bill represented it to be a racial measure, designed to benefit Europeans at the expense of Indians; but its supporters had no difficulty in rebutting this suggestion, or in showing that it affected Indian and British members of the Service in exactly the same way and to exactly the same extent. Lord Winterton, when explaining the objects of the measure—which, as he said, are very simple, though necessities of draftsmanship have clothed them in complicated phrases—said that it introduced no new principle, but merely gave legal effect to one that found full expression in the Government of India Act of 1919: the intention of which was "to exclude absolutely from the purview of the Assembly the salaries of persons apointed by the Secretary of State": and that all that the present Bill did was to make clear and definite what the Government believed to have been the intention of Parliament at that time. He added that, though it was true that the Legislative Assembly had rejected the proposals of the Government of India to give effect to the recommendations of the Lee Commission, one of which was the point at issue in the present Bill, yet it ought to be remembered that the report of the Commission was unanimous and was signed by every one of its Indian members: a fact that was, in itself, a striking tribute to the way in which Indians and Europeans can work together.

A further objection to the Bill brought, forward as a sort of side issue by one of its opponents, was that it did not go far enough: in that, while it was designed to benefit the Indian Civil Service, it failed to confer similar advantages on others of a more lowly station: and he urged that every man of European origin in India, who is employed in, or in any way connected with, any of the Civil Services, should be entitled to any benefit granted to the higher British officials. As was again probably inevitable, this led to a general attack on the scale of wages paid to the rank and file of Indian "State workers," such as teachers, postmen and railway officials. Colonel Wedgwood, speaking on this point, said that the most unpopular of the many unpopular things that he did in India, was to pay his "bearer" in Calcutta sixty rupees a month instead of the ordinary wages of thirty. It is not unlikely that his estimate of the special unpopularity of this action was correct: he doubtless forgot that the "globe-trotter," whose requirements in India are limited to a single body-servant, lays himself open to serious complaint if, by paying double wages to his solitary servant, he "spoils the market" of residents who seldom find it possible to reduce their total household staff below a dozen. Mr. Wardlaw Milne brought the debate back from absurdity to good sense by championing the cause

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of the officers of the Imperial Provincial Services. When the Act of 1919 was passed, what were then known as the Uncovenanted Services were split up into three—the All-India, Central, and Provincial Services. To members of the first two, appointed by the Secretary of State, the provisions of the present Bill undoubtedly apply; but there is a difference of opinion as to whether they apply technically to the third. Mr. Milne said that, just as the Bill, as it stands, is of the greatest importance to secure the future of the Civil Service in India, so is it equally important that the prospects of men in the Provincial Services should be secured: and he appealed to the Under Secretary of State to look carefully into the cases of those men, to consider the extent to which the Bill effects them and, if the conclusion is that it does not affect them, to see whether any amendment can be made in order to bring them within its scope. This is undoubtedly a matter of real moment. There is every indication that, as the Reforms progress, the Provincial Services will become more and more important, even if the progress is not, as many people think it certain to be, in the direction of Provincial autonomy, It may be hoped that the views of those who hold that the affected officers of the Provincial Services are already safeguarded under the Bill, will turn out to be correct: for, at this late stage in the present Session, it appears unlikely that a safeguarding amendment, the wording of which is a matter of much technical difficulty, could be included in the Bill without serious risk of delay that would imperil its passage: and the importance of its early acceptance is too great to allow its supporters, even those most keenly desirous of ensuring that the safeguards enacted by it are fully comprehensive, to run the risk of losing it altogether.

CURRENT TOPICS.

Swarajist Policy.

Cabled reports from India announce that the split in the Swaraj Party has been "healed." The process of healing, however, seems only to consist in an agreement, arrived at after a conference between representatives of the orthodox party and of the apostles of "responsive co-operation," to suspend their respective propaganda until the meeting of the Indian National Congress at Cawnpore during Christmas week. The real point at issue has now passed beyond the distinction between non-co-operation and responsive co-operation; and has become a question whether Indian nationalist politicians shall or shall not agree, in future, to accept office under the existing Provincial Governments. This point has now been deferred for debate by the Congress: which is not the same thing as decision by the Congress; for it is practically certain that, if Congress records an opinion unfavourable to the champions of responsive co-operation, they will continue to pursue their new policy in spite of that opinion; while, if the protesters carry the day, the leaders of the orthodox party, however much in their hearts they may wish to follow the example of their opponents, will find it impossible to make immediate profession of their willingness to do so. It will at least be necessary for them to observe a decent interval before they consent to swallow their principles and to bow to the superior political acumen of their erst-while followers.

Thus, whatever the recorded decision of Congress, matters are likely to remain as they were—for a time. But there can be no doubt that the future is with the dissentients: and there can be but little doubt that the orthodox party have already realised the fact, and are now regretting that they did not have the intelligence to start the movement themselves instead of having to face the only remaining alternative—a period during which they will sulk in their tents until they find it possible, by some process of reasoning such as usually presents no difficulty to the Indian mind, to explain that the new departure is really what they themselves had been working for all along, and that the hasty action of a few hot-heads had effected nothing except the untimely seizure of a position that the wiser heads would themselves have occupied at the really proper moment, if they had been left to do so undisturbed. By some such manœuvre as this, Pandit Motilal Nehru and his admirers will reap, in a dignified manner, the fruits of the victory scored by their opponents, to the accompaniment of the respectful applause of the newspapers that are now violently denouncing responsive co-operation, its devotees and all their works. But, in view of the heated recriminations that have passed between the disputants and the rebukes —variously described by supporters of the protagonists as "dignified" and "petulant"—that have been hurled by the Pandit against Messrs. Kelkar and Jayakar, the two latter are likely to make the most of the time during which the former remains sulking in his tent: and it will not be their fault if the period is not a prolonged one.

Meanwhile, the Bombay Corporation, after a stormy debate, has decided, by a majority of 46 votes to 21, to present an address to the new Viceroy, when he arrives in India. In the attempt to refuse this ordinary politeness, the malcontents were only following the example set by their late Chairman, Mr. Patel: who, before he found grace in the Chair of the Legislative Assembly, had roused his supporters to a fever of adulation by his "independent gesture" of refusing to attend the official reception of Lord Reading when he visited Bombay about a year ago. Mr. Patel has since learned better manners: and the large majority in favour of the address seems to suggest that some at least of his admirers are gradually doing the same. It is amusing to notice that one of the Swarajist speakers, against the resolution, complained of the fact that Bombay was the first city to be visited by every new Viceroy—a fact that he described as a "nuisance": the thought in his mind being, no doubt, that it was disturbing to be obliged always to set a precedent, instead of being able to take credit for following, or refusing to follow, someone else's lead.

The Sporting Spirit.

The correspondent of a London daily, in reporting the result of the cricket tournament at Bombay, says that, though the matches are generally played in a sporting spirit, the worst methods are sometimes employed in Indian cricket. It is to be presumed that this accusation is levelled against the spectators; for, so far as one's experience goes, it certainly cannot be truly made against the players. The correspondent says that, in the Hindu-Parsee match, a Parsee youth was found to be flashing a mirror into the eyes of Hindu batsmen: and that, in the English-Hindu match the final, won by the Hindus after being set the formidable task of making 354 runs in the last innings—one of the English batsman received a note saying "hit out or get out," on which, supposing it to be from his captain, he acted, though it afterwards turned out to be "unauthorised."

There are certain tricks, which Englishmen usually consider unfair, that are not so looked upon by other sporting nations. At baseball, for instance, it is an important part of the professional game to keep up a running fire of comment—always personal, and sometimes abusive —in the hope of putting the oponent off his game and, if possible, making him lose his temper. A more doubtful form of helping one's own side was experienced by a visiting team of English international lawn tennis players —a good many years ago, it is true—when they found that, when an English player was preparing to smash a high lob, a large section of the spectators, by preconcerted signal, all yelled together just as the ball was coming down. "Barracking" has been an experience of first-class cricketers for many years past: and it is, now at any rate, pretty impartially applied; but it was generally considered that a remark once addressed by an enthusi-

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astic spectator to a famous English cricketer was "hardly cricket": when he was waiting for the descent of a skier in the long-field, and the breathless silence of the ring was broken by a quiet voice that delivered a personal appeal at the critical moment—"miss it, Archie, and I'll let you kiss my sister"

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, November 26.

The Queen Mother.

The announcement of the death of Queen Alexandra has afforded another instance of the personal loyalty to the reigning family that is still one of the most universal sentiments in the Indian Empire. It is probably true that this feeling, which in the case of the late Queen Victoria almost amounted to a worship, remains almost unaffected by the turmoil of politics and agitation of recent years, and the present has been the occasion of sympathetic leading articles in almost every daily paper. *Forward* says "No woman, perhaps no person, has held the affection of a whole nation, except perhaps Queen Victoria, so deeply and so long as Queen Alexandra." Upon receipt of the news on Saturday last, all sporting fixtures and entertainments for the day were cancelled: and, although Calcutta otherwise appeared normal, there was on all hands an obvious restraint and a sense of personal sorrow. At the meeting of the Corporation last night, the first business was the passing of a resolution of loyal condolence with His Majesty the King Emperor. The day of the funeral has been notified as a public day of mourning, and a special memorial service will be held in the Cathedral while forty minute-guns are fired from the ramparts of Fort William.

The South African Question.

The announcement that the Government of India are sending a deputation of Indian members to South Africa, to gain first-hand information regarding the conditions prevailing there in connexion with domiciled Indians, gives no satisfaction to the extreme parties. Mrs. Sarojini Naidu criticises the personnel and says, "The Indians there feel that a deputation of Government, or the nominees of the Government, will not satisfy them. They would like people in whom they have absolute confidence, and who have a strong backing in India." Apart from the fact that those, who have what she considers a "strong backing" in India, would probably find it a little difficult to convince anyone but themselves of their powers of independent observation, the statement recalls the strong criticisms of certain Indians abroad which were published last year by a returned member of the Congress party. A cable has now been addressed to Mrs. Naidu by the South African Indian Congress, which asserts that a Government deputation will be of no use, and asks her to use her influence to defer its sailing until the arrival in India of a South African contingent. Are Mrs. Naidu and her South African friends afraid of the facts? No one will dispute that political distinctions within the Empire, based upon race, are a difficult subject: and attempts to draw rigid colour lines may easily lead to anomalies and even injustice; but nothing is to be gained by concealing the facts, and no honest thinker or politician can object to any steps which are taken to ascertain them. Government announces that the deputation will not be delayed, and their report will be awaited with considerable interest.

Our Legislators.

At times resolutions proposed in the Bengal Legislative Council are peculiarly illuminating as to the legislative calibre of those who sponsor them. The motions put up for the next session include many which show real capacity and a desire for information or for constructive work; but there are others of all grades on the path to frivolity, or even absurdity. One at least shows consistency in a budding politician, a rare quality indeed in the Swaraj ranks. His proposal is "that the running of all sorts of cycles and motor vehicles invented by foreign brains be prohibited in the Province of Bengal." This is probably a serious attempt at self-advertisement and not a comment on his friends who, whilst attiring themselves in *khadder*, do not scruple to spend travelling allowances on trains and motors and to use the Government posts and telegraphs. As a comment on the political capacity of the member, and the electors who send him to take his part in legislation, it is a priceless gem.

The Freedom Movement of Modern Bengal.

Bepin Chandra Pal, whose name has been mentioned in these letters in connexion with his political contributions to the *Englishman*, has put forward a plea for the formation of a Liberal Independent coalition for the purpose of obtaining self-governing Dominion status for India. In a Press appeal, he argues that both the sections he addresses have main points in common, and suggests the pooling of the forces of both parties in a constitutional effort to gain the common objective. Bepin Babu is taking the campaign seriously and, with "The Freedom Movement of Modern Bengal" as his subject, he is addressing a public meeting to-night. With his able pen to back his oratory, he may succeed in bringing about the organisation of a strong constructive party when the All India Liberal Federation meets in Calcutta in December. Bengal will not be easy of conversion, but Bepin Babu has struck at an auspicious moment; resignations from the Swaraj Party are still taking place, and Pandit Motilal Nehru's short temper has put him into bad favour with all parties.

Markets.

Both jute and gunnies have been firmer markets this week; but with sellers standing out for full prices and operators unwilling to deal at the rates offered, little business has resulted. No change is reported in the piece-goods market. Tea continues very firm here, in spite of the more irregular tendency in the London market; the auctions showing higher quotations for the common descriptions, and a steady rate for other qualities. A further considerable drop in stocks is anticipated for the current month.

Although business on the whole has expanded considerable during the week under review, the outstanding feature in the Stock Market has again been the further all-round improvement in tea and rubber shares. Jute shares have remained steady, with a somewhat better inquiry, especially for the more speculative counters; the tone at the close is firm. With the pessimistic feeling at present obtaining in the coal trade, there seems little chance of any activity in the shares, which are now almost neglected; a more confident tone should be apparent if the companies are successful in obtaining good contracts with the railways for next year's supplies; but, until these have been settled, there appears but a small hope of any material rise in share values. Cotton shares continue in moderate demand at previous rates, with investors willing to operate only on a small scale. Tea shares have not been slow in reflecting the better position of the industry, and this week has been responsible for a marked increase in the turnover in the shares; the demand has been general, and business has been restricted only by the scar-

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city of seliers. With the crop shortage and the satisfactory prices obtained at the recent auctions here, a further appreciation may reasonably be expected in the near future. In sympathy with the increase in the price of rubber, the shares have registered a further sharp rise, and conditions almost akin to a "boom" are prevailing in this market; the only factor limiting the volume of business being the scarcity of scrip on offer. Investment stocks have been in keen demand, with buyers willing to pay full rates.

The Bank Rate remains unchanged at five per cent, and money has been comparatively easy, although the trade demand has increased by slightly over a crore and a half. Exchange continues very steady.

CONFLICT OR SYNTHESIS?

By Janus.

Some eminent authorities have been telling us of late that what is going on in India is a conflict between East and West, a conflict in which, as one of them has put it, there can be no temporising or compromise. The matter is rather an important one, and I want to ask whether the diagnosis is altogether accurate. Are we of the West really engaged in a fight to a finish, a conflict in which either Devil or Baker must ultimately win? May it not be nearer the truth to say that we are spectators, interested indeed, but still spectators rather than protagonists, of an effort which is being made by Indians to reach a synthesis on essentials, an effort which involves a good deal of sifting, and for the moment, raises a good deal of dust? It is rather rash, I allow, to enter the lists against those eminent publicists and proconsuls who have been putting forward the conflict theory in the Sunday papers and elsewhere; but I think my view is worth taking into account, if only as presenting another side to a question that has more sides than one: and, to begin with, I ask leave to illustrate the difference in standpoint by a personal reminiscence. One fine April afternoon, I was taking a stroll in Oudh in the teeth of a hot and healthy west wind, when suddenly I found myself involved in a cloud of flying dust and dirt that made it, for the moment, impossible to see clearly. "A dust storm," I said to myself; but, when I had gone a little further, I found that it was only the peasants taking advantage of the wind to winnow their wheat. All the dirt and dust was being blown away, and there on the ground were the rising heaps of pure grain, so pure indeed that it would be necessary by and by to add just a little new dirt to bring it to the standard of the workaday world. My question then is, whether the dust that has been choking us during the last few years may not be in fact the inevitable accompaniment of a process which is necessary, and will ultimately be beneficial.

Let us look back for a moment. The old Hindu polity, with all its glamour, failed decisively and disastrously. Judging by numbers and resources, India could have swallowed the successive waves of invaders in her sleep; but there was nothing in the polity for which men in the mass were quick to fight, and in the last resort to die: and, when you have said that of a polity, you need say nothing more. Anyway, for six centuries Turks and Persians, Afghans and Moguls, did with India precisely what they liked, till at last the time came when a handful of Englishmen, actuated by the national character rather than by any logical process, gave Indians a chance to lift their heads. It was inevitable that the men who first dreamed of national reconstruction should think mainly of copying and borrowing from the West which had brought them the unexpected opportunity; but reconstruction is not so simple a process as all that, and of late the pendulum has swung back, until quite a number of people, with rather piercing voices, say they want to borrow nothing at all. This however is rhetoric, not fact; for the loudest of them borrow a good deal, including much of their method of expression, and not a little of their outlook on life. I can visualise the leader of their rhetoric, as, clad in homespun, he arrives at Kashi or Prayag mounted on a stately elephant; but I read in the papers that he generally comes in a Daimler, and homespun in a Daimler is, to my mind, a symbol, though a crude one, of synthesis rather than conflict. Rhetoric apart, it is not somewhere near the truth to say that all educated Indians want to borrow something from the West, but at the moment they differ greatly as to how much they want to borrow? Is not that one of the chief reasons why even the most homogeneous "group" quarrels so violently in committee, and why the eventual "formula" is always so ambiguous?

Judging by acts rather than words, I take it that at present the idea that divides educated Indians least is the maintenance of the principle of ascendency. It is certainly an Indian idea, for, as far back as we can see, we find a minute fraction of the population enjoying all the good things of life, provided for them by a proletariat living on the verge of starvation and kept under the most rigorous discipline. "India lives like the fishes in the sea, the greater eat the lesser." Such was the verdict of the first Englishman to come in contact with the country. But some Indians say that Englishmen are, and have always been, hopelessly prejudiced; so let us look back to the strong man of the 14th century, the first Moslem to attempt serious interference with Indian institutions. Allauddin the Khalji made a vigorous effort in the direction of equality, and the phrase "that the burden of the strong shall not fall on the weak" runs like a refrain through his public pronouncements. But there is really no need to call witnesses, for the principle is enshrined in the sacred law of Hinduism, the venerable and unchangeable shastras: and the measure of the change in India's attitude may be found in the fact that, while the principle still commands acceptance, nobody would dream of trying to enforce many of the concrete precepts in which it is expressed. As a matter of fact, some of the best men in India are trying to whittle down by degrees this old ascendency, and to bring it more into harmony with that other principle, the potential dignity of man, which they have learned from the West, but which really came to the West from Palestine. That, to my mind, is the very heart of the synthesis towards which India is struggling, and undoubtedly it involves a good deal of dust.

Now there is no doubt that England has done something to help this process forward. We have left social and religious ascendency rigorously alone, but in the field of politics we have provided a fair opening for accommodation. We have not offered to India the principle of natural equality, the biggest lie ever told, even in America where they breed for size. What we have put before India is the principle of an equal chance, and the essence of the present constitution is not an order to abandon the old ascendency, but an invitation to the Indians at the top to maintain their ascendency by brains and character, instead of by whips and the fear of hell. I read recently, in a State paper which has acquired some little notoriety, certain observations to the effect that the Indian civilian must learn how to "explain and persuade, and argue and refute." I think myself that sermon might have been addressed more appropriately to the Indians at the top, for it indicates the lines on which a synthesis is apparently practicable. "Keep your place at the top, but stop ordering people about, and lead instead of trying to drive:" if the best men will only follow that advice, India will get forward much more quickly than she is doing now, and the rest of the synthesis will probably come easily enough.

What will happen if they don't? That question carries us from the one per cent. to the ninety-nine. The top dog may decide to stay on top; but, when the under dog realises how strong he is, he may have something to say. He is realising his strength now, and the process is one which is usually subject to rather rapid acceleration, when once it has started. There is time for a working synthesis to be effected, but there is not very much time to spare, and the alternative is a violent social movement, which, if we may judge from other countries, would place the ascendency in the hands of quite another class of people, for a time, at least, a very unpleasant class, with plenty of grudges to pay off, and very few scruples as to the way

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of doing so. Looking forward then, it is possible to see India following one of two roads. The first offers a prospect of the gradual establishment of more human relations between the different classes, of more leading and less driving, of the quiet dropping of obsolete taboos, and the assimilation of objects and ideas which prove serviceable on trial. It is not a very easy road, especially for the leaders; mostly rough going, and some steep gradients at the start; but it leads in the right direction, to a new India which will be very much better than the old. The other route probably looks easier, but it ends in a morass, from which, possibly, the remnant of a nation may ultimately emerge, very dirty, and too tired to be of much use in the world. The choice lies with the Indians at the top: all that we can do is to see that the fingerposts are legible.

THE INDIAN MAIL.

The Bengal Anarchists.

In a recent note on the latest development of the revolutionary conspiracy in Bengal, the opinion was expressed that the extremist newspapers in India would affect to believe that the discovery of a bomb factory near Calcutta was a police fiction: and that, if any such discovery had really been made, the incriminating articles found were "planted" by the police, in order to justify their own existence and to assist Government in its policy of "repression." This was a pretty safe prophecy: and our Calcutta correspondent confirmed it by reporting that the leading local extremist newspaper had published a leader which endeavoured to show that the discovery was an engineered one, "although it was clever enough not to say so in as many words." The leading extremist newspaper of Bombay suffers from no such reticence. It says that the deadly scent for plots and anarchists of the minions of the Criminal Intelligence Department is always at fever heat when the cold weather brings visitors to India; that such exploits are customary in Bengal when the Viceory and his Council are at Calcutta: and that, in the present year in particular, the coincidence of the discovery with the agitation against the internment of suspected Bengali revolutionaries was specially striking. That the existence of the C.I.D. can only be justified by ample cases of detection once it is admitted that subterranean plots are insignificant, they are out of commission. That the Indian public are prone to credit the C.I.D. with "an abnormal capacity for fake-moves," and are so used to the alarums and excursions of the police that they are apt to "impute strategic motives to the discoveries claimed"; nay, local opinion suggests that "the whole coup is dependent upon the agility and enterprise of the agent provocateur—a hideous type of character necessary for all irresponsible governments. The line is lucrative, the perils are small: and, in these days of unemployment, it ought to shine as a prize job, with all the amenities of superior service and with the full immunity of pensioned security."

The paper proceeds to suggest that, even if the discovery is genuine, and not the work of a spy, the fact that the nine young men arrested are only alleged to have produced one bomb between them, and to have been found in possession of only one revolver and one pistol, is a proof that they "must have had a very conservative notion of the necessities of anarchical revolt in Bengal": the C.I.D. have now "to exploit the lodgments of one bomb, one pistol and one revolver—a very representative selection. Two or more of each series would have been more impressive: a promiscuous quantity would have been unanswerable." A Government that, instead of making inquiry into the causes of discontent, "prefers to be execrably selfish and autocratic, to keep their ill-gotten power by unscrupulous coercion, and to stifle inconvenient developments by the abrogation of law and equity" because they cannot afford to face independent investigation, naturally has resort to "trumpery stunts of anarchism."

The paper's remarks about the single bomb remind one of the girl's excuse for her baby "a very little one": and, in its suggestion that the "lodgment" of the three weapons was effected by a police agent, conveniently passes over the quantity of bomb-making materials which were seized at the same time. It is, to a certain extent, true that Government cannot afford to face independent investigation into the cases of a number of persons who have been interned, under the provisions of the Bengal Ordinance, without open trial; but their disclination to do so is not due to any tenderness for their own reputation, but is in the interests of those whom it would then be necessary to call as witnesses—if the latter were to tell what they knew, their lives would not be worth more than a few days' purchase. Shortly before the introduction of the Ordinance, two men were arrested for the throwing of a bomb into a Calcutta cloth shop, owned by a man whom the revolutionaries suspected of being a spy. That individual escaped, but his partner was killed: and the man who actually threw the bomb was convicted. But his accomplice, who was arrested with him, was kept for a few days in prison and then released, as the authorities were confident that, whatever the strength of presumption, the evidence against him would not justify his trial. The revolutionaries believed that he had made a statement to the police while in prison, and that he might be called as a witness against his comrade: with the result that his mutilated body was found, a few days later, on the railway line a post mortem showing conclusively that he had been murdered before being placed there.

It is this sort of thing that Government cannot afford to face. And, though the internees have, under the provisions of the Ordinance, been denied an open trial for that reason, the case against each of them was fully considered by an independent tribunal of judges, who personally examined the evidence and invited each accused to make a statement, in his own defence, against the charges in general: every man against whom this tribunal did not consider the charges to be proved was released: the Viceroy himself examined all the cases held by the tribunal to be proved, and it was only in the cases where his examination upheld the judges' opinion that internment was resorted to. The "abrogation of law and equity" necessarily inherent in special legislation of this sort not only, therefore, proves to have been patently necessary, but also to have been administered with the most anxious care; so that the argument, that any adventitious occurrence, such as the recent discovery, was needed to strengthen the position of Government in the matter, is in itself an absurdity, while the suggestion that the discovery was engineered for the purpose is a malicious absurdity.

I.C.S. Recruitment.

Under the heading "Not Fair," the *Bombay Chronicle* draws attention to what it calls the disparity of recruitment for the Indian Civil Service between the examinations in England and India. It says that while, at the last examination held in England, 36 candidates were selected, those successful at the last examination held in India were only five. It sees in this the result of the "University campaign" undertaken in England; but suggests that "even in an ugly game, there should be something fair; for the propaganda for British youths implied a rather foul disparagement of the quality and number of Indians prepared to compete on equal terms." The Lee Commission had recommended that the ratio of the future should be forty Europeans and forty Indians recruited by open competition out of every hundred vacancies in the I.C.S., the remaining twenty being found by promotion from the Provincial Civil Service, until the attainment of a British and Indian proportion of half and half; but now "the deprivation of equal chances for Indians competing in India seems to be a circuitous threat to check the progress of Indianisation." It was only on the acceptance by Government of the Lee Commission's recommendation in this respect, that Indians consented to drop the demand for complete cessation of European recruitment or, in the alternative, for the holding of the examinations exclusively in India: and it is now suggested that this undertaking has been broken.

The number of successful candidates at the recent I.C.S. examination held in England was 36, 21 of whom were Europeans, and fifteen were Indians. If five Indians were apointed as a result of the examination held in India, it would appear that the proportion laid down was quite accurately observed—greater accuracy, in the case

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of an odd number, could only have been achieved if one of the Europeans were an Anglo-Indian, when it would have been exact. But it is to be remarked that, according to Sir Michael O'Dwyer's analysis in his recent book, 45 Indians were recruited for the I.C.S. during the years 1922-24 in India, and, in the English examination of 1924, out of eleven successful candidates only three were Europeans. It would seem, from these figures, that the boot is really on the other foot: and, as it is impossible to believe that the authorities of the *Bombay Chronicle* have omitted to read Sir Michael's book—if only that they might give it the slating that they must certainly think that any book by such an author deserves—it is obvious that they too must be in possession of the figures given in it; which, so far, they have not attempted to contest. It is seldom that one finds oneself in agreement with the opinions of the *Bombay Chronicle*; but with this one at least, one can quite cordially agree—"even in an ugly game, there should be something fair."

INDIAN COMMERCIAL NOTES.

The annual returns of Joint Stock Companies incorporated in British India are always of interest as showing the lines on which Indian industrial effort specialises from time to time. During the year 1924-25, 33 banking companies were started with an authorised capital of 2½ crores of rupees; 36 printing and publishing companies with a capital of just over half a crore; and 96 general trading and manufacturing companies with a capital of nearly three crores.

But at the moment chief interest is centred in India's textile and tea industries. During 1923-24, nine new cotton manufacturing companies were floated with a capital of just over a crore, and in 1924-25 thirteen with a capital of nearly 1½ crores. There has been no addition to the number of jute mill companies, which is not surprising, as Indian jute mills are at present only working four days a week. In 1923-24 sixteen tea companies were floated with a capital of 81½ lakhs of rupees, and in 1924-25 eighteen with a capital of 65 lakhs. This should be an effectual answer to those critics who claim that India is restricting the production of tea in order to maintain prices. To those who know local conditions in India, it is a matter of common knowledge that the production of tea has increased very considerably since pre-War days. In fact India, more than any other country, has taken advantage of the growing demand for tea in the United Kingdom as well as in North America and the Continent. The exports of Indian tea to these and other destinations, which amounted pre-War to 266 million pounds, increased in 1924-25 to 340 million pounds. Difficulties in the way of further expansion arise not so much from any shortage of capital or land as from restrictions in the supply of efficient labour. So long as labour is difficult to get, slow to train and easily diverted elsewhere, it is obviously more important to employ the existing force in the careful development of gardens in bearing, than to bring additional areas under tea.

It is unfortunate that India cannot take more advantage of the present increase in the demand for rubber. However, production is certainly increasing, for exports of raw rubber from India and Burma amounted before the War to only a little over a million pounds. By 1922-23 they had increased to 12½ million pounds, and by 1924-25 to 18 million pounds, of which 9½ million were produced in the Madras Presidency and 8½ in Burma. Incidentally, rubber is contributing materially to the equation of our annual debt charges to the United States of America. Imports of crude rubber into America from the British East Indies—a term which, of course, includes the Straits Settlements and the Malay Peninsula as well as British India—amounted, during the nine months January to September 1925, to 418 million pounds, valued at 169 million dollars. Allowing 225 million dollars for the full twelve months, and taking the cost of production at the high figure of 75 million dollars, the balance of 150 million dollars practically covers the payment of the year's debt.

INDIAN EXCHANGE.

London, December 14.

We have a very quiet week to report with little change in markets. On the Bombay side there appears to be less inclination on the part of the banks to quote better than 1s. 6 5-32d. for T.T., with occasional remittances at 1-64th higher. In Calcutta the quotation has remained quite steady at 1s. 6 5-32d.; but towards the end of the week, it was possible to obtain 1s. 6 3-16d. T.T. fairly freely for immediate delivery, but the rate does not appear to have much attraction for importers whose requirements have been easy to fill.

Government have been called upon again to make a moderate amount of purchases for ready and near delivery at 1s. 6 3-16d. T.T. but so far as we can ascertain, calls upon them have not been heavy.

Last week the return of the Imperial Bank of India reflected less demand for money, but it may be noted that the notes in circulation have been increased by about Rs. 3 crores against purchases of sterling securities to be retained in London.

The rate for commercial bills has remained quite steady at 1s. 6 15-32d. three months, but the supply of bills seems to have fallen off.

Little activity in the cotton market in Bombay is manifest, and it is unlikely now that much business will be booked before the Christmas holidays. The Indian market for cotton is weaker owing to the recent fall in the American product, and holders' ideas in Bombay have not yet adjusted themselves to the lower level.

In the London market there is no change to report. T.T. is quoted 1s 6 7-32d., with an ocasional seller at 1-64th lower; but the volume of business passing has been limited.

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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

170, *Strand, London, W.C.2.*
Tuesday Morning.

Lord Inchcape on the Position.

As is well known the shipping industry has been particularly affected by the trade depression, and at the meeting of the P. and O. Company Lord Inchcape stated that the present year had been the worst that shipping had ever experienced. The results of most voyages, he declared, had been disastrous, owing to high running costs, heavy dock and labour charges, shortage of cargo, and low rates of freights; while the P. and O. suffered severely as a result of the troubles in China and the unauthorised strike of seamen and firemen in Australia and South Africa. Lord Inchcape, in the course of his speech, dealt with the general trade position, and emphasised the difficulties with which this country was faced in trade development. He is confident that the Peace Pact will in time help the position, but the only remedies in the mean time in his view are increased output, economy in production costs, and reduced taxation.

The P. & O. Dividend.

Dealing with the dividend, Lord Inchcape recalled that at the previous meeting he indicated that unless things improved the dividend on the deferred stock might be reduced. He explained that in paying the interim dividend of 6 per cent. the board had fully anticipated a final dividend of the same amount, but the year's results coupled with the losses of the first three months of the new financial year had compelled a reduction. It will be noted that he stated that the rate of dividend now declared was only made practicable by the investments and reserves that had been built up in more auspicious times. Incidentally he held out little hope for a higher dividend for the current financial year.

Steaua Romana (British).

At the meeting of the Steaua Romana (British), Sir Charles Greenway was able to give a most encouraging review of the position. On the areas of proved State lands which have been allotted to the Steaua Romana Company active drilling is being carried out, and there are now seven wells drilling at Moreni and one at Ochiuri. It is proposed to start work on a further five wells immediately and 20 wells during 1926. "With these developments now well on the way," Sir Charles Greenway added, "we may, I think, look forward with confidence to a considerable increase in Steaua's production in the near future, commencing from the first two well towards the end of 1925 and increasing as succeeding wells come into production during 1926." The production of the Steaua Romana Company for the year ended June 30, amounted to 290,387 tons exclusive of 11,600 tons received in payment of royalties. In October the production was 37,200 tons, and in November 30,240, the reduction being due to the curtailment of production owing to the lack of transport facilities. "It can, therefore, be seen," said Sir Charles Greenway, "that with the new wells shortly expected to come into production at Ceptura, and with the production anticipated from the end of this year on the new lands at Moreni, Ochiuri, and Runcu, the production of the Steaua Romana Company is likely to show a large increase in the near future."

Empire Cotton Growing.

The case for the intensification of efforts to develop cotton growing in the Empire was succinctly put by Sir Edwin Stockton in an address before the textile section of the Manchester School of Technology last night. Pointing out that the position of this country as manufacturers of textiles had changed from what it was before the War and that we no longer possess even half the spindles in the world, he said that if ever America was unable to provide a surplus of cotton for export there would a be most desperate struggle for what there was and no one would be likely to suffer more than Lancashire. It is because of this possibility, as I have often urged in these columns, that it is essential that the work of developing Empire cotton growing should be unceasingly pushed forward. Lancashire might have been affected in the last year or two, as a matter of fact, if there had been any sudden increase in the demand for cotton goods, but the reduced purchasing power of our customers put that out of the question, and for the present season America has a bumper crop of 15,603,000 bales, which will be ample for all contingencies. As other crops are good, cheap cotton seems a certainty this year, and that will help in the revival of trade. Meanwhile the great work that has already been done in developing Empire cotton fields is beginning to yield its results, and another year will find us with much larger supplies of Empire cotton to fall back upon. But we are still far from the ideal of complete independence of America, and that must be our constant goal.

Rubber and Cotton.

How necessary it is that we should be free from dependence on America as regards the supply of cotton is made clear from the attitude taken up by the United States with regard to rubber. The fact that the price of rubber has risen to a rather high level (mainly because the American buyers abstained from making purchases) is a very sore point across the Atlantic. In a letter which has just been published the Secretary for Commerce in America complains that American consumers have been victimised by the artificial raising of the price of rubber. But the restriction scheme, to which he attributes the high prices, was simply and solely introduced to save a great British industry which was in danger of passing into other hands, and as I have pointed out the rise in rubber has been mainly due to the American failure to buy. In the letter referred to the Secretary for Commerce says that he does not favour reprisals but advocates instead what he calls "defensive measures." The measures he suggests are, it is true, confined solely to rubber, but the moral of the letter will not be lost.

COMMENTATOR.

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TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.
(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

EGYPT.

Paper, Ink, Etc.—The Egyptian Government Press are inviting tenders to be received in Cairo by January 23, 1926, for paper, boards, printing ink, cloth, etc. (D.O.T.)

Money Safes.—The Central Stationery Stores, Egyptian Ministry of Finance, invites tenders for the supply of 50 iron money safes, internal dimensions, 18x12x11 inches approximately. Tenders will be received in Egypt up to noon on December 30, 1923.

Electric Motor and Accessories—Manfalout Waterworks Cairo.—The Director-General, Municipalities and Local Commissions Section, Savoy House, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and delivery of: (a) An electric motor for operating a centrifugal pump at the Waterworks at Manfalout, complete with insulated conductors, switchboard and all accessories. (b) The execution of the foundations for the motor. (c) The modification of the overhead line between the power station and the waterworks. January 20. (D.O.T.)

Clothing, Etc.—The Director of the Police Stores Department of the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of clothing and necessaries required for the police and ghafir services during the year 1926-27. The following is a summary of the principal stores required:—17,820 pairs of ankle boots, with laces; 11,500 brown woollen blankets; 32,000 non-inflammable shirt collars; 30,000 cotton drawers; 28,500 cotton shirts; 11,000 pairs cotton and woollen socks; 33,000 tarbushes and tassels; 40,000 brown woollen libdas (for ghafir service); 20,000 blue drill drawers and belts (for ghafir service); 15,000 pairs of cotton gloves; 6,920 woollen jerseys; 6,700 khaki drill uniforms; 3,000 khaki serge uniforms; 5,500 pairs of black cloth trousers; 6,950 pairs of breeches (Bedford and khaki cord and drill); 7,860 greatcoats; 17,460 chevrons; 90,000 tins of boot blacking; 100,000 heel-balls; 105,000 pieces of palm-oil soap. February 20. (D.O.T.)

Lock Bridge.—The Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, invites tenders for the construction of the new lock bridge over the Mahmoudia Canal at Alexandria. This bridge is designed with a superstructure for two railway tracks and a road bridge. It will be built on the existing masonry which will have to be modified in consequence. Tenderers may submit such offer as they deem best according to the information they may obtain from the general drawings of the Administration, suggesting three solutions of swing bridges and a solution of a lift bridge. February 16.

Bunting, Canvas, Ropes, Hose (Canvas and Armoured Rubber), Etc.—The Egyptian Ministry of Communications invites tenders for the above goods. February 4. (D.O.T.

THE SUDAN.

Steam Launches.—The Inspector-General of Irrigation, Sudan, Khartoum, invites tenders for the supply of three steam launches for use on the Upper Nile. January 31.

TURKEY.

Railway Vehicles.—The Anatolian Railway Administration invites tenders for the supply of 12 passenger coaches, 5 postal vans and 250 goods trucks. January 16. (D.O.T.)

Railwty Carriage Parts and Fittings.—The Anatolian Railway Administration invites tenders for draw-hooks, buffers and casings, and complete equipment with safety cords. January 8. (D.O.T.)

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £ ...	97⅛	97⅛
Athens	Drachmæ to £ ...	25 22½	380—385
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	273½
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.36½
Berne	Francs to £.....	25.22½	25.15
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 5/32—7/32
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	107
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	1,040 – 1.055
Budapest	Kronen to £ ...	24 02	345-348,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 5/32—7/32
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	910
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4 84½
Paris	Francs to £.....	25.22½	131.30—123.25
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	163½
Rome	Lire to £	25 22½	120¼
Sofia.....	Leva to £	25.22½	665
Teheran	Krans to £	50	44
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	34.41
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	42—44

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THE SUDAN IN 1924.

The "Report on the Finances, Administration, and Condition of the Sudan in 1924," which has just been issued—the last report, incidentally, which will bear Lord Allenby's name—gives a most interesting and, it may be added, most encouraging survey of the economic position of that country. The year in question, indeed, marked a further and most decided stage in the economic advance of the Sudan. The actual surplus on the Budget greatly exceeded the estimates, there was an increase in the external trade, while compensation for the depression in the cattle and sheep trade was found in the exceptionally high prices that were obtained for cotton and gum. It is out of the question owing to considerations of space to cover the report as a whole, but the following extracts will serve to give some idea of the satisfactory condition of the Sudan, and of the undoubted advance that has been made during the period:—

The general scale of economic production is steadily increasing. The inauguration of the Gezireh irrigation scheme in time for the 1925-26 cotton season is now practically assured, and this still remains the dominant factor in the financial situation. It will not affect the accounts for 1925, but in 1926 the Government will, for the first time, have to meet full interest charges on its guaranteed loans out of revenue, and will also receive its share in the proceeds of the cotton produced. It is now hoped that 80,000 acres will be put under cotton for the first season. If anything like the present price level for sakellarides cotton is maintained then, with only a moderate yield, there should be a surplus of receipts over interest charges even during the first year. The Government is, however, prepared for much less favourable results than this. A special reserve fund (which by the end of 1925 will amount to £E675,000) has been built up to meet possible deficits during the first years of working, and as an insurance fund against such possible disasters as burst canal banks, etc., which might entail exceptional loss or expenditure.

Apart from the Gezireh scheme, projects for the cultivation of rain-grown cotton have been started in every province where there is any possibility of economic production. It would be unwise to expect very rapid developments in this direction owing to the scattered distribution of the population and the transport problems which this condition involves. Results so far, however, are most encouraging, and the ultimate prospects are of great importance. If the southern provinces such as the Nuba Mountains, Upper Nile, Mongalla and Bahr-el-Ghazal can only be put into the position by this means of paying for the cost of their own administration, it will have a substantial effect on the financial position of the Sudan as a whole.

Cotton.—The most striking development in production is the large increase in the quantity of cotton and cotton seed exported. The figures for 1923 and 1924 are as follows:—

	Cotton.		Cotton Seed.		Total
	Quantity. Tons.	Value. £E.	Quantity. Tons.	Value. £E.	Value. £E.
1923 ...	5,093	458,188	9,323	71,235	529,423
1924 ...	8,364	1,460,991	18,003	156,669	1,617,660

The most interesting feature has been the large increase in production of cotton of American long-stapled type grown by means of rainfall only. In 1923-24 this rain-grown crop produced only 12,212 kantars as compared with an estimated yield of 44,700 kantars for 1924-25. As this kind of cotton can be grown, roughly speaking, all over the Southern Sudan, which contains two-thirds of the population, the industry has great possibilities. Owing, however, to the primitive condition of the population, its wide-scattered distribution and the consequent difficulties of transport, progress will be slow. Prices at present are remarkably high and attractive, and, in contrast to lower returns from grain, etc., have provided an exceptional impetus, while there is every reason to expect that the advertistment which rain-grown cotton has obtained as a "money" crop will lead to a large extension of its cultivation. It is not anticipated that cotton growing will have any serious effect in diminishing the cultivation of food crops. There has also been an increase in the production of high-grade American cotton on pump areas north of Khartoum.

Dates.—The quantity of dates exported was 4,189 tons, as compared with 3,761 in 1923, values being £E47,324 and £E52,805 respectively. The three provinces of Halfa, Dongola and Berber contain over 1¼ million mature date trees. Economically, the crop is the backbone of these provinces, and the whole question of the industry is now being investigated by Professor Silas G. Mason, of the United States Department of Agriculture, a well-known authority on the subject, who was invited to visit the Sudan and give the Government the benefit of his advice.

Gum Arabic.—The output of gum arabic, though not up to the record export of 1923, was eminently satisfactory. Prices were good and obviously sufficiently high to stimulate collection. Gum is picked in the interval between the end of the rains of one season and the beginning of those of the next. Although, as picking was delayed by late rains, last season was not a good one, the high price brought in gum from districts far afield. Darfur Province, for example, now exports large quantities through El Obeid.

Condition of the People.—A further improvement in the material condition and purchasing power of the people is reflected in the increase in value of public imports from £E2,974,225 to £E3,654,700, and the year has been a good one for the native producer. The increase in cotton production, combined with high prices, has brought an extra £E1,000,000 into the country and, as already stated, the gum trade still remains good and much above average. The sheep trade is depressed, but there has been some compensation for this in a large export of camels to Egypt, while the smaller output of sesame is off-set by an increase in production of ground-nuts. The Sennar dam and canalisation works are still directly employing large number of natives and also indirectly providing a means of income to many others. Dura has been fetching very good prices and exports have been little less than last year. Signs of improved prosperity are to be found in a 10 per cent. increase in sugar consumption and larger imports of tea and coffee; while the value of the import of cotton piece-goods is well maintained.

Foreign Interest in Economic Development.—There are many signs to be observed of the increasing interest which the outside world is taking in economic developments in the Sudan. The approaching completion this summer of the great irrigation works in the Gezireh, which have attracted wide interest, is apparently to coincide with a scarcity of high grade cotton and exceptionally high prices. The opening to regular traffic of the Kassala Railway and the systematic development of the Gash delta under cotton are important new events.

The continuous increase in shipping at Port Sudan is bringing the Sudan into direct touch with almost every country in the world, and an extension of the port has become an urgent necessity. Work is now being begun which will provide two separate coal quays and thus release two berths, formerly used for coal, for general cargo. Funds for these harbour works and for rolling-stock for the railways have been raised by a loan guaranteed as to principal and interest by the British Government under the Trade Facilities Act.

The tonnage of ships calling at the port before the War was about 700,000 tons per annum. In 1924 the tonnage was 2,523,299 and 699 ships entered the port, 669 with a tonnage of 2,478,280 being merchant ships. The port is also being used much more than formerly as a passenger route, and the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company and the Bibby Line have recently begun to call there.

Railway Extension and Road Transport.—The question of railway extension, especially in connection with the encouragement of the cultivation of rain-grown cotton, either eastwards across the dam at Sennar or southwards from Kassala, is being carefully investigated. There are now a number of motor-car passenger services run by private enterprise in various parts of the country. Ford cars are almost universally employed. The Government is undertaking experiments in the development of trans-

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port of goods by motor. The passenger and goods service run by the Government between Rejaf and Aba in the Belgian Congo is carrying an increasing quantity of traffic, and an experimental service has been started in Eastern Mongalla from Mongalla to Torit, which is picking up a number of passengers from Uganda and Kenya.

Forests.—Gum.—The year has not been a particularly good one, and the yield per tree was smaller than last year's yield, which was, however, above average. Distribution of Hashab seed to natives is being continued and steps taken to encourage them to maintain their gum gardens in a productive state. At El Obeid a record has been kept showing the district of origin of all gum brought to the market with the idea of analysing the crops and finding the areas from which the best gum comes and also of keeping a check on changes in quantity. The market system has been successful and is now serving as a model on which to set up markets in Gedaref and Singa districts and in the Nuba Mountains. In the Nuba Mountains, Kassala, White Nile and Fung Provinces attempts are being made to improve the method of gum tapping to increase the supply, and to improve marketing conditions.

Wood Fuel.—The supply to Government steamers, Government Departments and Tayiba and Barakat pumping stations has been maintained and all reqquirements again satisfactorily met. The fire-wood store in Khartoum continues to regulate the price of fuel in Khartoum and safeguards the supply. The contractors at the Sennar dam have this year cut fully 120,000 metres, exclusive of 40,000 metres cut by them in the area to be flooded by the dam. This has been a considerable drain on the resources of that district, and regeneration measures extending over several years will be needed to ensure that on the areas cut a good crop is established. The cutting of scrub for fuel in Khartoum Province has been checked, as the flock owners were complaining of damage to grazing. The general policy being followed is to limit cutting to areas on which regeneration is easy and on which efforts towards it can be concentrated.

Afforestation, Etc.—During the year about 10,000 lb. of sunt seed have been treated in Khartoum and sent to out-stations. In addition, large quantities have been collected at various stations and have been prepared and sown on the spot. On the White Nile 750 feddans of new plantations have been laid down. On the Blue Nile all felled areas are receiving attention. Natural regeneration is encouraged by clearing, fencing and coppicing, and the blank areas are being sown with prepared seed. On both the White and the Blue Niles difficulty has been experienced this year in obtaining labour at reasonable rates, as the men are attracted to the cotton cultivation. In Khartoum Province efforts to obtain river land for a Khartoum fuel forest have again fallen through. Further efforts are being made, as it is most desirable that the encouraging results of the experiments now being conducted locally should be applied to a forest on a commercial scale sufficient to meet Khartoum requirements. In Berber Province a forest reserve has been created in Wad Hamed Basin, where over 2,000 feddans are now protected and producing excellent growth. During the year the Inspector of Forests, Blue Nile Province, carried out extensive forest surveys in the Fung Province, as a result of which most valuable information has been obtained on the extent of untouched forest areas which are likely to become of importance in view of the denudation in the Sennar area. The mahogany which has been lying in the log in Khartoum for some years is being hand-sawn and disposed of locally. There is a steady and increasing demand, and it would seem as if the good qualities of this fine timber were at last being recognised. A representative exhibit of forest products was sent to Wembley Exhibition and has resulted in several important inquiries from traders.

With regard to the future, the main problem which still awaits solution is the establishment of a Khartoum fuel forest of some 7,000 feddans, and as noted above, further endeavours will be made to obtain the necessary land. The White Nile wood supply service is on a sound basis, while the Blue Nile forestry staff, on the completion of work at the Sennar dam, will be available for the regeneration of the cleared areas. Sudan timbers will be developed and an endeavour made to capture for the country a portion of the £200,000 which annually leaves the Sudan to pay for foreign timber of a very low grade.

NEW ELLERMAN LINES STEAMER.

The launch took place recently at the Wallsend Yard of Messrs. Swan, Hunter and Wigham Richardson, Ltd., of the single-screw steamer City of Lyons, built for the Ellerman Lines Ltd.

The City of Lyons, 455 ft. in length, has a cruiser-shaped stern, is rigged as a two-master, fore and aft. schooner, and has five cargo holds with five large hatchways leading to same, served by 18 steel cargo derricks and seventeen steam winches.

All cargo holds, 'tween decks, and bunkers are fitted with steam fire extinguishing pipes, and the double bottom is arranged for carry oil fuel as well as water ballast. Deep tanks are installed abaft the engine room, and at the after-end of No. 2 hold. Electric lighting will be fitted throughout the ship, which was biult to the highest class of Lloyd's. All acommodation will be steam heated, the installation being supplied and fitted by M. W. Swinburne and Sons, Ltd., Wallsend-on-Tyne.

The propelling machinery of the steamer will consist of one set of Parsons' impulse reaction type turbines and single reduction mechanical gearing, which are being built by the Wallsend Slipway and Engineering Co., Ltd., Wallsend, who are also providing the three single-ended boilers to be placed amidships, of the ordinary multitubular type, aranged for working with Howden-Ljungstrom air preheaters and fited with superheaters, the working pressure being 240 lb. per square inch.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses :—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Elysia for Bombay (Liverpool, December 23). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Malakuta for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 24).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Leicestershire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, December 30).

British India Line.—S.s. Gharinda for Bombay and Karachi (London, December 19); s.s. Mashobra for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 19).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Brescia for Patras, Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, December 19).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Birmingham for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 24).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Wigmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 26); s.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, January 2).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Kaisar-i-Hind for Bombay (London, December 24; s.s. Nagoya for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (Liverpool, Janury 9).

Prince Line.—S.s. Syrian Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, and Beyrout (Manchester, December 24).

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*CIRCASSIA, Jany 12, 1926.	*ELYSIA, April 13.
*CASTALIA, Feb. 2.	*CIRCASSIA, April 30
*OLYMPIA, Feb. 19.	*CASTALIA, May 14.
*SCINDA, Mar. 4.	*OLYMPIA, May 28.
*BRITANNIA, Mar. 16	*SCINDIA June 11

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Motors and Motoring.

By G. B. B.

It is impossible to over-estimate the growing importance of the Indian and Middle East markets, and although practically every British motor car manufacturer knows the value, and the increasing value at that, of the markets of the Near East, he is prone to disregard all information that comes from, say, South-East of Basrah. This, in spite of the fact that one British maker of world-wide repute has repeatedly published news regarding the number and value of cars sold in India by the firm.

Of course, the British manufacturer is obsessed with the idea that there is some political reason why he should not trade with India or why India should not trade with him; he is not sure which. He is prone to agree with those who say India offers a promising field for exploration: but he agrees with the reservation that whilst that may be true of the near, it is not true of the immediate, future. He considers, for some reason, that the country is in an unsettled state and says in effect, that he will consider pushing his wares in the Indian market when the country "has settled down."

Of course, it is far from easy to discern the ultimate economic destiny which forms the ideal of India. On the one hand there is a great and deeply-rooted dread of Free Trade: an apprehension lest India should be flooded with foreign goods of any and every type, dumped down on her shores and offered for sale at any price which it is thought the goods will be likely to fetch. On the other hand there is a vast body of opinion which is anxious to see foreign made goods admitted into Indian markets, and there are those who would restrict the importation of goods from some countries and allow them to come in freely from others. There is, in some quarters, an unwillingness to allow certain Indian raw products to be exported to countries where they are wanted. The fallacies are the assumption that any foreigner, were Free Trade adopted *in toto*, would flood the Indian markets with any goods which he could not sell at a good and immediate profit. As has been said to me by many Indian traders: Indians of a certain school of thought are prone to forget that sellers who wish to protect themselves properly are bound to study the purchasing power of the countries with which they intend to deal and by reason of this very fact it is impossible to conceive of any foreign country pouring manufactured goods into the Indian market unless it was known that a ready and profitable trade could be done forthwith.

Indian Motorists.

Further to my recent note regarding Indian roads and my criticism of a writer who had alleged that there were probably not more than ten miles of paved roads in India, I might mention the activities of the Western India Automobile Association which has been, for the past three or four years engaged in tackling current problems in respect of roads, and road users generally, including pedestrians and the users of commercial motors. The Association came into existence to meet a demand for an organisation which should look after the comfort of its members on the road and champion their interests whenever necessary. I need hardly say so energetic a body could not flourish, as it is doing, in a country where there are no roads for motorists to travel upon. Even so, I hear from an Indian correspondent that energetic as is the W.I.A.A., there are still thousands of Indian motorists who have not yet joined it.

I wonder if it strikes our doubting manufacturers that the mere fact that a powerful Automobile Association is in being in India and that "thousands of motorists have not yet joined it" speaks volumes as to the motor business already done and to be done in India?

Indian Week-Ends.

The week-end habit is growing in India, but one of the difficulties the week-ender at Calcutta has to contend against is that there is little or no elevated or even moderately high ground within a range of about 200 miles from the city. In order to reach a really suitable, cool holiday climate it will be necessary for the motorist to run out to such places as Darjeeling and Shillong, which means a journey of from 10 to 15 hours or more. The roads out are uniformly good, speaking generally, and although there are many steep gradients to be met with few, if any, are more than about one in fifteen and any ordinary car romps up them with ease.

Front-Wheel Brakes.

I have been asked whether I think that the present "craze" for front-wheel brakes is more than a passing fancy and in reply I would express my firm conviction that the front-wheel brake has come to stay. I was one of those who, when the idea first seemed like becoming popular in this country, pointed out that there were certain risks attached to this system of braking if the design, fitting and adjustment were not of the highest class and in perfect order. But British engineers have paid the closest attention to such parts and as a result, whereas, as the *Motor* says, at this time last year criticisms were heard to the effect that many ill-conceived designs had been fitted to cars in a hurry, this year the more prevalent opinions would appear to be that front-whel brakes have reached a more practical and satisfactory stage of development.

Certainly it would seem that the modern front-wheel brake is not liable to affect steering control as to prove in any way dangerous as regards the stability of the car to which it is fitted, and it is certain that by braking on four wheels instead of two the driver experiences unusual immunity, on grease, from skidding.

Steering Lock.

The point has been raised that in many cases the fitting of front-wheel brakes has been accompanied by a diminution of steering lock, which is to say that the car cannot be steered in a circle of so small a circumference as formely. Of course, this has nothing whatever to do with the question of front-wheel brakes, but is merely a matter of fitting. When brake connexions have to be taken to a pivoted wheel, these connexions must be jointed. There must consequently be some jointing method adopted and all this takes up room and it may well happen in some instances that the space taken up in this way interferes with a more extended movement of the wheels and so does reduce steering lock. But, as I said before, this is a matter of design and fitting and has nothing whatever to do with the merits or demerits of the front brake itself.

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COMMERCIAL BOOKSHELF.

A Hundred Years Ago and Now.

"FINANCIAL RECONSTRUCTION IN ENGLAND, 1815—1822." By A. W. Acworth, B.A. (P. S. King and Son, Ltd. 8s. 6d net.)

It is a trite saying that history repeats itself, but for the majority of people it is to be feared that the statement is much easier than the comprehension of the fact. The study of comparative politics is said to be the training for statecraft, but we may sometimes perhaps be pardoned for wondering if some modern politicians do not treat events in blissful ignorance that there ever was a similar period. But if that is the case it is perhaps unfair to blame them unduly, for the study of conditions a hundred years ago, when the close of the Napoleonic War gave rise to problems very similar in character to those with which we have been faced since 1918, is not encouraged in this country in places where they teach. Perhaps it is too recent to form correct views, or perhaps history, like wine, gathers bouquet with age. However, it may be, the fact remains that undue emphasis is placed on ancient and mediæval developments in the story of man's progress with the result that modern history has suffered by comparison. Yet modern history, as Mr. Acworth shows in his admirable work has lessons to teach of far more immediate value than anything that can be found in the stories of the Greeks and Romans, and when one reads of the developments following 1815 as he unfolds them and remembers how each adverse happening since the Armistice has been hailed with surprise it is difficult to avoid a smile. Probably if the world should be so unfortunate as to have another great struggle at some distant date it will be just the same again afterwards. With the end of the war miracles will be expected, a trade revival of an unprecedented scale will be looked for combined with far better conditions than existed before the war began, as if the wholesale destruction of life and property and the general disorganisation could make such an outcome possible. But that is what was foretold this time.

Mr. Acworth's book deserves the closest study, for it is indeed a most notable and scholarly survey of a period which in view of present circumstances has become of surpassing interest, and a perusal of it will serve to bring home how close a parallel is possible between the periods from 1815 onwards and the present time. In 1815 the British Government was faced with the same financial problems as in 1918. Expenditure had to be curtailed, taxation reduced, some method discovered for dealing with the oppressive debt, and the currency had to be restored to a stable basis. There was no Press of any significance in those days, but there was none the less a sustained campaign for economy, a thing as difficult to accomplish then as now owing to the nature of the expenditure to be met. The French wars added more than £600 millions to the National Debt, making it at the end of 1815 £861 millions, and some of the remarks made upon the total which Mr. Ackworth quotes bring home very forcibly the similarity between the two periods. I will only give one:—"A millstone which was crushing the country under its weight." A number of proposals were put forward to deal with the Debt problem, among them being one for a tax on capital, or, in other words, a capital levy. The idea of a levy, Mr. Acworth points out incidentally, was first put forward in 1714—after another great war, in fact, that of the Spanish Succession! Of course, there was no more prospect of the proposal being adopted after 1815 than there is now. Mr. Acworth deals in detail with the return to the gold standard and with the re-introduction of gold coin, which, be it noted, was partially commenced in 1820, and was completely in operation three years later. A final chapter is devoted to the general state of the country during the period in question, and this is by no means the least interesting part of the book. There was general distress, widespread unemployment and dissatisfaction, and the position was only slightly relieved by occasional revivals of trade which soon died down again.

The official explanation of the depressed state of the country was "the transition from war to peace"—an explanation that is sound enough in a way. The sudden failure of the war demand for a large range of articles could not be immediately counterbalanced by the recovery of the peace market; and thousands of men were inevitably thrown out of employment. . . . But the "transition" explanation is inadequate—for two reasons. In the first place, almost all industries were affected . . . . In the second place, the distress was so extended in time that "the transition from war to peace" becomes almost farcical as an explanation.

As a matter of fact, as Mr. Acworth points out there was no real revival of prosperity until 1851, but happily through the parallel between the two periods is so exact we need not accept this unfortunate omen for there are a number of favourable circumstances in operation now which did not obtain a hundred years ago: for one thing, the growing importance of the raw materials of the Empire might be cited. One last and most interesting parallel may be given. After 1815 as after 1918 there was a great growth of tariffs. Mr. Acworth quotes a speech on the subject by Brougham who said: "It is not in France merely . . . . that our intercourse enjoys no facilities. In what corner of Europe does it possess them?" The appositeness of this remark in regard to trade in some regions to-day scarcely needs emphasis.

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An order for 23,000 tons of steel rails for the Egyptian State Railways has been secured by Messrs. Bolckow, Vaughan, and Co., Ltd., of Middlesbrough.

Steaua Romana (British), Ltd., are advised that the production of Steaua Romana (Bucharest) for November was 30,240 tons. Production was curtailed owing to lack of transport facilities.

The Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway Company recommends a final dividend of 5 per cent., together with a bonus of 3 per cent., making 13 per cent. The dividend and bonus will be paid, less tax at 2s. 3d. in the £, on January 25.

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Company Meeting.

PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION.

Review of Shipping Conditions.

Lord Inchcape's Speech.

Viscount Inchcape, presiding on December 9 at the eighty-fifth annual meeting of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, said that the present year had been the worst which shipping had ever experienced.

The Year's Results.

The results of most voyages had, owing to high running costs, heavy dock and labour charges, shortage of cargo and low rates of freights, been disastrous, while the troubles in China and the unauthorised strike of seamen and firemen in Australia and South Africa had inflicted on the P. and O., as on many other shipowners, gigantic losses.

The Accounts.

Passing to the accounts, his lordship said that the insurance account, with an increase for the year of £60,197 19s. 10d., stood at £3,278,279 0s. 7d. after payment of claims to September 30. The provident good service fund had been increased by £40,000 to £350,000, a sum in excess of their actuarial liability for pensions. He was sure they, the stockholders, would agree that the pension fund should be treated as a first charge on the company's revenue.

The Fleet.

The fleet now numbered 57 vessels, totalling 584,461 tons of an average age of seven years.

They had been obliged to spend an enormous amount on replacing ships sunk by enemy action and vessels which had become obsolete, builders' prices having been far above the pre-War level; but they had to put the fleet in a condition to fulfil their mail contracts, to maintain their passenger and cargo services and to hold the trades they had served for so many years.

Their post-War building programme had been accomplished, but under most discouraging conditions; but, despite the need to replace older ships, they had called a halt as they could not face present prices.

All the new vessels except the Rajputana were now in commission. The Mooltan, Maloja, Moldavia, Mongolia, Razmak, Ranpura, Ranchi, Rawalpindi, Chitral, Comorin and Cathay had completed one or more voyages and were proving favourites with the travelling public.

From passengers in the Rawalpindi at the conclusion of her maiden voyage he had, he said, received a Radio message—"Passengers Rawalpindi desire to express to you and the directors their appreciation of fine ship and untiring efforts of Captain Redhead and ship's company to ensure comfort." Another telegram from Bombay said that the Ranchi's maiden passage to the East had been most successful.

The Caledonia, Soudan, Sardinia, Sicilia and Nore had been sold to be broken up, at prices in excess of their book value.

The new vessels were all oil burners, and their machinery, seagoing qualities and speed were proving satisfactory. With lower working costs and a revival of trade they should be profitable, but meantime he was afraid many of their voyages would result in debit balances.

The Dividend.

He had indicated a year ago that unless things improved they might be obliged to reduce the dividend and, greatly to his regret, this had proved to be the case. In paying the interim dividend of 6 per cent. they had fully expected to give a final dividend at the same rate, but despite the efforts of their economy committee and the loyal help of their staff, the year's results, coupled with the losses of the first three months of the new financial year, had compelled the reduction of the final dividend to 4 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year. This they had been enabled to do only through their investments and their reserve, built up in better times. He could, he continued, hold out but little hope of a higher dividend for the current financial year.

He felt perfectly certain they would agree with the board that in view of the state of trade and the gloomy prospects for shipping it was prudent to conserve the company's resources rather than to distribute up to the hilt.

Continuing, he said that their stock exchange securities were not over valued; their investments in allied companies, while they had as a whole appreciated in value, stood at the purchase price; they had not been written up. To write up investments was, he considered, a mistake, as the day might come when they would have to be written down. The P. and O. Company was sound and he thought, despite passing adversities, it would remain so.

After deducting depreciation at 5 per cent. their steamers stood in the books at less than their original cost. Taking from their book value some as yet unappropriated balances of about £1,000,000; their reserve and contingency funds, £2,607,020 and, say, £2,000,000 from the insurance fund (leaving it at £1,278,000, more than sufficient to cover claims and to re-insure current risks), they had £5,607,950 in hand against the book value of the fleet as a provision for the uncertain future. But, he said, he had no need to point out that vessels valued at even nominal figures were, if unprofitable, no good to their owners. That, he said, was a condition which they had to combat to-day.

Safeguarding of Industries Act Condemned.

Without wishing to be dogmatic he feared, unless the progress of the Safeguarding of Industries Act were checked, we should soon become a protectionist country. He agreed with Sir Hugh Bell: if an industry could not carry on without aid from the taxpayer, it was better to let the industry go. Subsidy by the Government could be only a temporary palliative.

These small Islands, unlike America, were not economically independent; and it was preferable to leave industry to work out its own salvation, the Government taking a share of the profits by means of taxes, with no responsibility for losses.

Dominion Tariffs.

It was, he continued, a common cry that we ought to develop trade with the Dominions, but India, an agricultural country with huge potentialities, seemed disposed to shut out our manufacturers by a wall of tariffs or subsidies, the latest proposal being an import duty on British coal.

Again, Australia, whose population had increased from 3,773,000 to 5,435,000 in the twenty years ending 1921, showed in the same period a decrease in her percentage of primary workers from 32 to 25, while the percentage of industrial workers had risen from 26 to 31. It was a safe assumption that in the new census period the process had continued and the figures went to show that an increasing proportion of immigrants into Australia were being attracted to town industries rather than to country occupations, while such industries were being more and more protected against imports.

It appeared to be the aim of both India and the Dominions to manufacture all they required and to import nothing. For this reason Great Britain could not rely on Empire trade, for the Dominions, as they developed their industries, would, he feared, offer smaller markets for British manufactures.

We could not escape our dependence on foreign markets. To bolster up industries by import duties would put up prices and the duties would in fact be paid by the consumers among our own people. Our population could not consume all the products of our factories; if they could, where, he asked, would they get the money to pay for them? Not from the land or from our climate and, as to coal, our only exportable mineral, our competitors at present costs were able to undersell us.

The land policy of which we had lately heard so much seemed only to resemble the idea started a few years ago to plough up the hillsides, the moors and the forests of Scotland.

The Gold Standard.

The nation, he continued, did not want the printing press turned on to meet its obligations, and he was convinced it had been right to restore the gold standard. Although the freeing of gold had threatened a drain on our stocks, the raising of the Bank Rate had steadied the position. A revival of foreign borrowing in our market should help our export trade, for what we lent abroad would, for the most part, be taken, not in bullion or transferred credits, but in goods, manufactures, or, possibly, coal.

With the gold standard restored, London should continue to be the world's financial centre.

Whether or not they agreed with him in the views he had expressed, the board was one in its determination to reduce the expenditure and improve the revenue of the P. and O. Company consistently with the maintenance of efficiency and public goodwill.

Surplus Shipping.

He associated himself with the remarks which recently fell from Sir Frederick Lewis on the subject of surplus shipping. Millions of tons were laid up; and few ships in commission were earning sufficient to cover working expenses.

For the Government under the Trades Facilities Act to advance money to build more ships would aggravate the disastrous condition of the industry, in which millions of the people's savings were invested. All interested in shipping must applaud the Prime Minister's refusal of the proposal. As he, if he might venture to say so, very wisely said: "Such a grant would prove not more than

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a temporary relief and it is generally believed that there is already a large amount of surplus cargo tonnage in the world."

To substitute, at the expense of the taxpayers, as had been suggested, new ships for old, while it might be an excellent idea for some shipowners, was not likely to commend itself to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Trade Adversities and the Remedy.

Heavy production costs were placing this country at a great disadvantage in the world's markets; and while present conditions continued there would be but little hope of regaining trade outlets which we had lost or of finding new ones. The excess over imports of our visible exports, and the shrinkage of our invisible exports, were a grave menace to the country's solvency. Adverse trade balances would, if continued, damage our national credit and, by raising prices, reduce the value of wages. The Peace Pact so ably negociated by Sir Austen Chamberlain would in time assuredly help the position; but meanwhile, increased output, economy in production costs and reduced taxation seemed to him to be the only remedies.

Taxation and Trade Disputes.

Although the Chancellor was making every effort to reduce public expenditure, large sums which would ordinarily remain with industry as reproductive capital were being taken from the taxpayer often for unproductive purposes. There was a general cry for economy; but as Mr. Churchill had said, when it came to touching the pockets of the individual voters, the members of the threatened constituency were up in arms. The Government had stuck to their guns in the case of Rosyth and Pembroke Docks; and a considerable saving would consequently result.

The abolition of submarines, if it could be brought about by international agreement, would effect a material saving in the country's expenditure. Since the War we had spent 47 millions in building submarines. He would remind them, too, that out of a total loss by the P. and O. and associated lines of 504,316 tons of shipping in the War, 400,000 tons were destroyed by enemy submarines.

Continuing, he said, there was no end to the extravagance of some of the municipal authorities, while labour leaders, with one or two exceptions, were pursuing courses which tended to paralyse trade and throw their fellow-countrymen on to the demoralising dole.

In the recent attempt to band the trade unions together, an attempt which, thanks to the good sense of a number of the union chiefs, had not, so far, materialised, there was a latent threat to hold the public to ransom at any cost in order to obtain a decision against employers. One leader had said the slogan of his disciples must be

"Not a cent off the pay,
Not a minute more a day."

Some of the union leaders, he said, appreciated the economic situation as to wages, working hours and output; others did not. The latter refused to recognise that industry could not indefinitely be carried on at a loss and that without a margin sufficient to cover working expenses industries must close down, unemployment be increased and further burdens thrown on the national and municipal exchequers.

One extremist had publicly said "To hell with the Empire." They could afford to regard such an outburst as a characteristic expression of Communist mentality, but when Communists further proceeded to advocate sedition it was satitsfactory to learn that they had been punished for the offence against the law.

Revolution in these islands was, he said, inconceivable. For here the law was administered equally for the rich as for the poor and the overwhelming majority of the population realised that under a Communist regime all private property and savings would be confiscated, liberty destroyed, and grinding poverty become universal. The freedom of the people would be preserved, providing legislation was framed so as to ensure individual liberty; and the Government would have the country behind them in any legal action to get rid of a conspiracy engineered by a handful of anarchists with their headquarters in Moscow.

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The Trade Disputes Act.

He believed that not 10 per cent. of the seamen and firemen who recently refused duty and broke their agreement in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa had their hearts in the strike, into which they were intimidated by avowed Communists. It was significant that only vessels under the British flag were involved while foreign vessels were left alone. The extremists had been defeated at the polls by the Prime Minister, Mr. Bruce, a statesman of courage and determination, and they might reasonably now expect a more settled state of affairs. Here, the leader of a miniature opposition union had sought to force seamen into a strike by what is known as peaceful picketing, in which there was little in the nature of peace but a vast amount of terrorism and sometimes brutal assault. It seemed to him to be essential for the law to be altered so that people might be free to go about their legitimate occupations in peace.

Socialism and Communism.

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald in recent speeches had said he was against revolution in this democratic country; so was he, the speaker. Mr. MacDonald had said that the present system of industry worked by private capital had broken down, that it had produced unemployment and an unjust distribution of the amenities of life. Here, Lord Inchcape remarked, he joined issue. Eighty or ninety per cent. of the capital employed in industry was held, not by wealthy men, but by small, thrifty investors. If all commercial and industrial undertakings were to be worked by Government officials, individual initiative would be strangled and the country would rapidly become bankrupt. He was, he said, convinced that Mr. MacDonald would never embark on any such device. Mr. MacDonald had stated that 95 per cent. of people in this country did not understand what was meant by Socialism. Lord Inchcape said he was one of the 95 per cent. They had, however, got from Mr. MacDonald an assurance that Socialism did not mean Communism, and that "to establish Communism would take generations of starvation, industrial ruin and national chaos." To quote the late Lord Fisher, the nation might, as a practical people "sleep quietly in their beds." They would still be able to say "God save the King."

The people of these islands would never succumb to seditious doctrine; and as long as their sons and daughters—especially those from Scotland—were ready to go to the Dominions to test their fortunes he, and he was sure they, his hearers, need have no fear for the solidarity of the British Empire.

Statistics.

Regarding the work done by their combined services during the year under review, there had, he continued, been 434 ships in commission; cargo carried, 14,894,344 tons; the distance traversed, 16,454,430 sea miles; the port entries had numbered 28,556. The number of passengers carried had been 2,006,806; the number of animals, 294,918. The expenditure on wages and victualling of crews had been £4,878,590.

Profit Sharing for Employees.

He had, he continued, for some time sought to discover a scheme by which employees might, without risk, participate in the company's profits; and had hit on a plan which he thought was both simple and practical. The board had therefore announced that employees of the P. and O. and British India Companies might make deposits which would bear interest at 5 per cent. per annum with, in any year when the deferred dividend was 5 per cent. or over, an additional 2 per cent. or, when the dividend was 10 per cent. or over, an additional 2½ per cent. The directors felt that this would be an added incentive to employees, who had so much in their hands, to care for the company's interests, and while ensuring them a reasonable return on their deposits would enable them to share with the stockholders the fruits of anything they, the employees, might do to improve the company's returns. The scheme would be open to all the employees of the allied companies.

Thanks to the Officers and Staff.

He would like, before concluding his remarks, to pay a tribute to the continued devotion of the staff of the P. and O. and allied companies, ashore and afloat, at home and abroad, with whom their relations were of the most friendly character. In the now nearly ninety years of the P. and O. Company's existence there had always prevailed a spirit of kinship, a sense of loyalty, a pride in the company; sentiments which he was glad to believe were to-day stronger than ever. Interviewing, recently, members of the Chitral's crew, who had resisted the efforts in Australia to induce them to join the strikers, he had asked one man how long he had been in the company. The man replied that he had served for thirty years and would remain until he was turned out. He had replied, "We never turn out good men." Speaking of this reminded him that the newspapers had, to his surprise, recently announced that he was seventy-three. Perhaps they would think it about time for him to go. He would, he said, relinquish his burden as soon as he felt unable to bear it, or before then if it was their, the stockholders', pleasure.

Appreciation and Criticism.

The board desired to give the best service possible, but they could not rule the ocean flat; the largest ships must occasionally roll, which sometimes begat a growl. He saw every complaint that reached the

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company. Some were justified; some were not. All were dealt with courteously and fairly, but letters of appreciation far outnumbered the other kind. One man recently complained that he felt no exhilaration after a whisky-and-soda on board the steamers; they were representing the matter to the distillers, some of whose proclamations announced that they were "still going strong." He appealed to those who wrote to the company to do so in type or legible handwriting and to append readable signatures; much time was sometimes occupied in deciphering such communications.

A Visit to India.

Continuing, his lordship said he and Lady Inchcape were going in January to Bombay by the Ranpura to spend a fortnight in India. They were looking forward to seeing Calcutta and Bombay again, where they had passed many happy years. It was not a bad thing for the chairman of the P. and O. Company to travel in the ships; he saw how things were done, got a useful education and kept in friendly touch with the staff, and it was uncommonly pleasant to spend a few weeks in a P. and O. steamer. But as Lord Grey of Falloden had said, the head of a great business never had a real rest, for his work followed him, wherever he went, like a perennial stream. So far as he, the speaker, was concerned, there was no sweeter water.

The British India Company.

Continuing, his lordship said that all through the Ghandi and Swaraj troubles the business of the British India Company, 95 per cent. of which was done with Indian merchants, had not in the slightest degree been affected, their relations with their Indian clients having remained as cordial as they had always been since the company's inauguration seventy years ago. This was demonstrated by a letter he had recently received signed by the company's principal Indian clients, expressing regret at the contemplated departure from India of Sir William Currie, the head of the firm of Mackinnon, Mackenzie and Co., the British India Company's managing agents. He had assured his correspondents that happy relations with the firm's Indian clients would be maintained whoever might be its head, for all the partners were brought up from boyhood, as he, the speaker, had been, in its traditions. His own inspirations had come from the precepts, the advice and the example of one who was for twenty years his chief, his counsellor, and his friend, the late Sir William Mackinnon.

A Tribute to Lord Reading.

Looking back, his lordship continued, over more than fifty years of intimate association with India, during which ten Viceroys had held office, he felt that none of them had a more trying term of office than had fallen to the lot of Lord Reading, who went to India when the country was seething with opposition to the British Raj and who had with indomitable courage won over the politicians and brought above calm and good feeling throughout the land. He had vindicated the rights of the great Indian Civil Service, which, for more than a century, had borne a proud and unblemished record; and he would moreover leave India financially sound with its credit untarnished. Lord Reading's name would go down to history as one of the wisest Viceroys the country had ever had; and he would leave it more welded to the Crown than it had been for many a day. They would, he was sure, join with him in wishing Mr. Wood, Lord Reading's designated successor in the most responsible office under the British crown outside this country, every success and all good fortune.

I now beg to propose: "That the report and statement of accounts, now read, which have been circulated among the proprietors, be adopted."

Sir Walter R. Lawrence, Bt., G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O., C.B., seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

The Chairman next moved: "That a dividend for the half-year ended September 30 last of 2½ per cent. on the preferred stock, less income-tax, and a dividend of 4 per cent. on the deferred stock, free of income-tax, as recommended in the report, be now declared, and that payment for the same be made on and after the 11th inst."

This resolution was seconded by Mr. H. N. Gladstone, and unanimously approved.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Sir Montagu Cornish Turner, Sir Walter R. Lawrence was unanimously re-elected a director, as was also the Hon. Alexander Shaw, on the proposition of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. A. M. Monteath.

Colonel A. G. Hipwell, C.B., proposed: "That the cordial thanks of the proprietors are due to the Chairman, directors and staff for their continued successful management of the company's business." In doing so, he said that they were indebted to all concerned for bringing the company through a period of stress and strain, and achieving the best results possible in the circumstances. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. A. Pitt said that, as one of the oldest stockholders, he had great pleasure in seconding the motion. It was always an intellectual treat to come to these meetings and listen to the Chairman's address. With their present chairman, aided by his efficient board of directors and backed up by their loyal staff, they could all rest peacefully out of their beds as well as in them. (Laughter and applause.)

The vote was unanimously accorded, and the Chairman, in acknowledging it, said that it was a great relief to him to be received in the way he had been by the meeting, notwithstanding the reduction in the dividend by 2 per cent., and he was very grateful for the way in which his speech had been accepted.

The proceedings then terminated.

STEAUA ROMANA (BRITISH), LIMITED.

Sir Charles Greenway's Speech.

At the fifth ordinary general meeting of Steaua Romana (British), Limited, held on December 9 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, Sir Charles Greenway, Bart. (Chairman) said that the Steaua Romana Company of Bucharest were carrying out an active drilling programme on the areas of proved State lands allotted to them by the Roumanian Government, and were drilling seven wells at Moreni (two of which, he anticipated, would come into production before the end of the year) and one at Ochiuri. Five further wells were being put down on these lands immediately, and twenty during 1926.

On the very large continuous area at Ceptura belonging to the Steaua Romana Company they had brought into production on August 31, 1925, an exploration well which yielded about 190 tons a day. Three more wells were well advanced on this field; two further wells would be commenced towards the end of December, and five during 1926. To deal with the large production anticipated from this field the construction of a pipe-line (approximately 60 miles in length), was well in hand, from the field to the main refinery at Campina.

A further pipe-line had been laid between the Aricesti field (where in 1924 a rich natural gas source was discovered, and where a further gas well had just come into production) and the refinery at Campina to enable the latter to be worked on natural gas, thus releasing large quantities of pacura for manufacture into lubricants.

To meet its largely increased drilling programme, the Steaua Romana Company had made extensive purchases of drilling material. In addition to their existing plant, two recently acquired rotary drilling outfits were already at work; two more had recently been acquired; and orders had been placed for the delivery of a further eight. All of these outfits were supplied from this country. A large amount of the necessary casing was already on the field, and orders had been placed for the balance.

The Steaua Romana Company's production for the year to June 30, 1925, was 290,387 tons (exclusive of 11,600 tons, royalties) as compared with 237,546 tons (and 6,000 tons, royalties) for the previous year. Production in September last was 31,750 tons, a record figure since the War, and in October 37,200. November production was 30,240, the reduction being due to temporary curtailment of production owing to lack of transport facilities.

Various alterations and additions (including the installation of a cracking plant, etc.) were being carried out at the refinery at Campina, and a further small refinery was being built at Moinesti.

The company's tank vesels were fully employed during the whole of the year, and the company's depots in Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece, Hungary and Italy were working satisfactorily.

The Chairman said that he understood that a provisional agreement had been concluded between the British and Roumanian Governments under which the latter assumes responsibility for compensating the companies for the oil properties destroyed by the Allies in 1916.

He had no information as to the manner in which payment to the oil companies was to be made and could not therefore express any opinion as to the equity of the proposed settlement. The matter was, however, being closely watched.

The general position of the oil industry in Roumania was much improved. The oil production of the country was higher in the first 10 months of 1925 than the total figure in the best pre-War vear, and if, as anticipated, the necessary encouragement was given to the export trade of the country, there were good grounds for looking forward to a material improvement in the value of the leu.

Turning to the account of Steaua Romana (British), Limited, the Chairman said that the dividend paid by the Steaua Romana Company for the year to December 31, 1924, was 100 lei per share. The British company's shareholding in the Roumanian company had been increased at a cost which very substantially reduced the average cost of the shares held. In accordance with the new agreement, to which reference had been made at the previous meeting, the Steaua Romana had assumed responsibility for £450,000 of the advance to the Roumanian Group, and as from the date of the new agreement interest was payable in cash both on that amount by the Steaua Romana Company and on the balance by the Roumanian Banking Group at 6½ per cent. per annum. Trading profits for the year had been increased by over £3,000 and the increasing production of the Steaua Romana Company gave promise of further improvements in this direction. The value of the dividends received upon the company's holding of Steaua Romana shares had also increased. Gross managerial charges for the year had been slightly reduced. Profit for the year was £91,293 3s. 3d., which with the £37,602 0s. 1d. brought forward from the previous year, made a total of £128,895 3s. 4d. After deducting the amount of the company's liability for income-tax and a sum of £8,594 6s. 10d. representing interest which accrued prior to the date of the coming into force of the new agreement, payment of which was deferred, the balance remaining was £68,318 16s. 6d. Out of this the directors proposed writing off the balance of preliminary expenses amounting to £17,897 and an item of £567 4s. 1d. office furniture; paying a dividend on the ordinary shares at the rate of 3 per cent, per annum (less tax), absorbing £46,875, and carrying forward a balance of £2,979 12s. 5d. The Chairman then moved that the report and accounts for the year 1925 be received and adopted, and that a dividend be declared as set forth above, payable on December 16. Sir Albert G. Stern, K.B.E., C.M.G., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

MANCHESTER COTTON MARKET.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Ottoman Bank for the week ended December 12 states:—

There is no change to report in the condition of this market. Business continues to be of unsatisfactory dimensions but hope is still strong that a turn for the better is inevitable in the near future. The disturbing American Agricultural Bureau reports are now a thing of the past as far as this season is concerned and prices can hardly be expected to fall much, if any, further. Values have been declining for so long, however, that one cannot be surprised that buyers should wish to make absolutely sure that stability has been reached before committing themselves very far

Yarn. The state of affairs in this section is still discouraging. Only for certain qualities is the demand equal to the production, and in other cases it is feared that stocks are being accumulated. Neither in respect of American or Egyptian spinnings is there anything of interest to report. Shipments of yarn during November amounted to 13,908,000 lb. as compared with 17,856,100 lb. in October and 12,792,000 lb. in November, 1924.

Cloth.—There has been a fair amount of inquiry, the most interesting being again that from India for light goods. Makers of dhooties are now said to be booked up well into the New Year. Shanghai shippers have been disappointed that the auctions were not resumed yesterday as had been hoped; they have now been postponed to the middle of January. Business with Egypt and the Levant has been of only small dimensions.

Shipments of piece-goods during November amounted to 325,912,000 sq. yards as compared with 366,606,000 sq. yards in October and 329,455,000 sq. yards in November of last year. The features of the returns continue to be the large amount of goods taken by Germany and the smaller quantities taken by India and the United States.

Raw Cotton.—The Bureau Report issued on Tuesday afternoon last indicated the probable yield of the crop as 15,600,000 bales, of which 13,858,000 had been ginned at December 1. These figures were larger than had been generally anticipated but they had no pronounced effect on prices. Whilst the quantity of the crop is now assured, there is much doubt expressed in the United States as to whether there will not be a large proportion of low grade cotton. Reports from Egypt continue to be good but growers appear to be holding back the crop. Prices, however, have continued to decline. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows:—American Middling, 10.17; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 18.10.

THE EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company in its report for the week ended December 3, states:—

Since our last report the futures market has been rather quieter with an undertone somewhat weak. The net changes on the week are the following: Sakellaridis 0.60 dollars down for January, 0.65 dollars down for March, 0.70 dollars down for May, 0.70 dollars down for July, 0.72 dollars down for November; Ashmouni, 0.65 dollars down for December, 0.55 dollars down for February, 0.55 dollars down for April, 0.28 dollars down for October.

We have had a series of very quiet sessions, the trade and professionals taking very little interest in the market. The demand from abroad has been moderate; Lancashire and America have been the most active inquirers, the qualities most sought after being the medium grades, both Sakel and Ashmouni. The difference between January Sakel and February Ashmouni remains steady at about the same level as last week, and the same remark applies also to the differences between the prices of our market as compared with those of Liverpool and New York.

The quantity of cotton bought by the Government on the spot market this week has been negligible, only a few bales of Sakel just over Fully Good Fair. To date the Government is estimated to have bought about 4.500 bales, of which 4,350 bales Sakel about Fully Good Fair and 150 bales Uppers about Fully Good Fair. The Decree restricting the acreage under cotton during the coming season has not yet been published, but it has apparently received the sanction of the Mixed Tribunals and is expected to appear at any moment.

On the first tender day of December, 17,000 kantars dockets were issued. The cotton has been fairly easily taken up. The holding back policy adopted by many wealthy growers is being maintained, with the result that the movement of the crop has been delayed still further. Although the yield this year is estimated at about 7,875,000 kantars against 7,250,000 kantars last year, the arrivals since the opening of the season are well over half a million kantars less than the figure for the corresponding period last year.

We consider present prices fairly reasonable; however, we think that no improvement in the tone of our market can be expected just at present owing to the restrained attitude of spinners and the considerable quantity of cotton yet to be marketed. The week's receipts amount to 320,088 krs. against exports 246,540 krs.; the stock stands at 1,881,410 krs.

Spot: We have had a fairly busy week at Minet el Bassal and sales amount to about 26,400 bales, of which we estimate 14,900 bales Sakel, 9,500 bales Uppers, 1,200 bales Zagora, 150 bales Brown and Fouadi, 350 bales Pilion, and 300 bales White.

Sakellaridis: A fairly good business has been done and all styles have been dealt in, with a steady demand for the the medium qualities. Spot differences are generally without change, though Fully Fair and Good Fair are inclined to ease a little.

Ashmouni and Zagora: have been in fair request and all qualities have changed hands. Spot differences are steady and without much change from last week.

Brown and Fouadi: A small business has been done at about last week's differences.

Pilion: has been in moderate demand for all grades. Spot differences are unchanged.

White: A fair business has been done and some attention has been paid to Casulli, which has brought a substantial premium over Fathy and other White varieties. Spot differences are unchanged.

The report of the Alexandria General Produce Association for November reads:

Lower Egypt.—The small quantity of cotton that still remained on the plants in November has benefited by the good weather prevailing during the month. There is practically no more cotton standing. It is now sure that the yield per feddan is superior to that of last season, and the ginning yield, although inferior to that of last month continues to be slightly better than that of last year.

Upper Egypt and Fayoum.—All cotton plants have been pulled up since the end of October and we have nothing to add to our previous information. We confirm our crop estimate of last month about 8 million kantars.

Brigade Surgeon Richard Hamilton Batty, I.M.S., of the East India United Service Club, St. James's Square, S.W., who died on September 1, aged 84, left estate of the value of £40,640, with net personalty £40,583.

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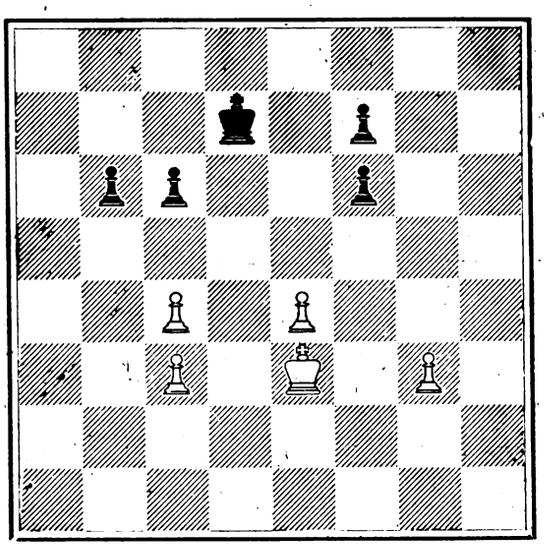
CHESS.

By "CARO-KANN."



PROBLEM No. 26.

White to play. What result?

Solution to Problem No. 25:—1, P—Kt6, Kt—Q (other alternatives are Kt—R, Kt—R3, and Kt—Kt4, which are dealt with subsequently in that order); 2, Kt—R4, P—Q3; 3, PxP, PxP (if . . . KxP; 4, Kt—B5 (ch), K—Q2; 5, KtxP, Kt—K3 (ch); 6, KtxKt, KxKt; 7, P—Kt3 and wins); 4, Kt—B5, K—K2; KtxP and wins. If 1 . . . Kt—R; 2, Kt—Kt5 (ch)!, PxKt; 3, KxP, Kt—B2 (ch) (best); 4, PxKt, KxP; 5, K—B5, P—K3; 6, K—K5 and wins. If 1 . . . Kt—R4; 2, Kt—R4, P—Q3; 3, P—B6, P—Kt3; 4, Kt—B5 and wins. If 1 . . . Kt—Kt4; 2, KtxKt, PxKt; 3, KxP, P—Q3; 4, P—B6, P—Kt3; 5, K—B4 and wins.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

ASSAM-BENGAL RAILWAY.

The report of the Assam-Bengal Railway Company for the year ended March 31, 1925, shows gross receipts, including the Mymensingh-Bhairab-Bazar, Chaparmukh-Silghat and Katakhal-Lalabazar Railways, totalling Rs.1,61,55,514, against Rs.1,44,84,265 and working expenses Rs. 97,53,568, compared with Rs.98,11,305 in the previous year. Taking the company's own line separately, the gross receipts amounted to Rs. 1,45,42,504, and the net receipts to Rs.55,95,441. For the half-year ended March 31, 1925, a small surplus has, for the first time in the history of the company, been actually earned. The precise amount of this surplus is still under discussion with the Government of India, but the company has recently been informed that the company's share of it will not be less than about £2,000. The board hopes, therefore, to be in a position to make a small interim distribution on July 1, 1926, in addition to the usual guaranteed interest payable on that date. Meeting, 80, Bishopsgate, E.C., December 22, noon.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at the 31st October, 1925, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes. Banking Department, Liabilities: share capital LE.2,925,000 (300,000 fully paid shares of £10 each.) Reserve Fund: statutory reserve, £E1,462,500; special reserve, £E901,875; current deposit and other accounts £E13,585,856: Egyptian Government, £E21,884,492; Sudan Government £E412,005; Mixed Tribunals, £E1,606,048; bankers accounts, £E651,790; cheques and bills payable £E580,089: sundry other accounts, £E1,078,732; £E45,088,387. Assets, Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government £E25,172,971; sundry securities, £E319,363; advances on merchandise, £E1,772,277; advances on securities, £E3,535,971; advances otherwise secured, £E1,073,191; sundry other advances, £E1,428,214; bills of exchange, £E3,676,182; local bills discounted, £E401,005; buildings and furniture, £E232,860; money at call and at short notice, £E1,028,625; bankers accounts, £E4,051,555; sundry other accounts, £E385,371. Cash: notes £E1,763,496; gold, £E26,871; silver, nickel, etc., £E220,462, £E2,010,802, £E45,088,387. Issue Department: Notes Issued, £E37,600,000, £E37,600,000. Gold £E3,339,576; *British Treasury Bills, £E15,460,424, £E18,800,000. Securities: Egyptian Government securities and securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government, £E420,105; British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds, £E18,379,895, £E18,800,000, £E37,600,000.

*By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of Gold (See "Journal Officiel" of October 30 1916).

EXPORT OF BULGARIAN PRODUCE TO ENGLAND.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, December 8.

With further reference to the scheme for exporting pigs, poultry and other produce to England, it is learnt that the Bulgarian Cabinet nas officially approved this scheme, which is now due to go before the Parliament. The exact conditions of the concession are unknown, but the Government is believed to have promised a certain subsidy during the first few years. All the meat exported will be raw and it is understood that eggs will not, at first anyway, occupy an important place. The advocates of the scheme argue that anything that increases the export trade is good. Its opponents criticise the Government for having granted too good terms to the English company, whilst they also make out that the cost of living will rise if so much meat is exported. No doubt an early opportunity will be taken of fully informing public opinion, and it is to be hoped meanwhile that the first big commercial project in which British capital has interested itself in Bulgaria will be successful.

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Khartoum: Victoria Book and Stationery Store, P.O. Box 51.

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Jerusalem: B. Y. and W. A. Said, 23-24, Jaffa Road.

SYRIA.
Beyrout: Sarrafian Bros.

IRAQ.
Baghdad: Government Bookshop, Serai.
Basrah: Utam Jashan and Co., Bridge Street, Ashar.

INDIA.
Calcutta: A. N. Wheeler and Co., 117-119, Park Street.
Karachi: Standard Bookstall, Elphinstone Street, Karachi.

BULGARIA.
Sofia: Librairie Francaise et Etrangere, 4a, Bvd. Tsa Ostvoboditel.

CYPRUS.
Nicosia: George and Sons, P.O. Box 6.

GREECE.
Athens: Th. Vafiadis, 24, Rue du Stade.
Eleftheroudakis and Barth, Place de la Constitution.

ROUMANIA.
Bucharest: Librairie Universala, 37, Calea Victoriei.

TURKEY.
Constantinople: H. D. Marianopoulos, Librairie Mondaine, 280, Grande Rue de Pera.

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CAPITAL (fully paid) - £650,000 | RESERVE - - - £420,000

Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

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Bushire	*Kerman*	*Nasratabad*	*Tabriz*
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Branch in India :—Bombay.
The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia ; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

London Office : 33-36, KING WILLIAM ST., E.C.4 ; Chief Office in Persia, TEHERAN

IONIAN BANK, Ltd.

Established 1839.

Capital Authorised - - - £600,000
Capital Paid up - - - £485,580
Reserve Fund - - - - £190,000
Total Assets- - - - £6,536,314

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Managing Governors in India:—
Sir NORCOT WARREN, K.C.I.E
N. M. MURRAY, Esq.
Manager in London:—
Sir S. A. H. SITWELL.

Authorised Capital **Rs. 11.25.00.000**
Paid-up Capital - **Rs. 5.62.50.000**
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Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

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AUTHORISED CAPITAL ... £4,000,000 | **Paid-up Capital ... £2,000,000**
Subscribed Capita ... £4.000,000 | **Reserve Fund ... £2,800,000**

HEAD OFFICE : 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2

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Aden, Steamer Point	Cawnpore	Delhi	Madras	Tuticorin	Mombasa		Jinia
Amritsar	Chittagong	Kandy	Mandalay	Zanzibar	Nairobi		Kampala
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The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa and elsewhere and also sells Telegraphic Transfer on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.
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Reserves 1,705,000 Leva.

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RESERVE FUNDS - Drs. 38,150,045.40

The Assets include securities worth £1,000,000, which are valued at Drs. 25,000,000; that is at the rate of Drs. 25 per £1 only.

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Branches: Piraeus, Argos, Pyrgos, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Nauplia, Vostizza (Aegion), Calamata, Syra, Chio, Candia, Volo, Salonica, Larrissa, Triccala, Mitylene, Canea, Zante, Plomari, Tripolitza.

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INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER

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		SEREHBAN	

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Reserve Liability of Shareholders - - - - £1,000,000
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The NEAR EAST AND INDIA

A Weekly Review of the Politics and Commerce of the Balkan Peninsula, Turkey, Egypt, and the Sudan, Syria, Palestine, Arabia, Iraq, Persia and India

No. 763.—Vol. XXVIII. Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1925. Price 6d. Postage 1d.

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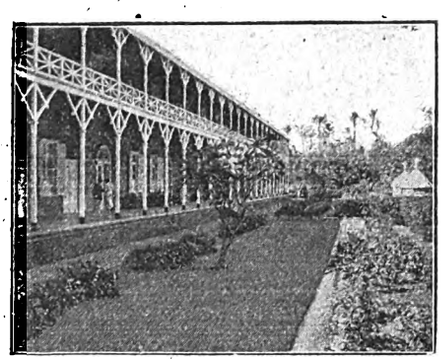

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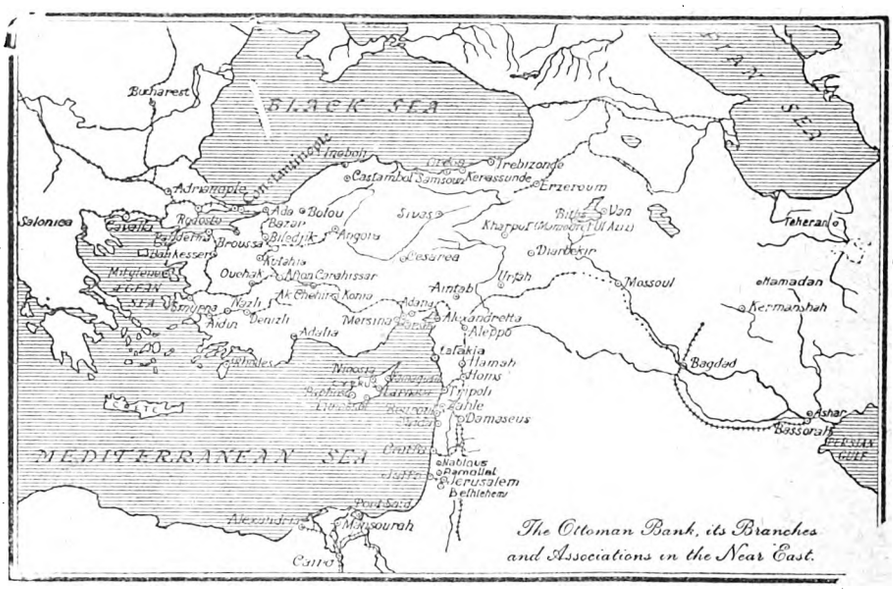

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THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

No. 763.—VOL. XXVIII. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1925.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

	Page
NOTES OF THE WEEK	763
SPECIAL LETTERS—	
Egypt	766
Roumania	767
Yugoslavia	767
LEADING ARTICLE—	
The Mosul Award, and After ...	765
THE WEEK AT HOME	770
PERSONAL AND GENERAL ...	773
BOOK REVIEWS	770
INDIAN AFFAIRS—	
Lord Reading at Calcutta ...	775
Current Topics	776
Special Letters: Calcutta ...	777
Bombay ...	779
An Indian Feast of Lights ...	780
Indian Mail	781
Indian Exchange	782
YUGOSLAV SUPPLEMENT: No. II	
Yugoslavia's Financial Policy ...	785
Agricultural Over-Production ...	786
Credit Conditions	788
COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL—	
Notes and News	783
Roumanian Notes	784
Ottoman Public Debt	791
Sudan Railways in 1925 ...	790
Motors & Motoring. By G. B. B.	793
Cotton and Cotton Goods ...	794

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

As this week's issue of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA is the 52nd in the current year, there will be no issue next week, i.e., on December 31.

The next issue of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA will contain a SPECIAL ILLUSTRATED SUPPLEMENT of 24 pages on THE SUDAN, in connexion with the official opening of the Makwar Dam on January 21.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

An Understanding with Turkey?

The Council of the League of Nations has spoken and the provisional "Brussels Line" becomes the northern frontier of Iraq. In ordinary circumstances the famous Mosul dispute would end there, for if the matter concerned only Turkey and Iraq, there would be little more to be said on the subject. Great Britain, however, is a party to the dispute, and she is big enough to be able to afford not to shut her eyes to the realities of the position. She knows the disappointment that the League of Nations' award will have brought to the Turkish Government, the difficulties with which the new Republic has to contend, and the risk of "incidents" begotten of despair, intrigue, or political inexperience. She has no grudge against the Turks, but is in fact just as favourably disposed towards them as she is towards the Iraqis, and for the same reason, that she has no other desire in regard to the Middle East than to see the several countries comprised in it peaceful and prosperous. Iraq, conscious of British good will, has confidently thrown in her lot with Great Britain; she asks for and has obtained independence on a sliding scale, and is content to make use of British advice and guidance until she is ready to rely solely upon her own resources. Turkey feels no need for any similar dependence on British assistance; but she would welcome financial help from Great Britain, if she could find a means of obtaining it without injury to her *amour propre*. In these circumstances is there no way of using the Mosul award to the advantage of both countries and the removal of all friction between them?

A Frontier "Deal."

The Brussels Line deprives Iraq of a strip of territory of some fourteen hundred square miles in extent, which has many advantages for Iraq. The northern line provides a strategically better frontier; the Mosul Commission was inclined to belittle its importance in this respect, but it would seem to have given inadequate attention to the relative military values of the western sectors of the two lines. At the same time the northern line claimed by Great Britain on behalf of Iraq avoids cutting in half areas occupied by certain restless tribes in the eastern sector which are more likely to keep the peace, if brought wholly under the influence of Iraq. From Turkey's point of view the area by itself is of little use; its inhabitants are for the most part Christians, and the Turk has no desire to settle there. Turkey, on the other hand, is badly in need of money, for the material development of the country and in order that the Republic may make good. A fresh discussion between the Turkish and British Governments—the British Secretary of State has already made the preliminary gesture—should pave the way for an agreement which should give Iraq the additional territory that she requires for an ideal frontier and should provide Turkey with some at least of the funds of which she stands in urgent need. It may not

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even be necessary that the burden of any cash payment should remain for all time on the British taxpayer; it might ultimately become a charge on a prosperous Iraq or royalties of the Mosul oilfields. Any temporary accommodation of this kind is likely to be welcomed as a cheap bargain by those anxious and timorous souls who stop at no misstatement and no craven suggestion from earnest solicitude lest Great Britain should be mulcted in vast payments as a result of war with Turkey.

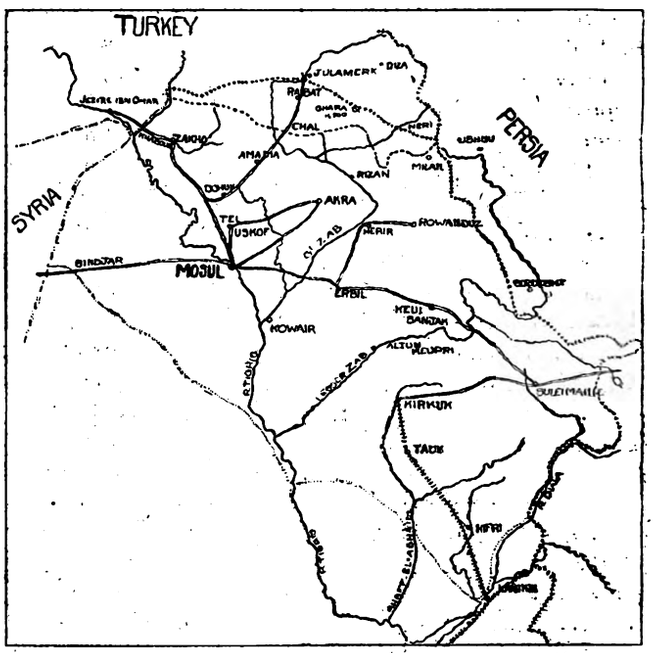
The Debate in Parliament.

The bottom of the agitation, wholly ill-informed and seven-eighths malicious, against British policy in Iraq was completely knocked out in the course of the debate in the House of Commons last Monday. Mr. Baldwin moved "That this House approves the action taken by the representatives of His Majesty's Government at Geneva in accepting the award of the Council of the League of Nations on the Iraq boundary." In the words of this motion the Government sought to bring the Mosul question into its proper perspective, and refused to follow the advocates of a policy of "scuttle" in their attempt to challenge a matter settled several years ago and endorsed by three successive Governments. The debate was notable for the Prime Minister's decisive nailing to the counter of the charge brought against him and Great Britain of personal inconsistency and a violation of pledges. The Labour Party, realising that it had no debating point to make on the real issue, left the House before the debate; but the Liberal opposition remained. After the Prime Minister's speech the advocates of a policy of "scuttle" showed a chastened attitude, which was intensified by Mr. Amery's carefully reasoned statement, and only six Members voted against the motion, which was carried by a majority of 235 votes. The debate confirmed the view that we have always held that, in remaining firm on the subject of Mosul, Great Britain, far from showing unfriendliness to Turkey, was doing the new Republic a good turn. Under the goading of a Press campaign in support of the idea which Mr. T. P. O'Connor rightly described as having been propagated "with mendacity, with want of scruple and with an almost vitriolic fury," Turkey has had considerable provocation. But there is no more reason to suppose that she will declare war on Great Britain for the sake of Mosul than that Russia will do the same, because we refuse to become sovietised. Mr. Cecil Harmsworth fired the last shot of the "scuttlers" in the *Daily Mail* of December 21: "I am not an alarmist, but I doubt if we should emerge from another big war [the reference is to Turkey, as "we are at peace with the world everywhere else"] as a first-class Power." There would seem to be some heroes for whom England is not yet likely to become a fit place to live in. They must re-write the old couplet:

We don't want to fight, for, by Jingo, if we do,
It's wiped from off the map we are by Kurd and Turkey too.

France and the Geneva Award.

As we have often had occasion to find fault in these pages with the failure of French policy in the Near and Middle East to bear in mind the moral obligations imposed by the Entente in regard to "playing the game," it is a source of satisfaction to be able to record the practical results already achieved by what is known as the Locarno spirit. The hurried visit paid by the Turkish Delegate, Rushdi Bey, from Geneva to Paris and the conviction borne in upon him on that occasion that Turkey could no longer count on playing off France against Great Britain will have gone a long way towards reconciling the Turks to the necessity of making the best of the Mosul award. There can be little doubt that in the exchange of views that have been taking place between the Moscow and Angora Governments, stress has been laid by the former on the ineradicable differences of the Western Powers. Soviet Russia indeed has probably derived much of her enthusiasm for a cause already lost from the belief that she has only to hold on her course long enough to enable the quarrels of the Great Powers to complete her work of the disintegration of Europe. The Locarno Treaty will have proved a better pill to her. The very practical application that it has been given in the closing up of the rifts in French and British policy in the Near and Middle East will have shaken Turkish confidence in the infallibility of Soviet Russia and will, we may hope, have caused Turkey to pause in her tendency to imagine that any good can accrue to her by allying herself with Russia against the rest of the world. Those who are interested in the peaceful development of the Near and Middle East and believe that there is ample room there for the activities of all the Powers will be grateful to France for the change of policy which will enable the identity of British and French interests in that part of the world to be stressed.



The Mosul Vilayet as claimed by Turkey. The Brussels Line is shown passing through Chal; the frontier claimed by Great Britain passes through Julamerk and Neri.

The Syrian Revolt.

Although the French Government has loyally championed General Sarrail before the Senate, it must be well satisfied with the prospects of success that its new appointment to the High Commissionership of Syria already opens up. M. de Jouvenel has lost no time in introducing an entirely different atmosphere into the country. Military operations have become intensified with the arrival of reinforcements, but everywhere he goes the new High Commissioner breathes a conciliatory spirit and is quickly convincing the Syrians that France does now intend to give practical effect to the spirit of the Mandate. The work of pacifying the country is being undertaken on more systematic lines, Damascus is to be protected by a cordon of blockhouses connected with barbed-wire entanglements, and the ways of entry to the city are to be restricted to a few broad avenues cut through the orchards. More important still from a peace point of view is the mission undertaken by the Emir Emin Arslan, who has suffered exile at the hands of the French, but has now

(Continued on page 768.)

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THE MOSUL AWARD, AND AFTER.

The Council of the League of Nations has recorded its decision on the subject of the Iraq frontier. That frontier is to be the provisional boundary known as the "Brussels Line," which was fixed in October, 1924, as the line of the *status quo*, to be observed by both parties pending the final decision of the League. The line will become definitive only if Great Britain assumes within six months responsibility for Iraq for twenty-five years or for a lesser period, if Iraq be admitted to membership of the League. On this point of an extension of the treaty relations that at present link Iraq and Great Britain no objection is likely to be raised on the part of the Iraqis, in view of the assurance sent by the Iraq Government last September to the Secretary of State for the Colonies that "the Iraq Nation, represented by its Chamber of Deputies, declares its strong friendship for Great Britain, and expresses its desire to continue in alliance with her after the expiry of the present Treaty." The Brussels Line, it will be recalled, was not the frontier claimed by the British Government. Basing its demand on the ground that its duty was to safeguard both the interests of the populations directly concerned in the area under dispute, and the wider interest of the peaceful development and political and economic progress of Iraq, the Government claimed some fourteen hundred square miles of territory north of the Brussels Line, in order to obtain a satisfactory solution of the problem presented by the persecuted Assyrians. The Commission sent by the League of Nations to study the Mosul question on the spot had rejected this claim solely on the ground that the question "was not introduced into the dispute by the British Government until the Constantinople Conference, and had never been mentioned in the earlier negotiations or in the Treaty of Lausanne," and its verdict has been upheld by the Council. The final decision, therefore, is not the ideal one; but it is at least workable. It retains for Iraq the territory which is essential to its existence as an independent State, and provides it with a frontier, which, if not in all respects the equal of the line claimed by the British Government, can be regarded as sound from a military point of view.

In keeping with their refusal to recognise the Council's right to deliver an arbitral award, the Turkish delegates absented themselves from the meeting at which the Council's verdict was made known. Turkey's attitude, therefore, towards the award remains for the present a matter of speculation. On behalf of Great Britain Sir Austen Chamberlain lost no time in making her a friendly gesture. So long as the dispute was in the hands of the League of Nations there was no common ground for negotiation; but, now that the decision had been given, the British Government, he said, would gladly lend itself to conversations with the Government of Turkey, in order to see whether it would not be possible to render the relations between the two countries easier and safer. With that end in view the British Government was ready to take into consideration any proposal made by the Turkish Government which was compatible with its mandatory duties to the people of Iraq. We should like to think that this spontaneous offer will not be lost upon Angora. Some sympathy is due to the inexperienced administrators of the new Turkish Republic who have, no doubt, been trying to understand British psychology. From all sides they have heard of Britain's goodwill towards Turkey. When, therefore, they found a section of the British Press in violent opposition to the Government, declaring that Turkey had a legal right to the disputed territory and Iraq none at all, that the Turks would fight rather than surrender Mosul, and that any Government in Great Britain which committed the country to war over Mosul would immediately be driven from power, little wonder is it that the Turkish Cabinet persuaded itself that it had only to bluff up to the last, in order to make the British throw up the sponge in Iraq. By now, it is to be hoped, the Turks have realised that they must turn to more reliable quarters than London's penny Press, if they want to gauge the real opinion of Great Britain. That Press bears the same relation to the sober attitude of the country as a whole as did the old Constantinople régime to the Nationalist stalwarts of Angora.

The good will of Great Britain towards Turkey is not linked with any defeatist methods or concession-hunting ends. It rests on surer, more lasting foundations. British policy the world over has as its chief aim the maintenance of peace and the promotion of economic prosperity. If the furtherance of this object in any given territory can be attained only by the acceptance of some measure of personal responsibility, Great Britain is not likely to shrink from it, and when once she has accepted a trust, she will not lightly betray it. The retention of the Mosul vilayet in Iraq may impose additional burdens on Britain for a time, but it is essential to her policy of promoting permanent peace and prosperity in the Middle East that the Iraqis should have a chance of making good in their newly-won independence and that Turkey should not again be the only stepping-stone to be negotiated by a European Power having designs on Britain's Eastern possessions. If the Turkish Government can fit itself into this scheme as an honourable equal, it will always find the right hand of British fellowship held out to it. It will have to realise, however, that both its honour and its equality will have to be proved, and cannot now be taken for granted. There can be little doubt that the determining factor in the unanimity of the Council of Geneva was the infamous maltreatment of the Assyrians on the Mosul frontier at a time when Turkey was seeking to establish her suitability to be recognised as the sovereign power not only over these unhappy people, but also over the whole of the Mosul vilayet. It would not have been difficult, even when the mistake had been committed, for the Angora Government to have dissociated itself from the military excesses; but by denying that they took place it has identified itself with the policy that resulted in those excesses. Some allowance, however, can be made for the difficulties of the Turkish Government's position. The Mosul award can be made to mark the end of a chapter in Anglo-Turkish relations, if Turkey has the will to make it; and in spite of the tendency of her new rulers to go back on their pledges, there will be a desire on Great Britain's part to forget the past and to help the Republic to a better future as soon as the sincerity of any Turkish overtures to this end can be established.

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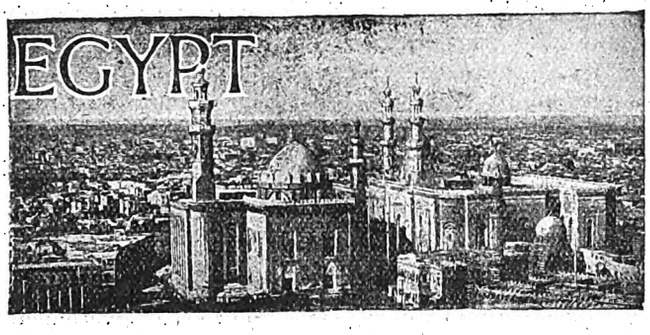
The Near and Middle East*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, Undated.

Nashaat Pasha's Removal.

The event for which all the forces of Opposition have been clamouring for months past—the removal of Nashaat Pasha from the position in which he dominated Egyptian political life—has happened, but, with a characteristic perversity, the Opposition newspapers are complaining of the manner in which the removal has been effected. Nashaat Pasha's departure from the Palace is attributed to the counsel of the High Commissioner, and that section of the Press which is never satisfied, declares that this is all wrong, and proof positive that so-called independence is a myth. The Liberal Constitutional organ, *Al Siyassa*, takes a different and undeniably ingenious view, arguing that Nashaat Pasha's name has been mentioned in connexion with the Political Crimes Inquiry sufficiently frequently to justify the High Commissioner, or the representative of any Power whose subjects had been murdered in the streets, in asking the King to remove the Pasha from high office. In point of fact, the *Siyassa*, and almost everyone else in Egypt, are frankly glad that a term should have been set to the influence of a young man whose motives may, perhaps, have been of the highest, but whose influence has certainly not had happy results. In declaring that it should not have been left to Lord Lloyd to give the necessary advice to the King, and that the Government should have taken this course long ago, the Opposition is merely seeking another weapon with which to chastise a Government which all parties excepting the now almost negligible *Ittehad* are trying to stampede into resignation.

Ziwar Pasha's Position.

The immediate effects of Nashaat Pasha's transference to other spheres seem likely to be two. First, the *Ittehad* Party, deprived of its creator and inspiration, is likely to melt away, its members seeking re-admission to the political folds which personal self-interest had caused them temporarily to desert. Secondly, the way is opened for the return to active political life for a number of leaders who had determined to remain out of the arena so long as the influence which they so much resented continued to predominate. Prominent among this group are Sarwat Pasha, Sidky Pasha and Doss Pasha. It had been hoped that, with Nashaat Pasha no longer in a position to put his finger into the Ministerial pie, these three, and possibly others, might consent to provide the additional strength of which the Ziwar Ministry so obviously stands in need. But to this they are apparently disinclined, and unless Ziwar Pasha can succeed in persuading them, or others—though it is hard to think of others who would be adequate—to change their minds, there would seem to be no other course open to him than resignation.

Possible Alternatives.

In that event a Ministry under Sarwat Pasha would seem obviously indicated. But Sarwat Pasha is unlikely to assume the burden of forming a Government unless he is assured of the support, or at least the toleration, of the temporarily united Opposition. He might form either a neutral Cabinet, or one drawn from all three Opposition Parties. The latter course would involve delicate and probably long negotiations, and even in the former event it would be necessary, in order to secure the toleration essential to prospects of long Ministerial life, to come to some sort of understanding with the Zaghloulists, Liberal Constitutionals and Nationalists regarding the reassembling of Parliament. All three parties have committed themselves to boycotting new elections and to insisting upon the old Parliament being convoked. But, obviously, it is not easy, when a Royal Decree has been signed dissolving the Chamber of Deputies, to go back on that decree and declare it now inoperative. It may be that certain Opposition elements already regret their haste in having an unofficial reassembling of Parliament but, none the less, the fact that they have committed themselves in this way makes a compromise now all the more difficult. If, as a result of all the complications, Ziwar Pasha still remains in office, and carries on as best he can, for lack of a better way out, there will be much gnashing of teeth among the anti-Government forces, but feelings of relief in the European communities of Egypt, among whom Ziwar Pasha is alike respected and admired for the courage and good humour with which he has managed the country's affairs during many difficult months.

Mr. Cobham in Egypt.

The visit of Mr. Alan Cobham has brought much useful publicity to British aviation which, it must be feared, had during recent months suffered somewhat in Egyptian eyes through comparison of the apparent inactivity of British airmen with the fine performances of French, Italian and Japanese aviators. The successful completion of the Nigerian flight did something to correct this point of view, and now the presence of Mr. Cobham, who has been seeing all sorts of influential people, and has given the Minister of Communications his first experience of aerial travel, has helped on the good work. Mr. Cobham seems to be just the kind of man to carry on this kind of propaganda, his breezy and unassuming personality making an instant appeal to everyone. And it is particularly important that this kind of work should be done now because while the Egyptian Government is considering the training, at State expense, of both civil and military pilots, and is debating the granting of subsidies for an air mail connexion with Europe, Continental aviation enterprises are sparing no efforts to impress upon the Egyptian Government and public that other countries than Great Britain are best equipped to guide Young Egypt's first ventures in the air.

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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Hamed Pasha el Bassel's Acquittal.

The acquittal of Hamed Pasha el Bassel on charges of fraud in connexion with the trial of the men who attempted to murder Sheikh Maraghi, President of the Superior Mekhemeh Sharia, accorded with popular expectation, though it came as a sad disappointment to political enemies. To everyone else the almost complete lack of evidence made it surprising that the Bedouin chief had ever been charged, much less arrested and kept in prison for some time without being let out on bail. This and other recent cases make it impossible to resist the feeling that arrests in this country are sometimes ordered a little too light-heartedly. And the feeling, justified or not, that there has been an attempt to make political capital through use of the machinery of justice, is liable to create the desire for revenge which finds its outlet when the swing of the political pendulum provides opportunity. But, in the present instance, the grievances of el Bassel Pasha are already forgotten in the new excitement of another *cause célèbre*, this time in the Mixed Courts, where Zaghloul Pasha and Mohammed Pasha Mahmoud are being sued for the respectable sum of 590,000 dollars, alleged to be due to the estate of the late American Senator Folk, for services rendered by him to the Zaghloulist cause during the years 1919, 1920, and 1921. The statement in the claim that the late Senator's efforts contributed to inducing the British Government to make its declaration of February 28, 1922, might surprise some people, but that the suit is not a frivolous one seems to be proved by the fact that one of Egypt's ablest lawyers, Mirzbach Bey, is briefed for Mrs. Folk.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, December 9.

The Bessarabian Outbreak.

The judgment of the Court has just been pronounced on 283 persons arrested in connexion with the insurrection which took place some time ago at the large village of Tatar-Bunar in Bessarabia. The verdict was 180 pages long and took four hours to read. Eighty-five of the accused were convicted and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment and hard labour. Only one, Justin Bratiscu, who was proved to be working under the direct orders of the Soviets, was sentenced to hard labour for life. Two others were sentenced to 15 years' hard labour, and the rest to terms of imprisonment varying from six years to six months, the latter term of imprisonment applying to all minors.

Proceedings are now being taken by the Council of War (for Bessarabia is still in a state of siege) against the Mayor of the Commune of Tatar-Bunar, the priest of the commune and the Senator for Cabul, M. Jacob Beluroff, the examinations having shown that they were implicated in the affair. It is satisfactory to note that 198 of the accused have been pronounced innocent, and the fact that more than twice as many innocent as guilty people were arrested shows that the authorities were determined to take no risks in their campaign against Bolshevism.

The Danube Regime.

The sore question of the jurisdiction, and, indeed, of the very existence of the European Commission of the Danube still exercises the public mind in this country, and frequent articles appear in the Press inveighing against the injustice of the Great Powers in this connexion, and more especially against the London Convention of 1883, which decided, among other things, to extend the jurisdiction of the European Commission from Galatz to Braila, further up the river. This Convention has never been recognised by Roumania, as she had only a consultative voice in its deliberations, and the Roumanian Government strongly opposes this extension of the jurisdiction of the European Commission which is at present once more upon the tapis. The Roumanians apparently would prefer to vest all outside control over the Danube navigation in the International Danube Commission with its seat at Bratislava. At present the European Commission (whose seat is at Galatz) is responsible for the dredging of the river mouth at the Sulina Bar, which is apparently an ardous and thankless task, rendered difficult and sometimes impossible by various natural causes beyond human control. Any complaints about the depth of water on the bar are directed against the European Commission and used by the Roumanian authorities as an argument to prove its uselessness. The question is, however, which authority would succeed better.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Liubliana, December 17.

Rifts in the Radical Lute.

For some time past there have been two currents noticeable in the Radical Party, although the unity of the party has been officially dwelt upon time and again. Yet here and there the division within the Radical Party becomes frankly apparent, as was the case at the recent and distinctly stormy meeting of the Radical Club.

The essence of these two currents might be most simply defined as the difference between the adherents of M. Pashitch and those of M. Liuba Yovanovitch. Outwardly this difference is masked by all manner of catch-words; yet not they, but technical and personal motives are essential. Thus M. Pashitch is regarded as the leader of the centralistic and Serbian policy, whereas M. Yovanovitch is looked upon as a pronounced adherent of the Understanding. Nevertheless, it was upon the express approval of M. Pashitch that the Understanding was established, and at the solution of the recent Government crisis it was M. Pashitch, and not M. Yovanovitch, who showed more favour to the Croats. At least, to all appearance. When M. Velia Vukitchevitch, Minister of Education, tendered his resignation, it was the intention of the Yovanovitch group to use it in order to force a far-reaching reconstruction of the Cabinet. There was even talk of a Cabinet without M. Pashitch. M. Pashitch parried the blow very neatly by accepting M. Vukitchevitch's resignation and at once proposing M. Stefan Raditch for the post of Minister of Education. The suggestion was accepted—because to have acted otherwise would have endangered the very policy of the Understanding, of which M. Yovanovitch is the particular advocate.

The struggle resolved itself into a battle of tactics, and as M. Pashitch is a master tactician, he won. However, one cannot bridge serious differences with tactics, and so the tug-of-war in the Radical Party continues, with

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the result, that the true cause of it is becoming more and more apparent.

The Supremacy of M. Pashitch.

The authority wielded by the veteran leader is too great. He orders everything; not a step can be taken without him, and therefore conditions became all but intolerable during his recent spell of illness. All business was at a standstill, nothing was done, because nobody dared do anything without the approval of M. Pashitch. People murmured and became impatient. The machinery of government failed to function, and even the most necessary work hung fire. At that juncture M. Yovanovitch took a hand in order to keep the government apparatus going, either with M. Pashitch's approval, or, failing that even without M. Pashitch. But his very first attempt was a failure, and the incident of the resignation of the Minister of Education ended in a victory for the aged Premier.

The second attempt is in progress at this moment. It is difficult to say whether it will prove more successful. For feeling in the Radical Club is still very strong on the side of M. Pashitch. His authority is still great, as was shown by the recent controversy in the Belgrade paper *Politika*. One of M. Pashitch's adherents, discussing conditions within the Radical Club in the *Politika*, took up the standpoint that the Radical Party was identical with M. Pashitch; that a man joined the party of M. Pashitch, not the Radical Party as such. M. Pashitch, in fact, was the Radical Party; it owed all its successes to him, and therefore let M. Pashitch give his opponents within the party short shrift and turn them out. More particularly let him settle accounts with M. Yovanovitch, who opposed him in Zagreb. The consequence of this virulent attack was a denial from M. Yovanovitch, which may be interpreted as a retreat, though an incomplete one.

Of course, M. Pashitch's immediate entourage has a very genuine interest in spurring the Premier on to such drastic measures. For at the moment when M. Pashitch will no longer be at the helm, this entourage will lose all it present importance. And it has grown so used to thriving in safety and comfort in the shadow of M. Pashitch's power, that it is naturally indignant at the prospect of seeing its present status, largely termed parasitic, suddenly put an end to. Yet it is this very position of M. Pashitch's entourage which has caused the present conflict, and that is why the battle must be fought out to a finish. If it should prove impossible to deal with the Premier's entourage within the pale of the Radical Club, a split in the party may very well occur, and a consequence of that would be an alliance between the Yovanovitch group and some other parliamentary groups. In this case the great Concentration Government would be near realisation. In the year of the King's coronation a Government of this type would be very desirable, and therefore it is quite on the cards that it will come.

M. Pashitch, of course, knows this as well as anybody, and so he will take good care not to carry out the neck-and-crop policy advocated by his immediate followers. He will use his tactical skill to render his position so secure that he will continue to be master of the situation.

As the Skupshtina is now prorogued until January 19, no inner-political events of major importance are to be expected. The struggle will be continued behind the scenes, and the public will hear no more of it until Parliament re-opens.

Even then the work on the Budget is likely to delay a decision.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

(Continued from page 764.)

returned to Syria, to Sultan el Atrash to discuss the possible terms of a settlement. The Emir is accompanied by members of the People's Party, of which Dr. Shahander is one of the leaders, and his task is to find common ground on which insurgents and French can meet with due regard to the dignity of both.

The Slave Trade in Abyssinia.

Those who entertain misgivings as to the probability of Iraq's becoming qualified within a period of less than twenty-five years for membership of the League of Nations should read Command Paper 2,553, entitled "Correspondence respecting Abyssinian Raids and Incursions into British Territory." The documents cover a period from September 1922 to June 1925 and deal mainly with the question of the slave-trade in Abyssinia and with the incursions of Abyssinian tribes into Kenya. Now Abyssinia is a member of the League, but the correspondence suggests that the dignity is not incompatible with elementary standards of administration. Three or four years ago the traffic in slaves reported to be in vogue in Abyssinia attracted attention, and the Abyssinian Government, which had periodically issued proclamations in regard to the slave trade, "confirmed" its previous orders, presumably for the edification of the League, by yet another proclamation. In this, issued under the authority of "the Conquering Lion from the Tribe of Judah," it was pointed out that whereas in the past "the reason why some men were declared slaves was that certain nations were at war with us, and this had caused money to be spent which these nations had to repay by their labour, and this also, that they might learn virtue by communication with Christians," it is quite a different matter to indulge in slave-raids. From the date of the proclamation, therefore, anyone guilty of that practice was to be condemned to die, and for any slave taken and held after the date of the proclamation the Governor and headmen of the province in question were to be fined. It was, no doubt, something in the wording of the proclamation rather than any lack of faith in the good intentions of the Abyssinian authorities that prompted the British Minister in Addis Ababa to anticipate that like its predecessors on the same subject this proclamation would also remain "without appreciable effect."

A Frontier Problem.

In spite of official pessimism, the fact remains that much less is now heard of the slave traffic in Abyssinia. On the other hand the provinicial organisation of that country would seem to fall a long way below the standard that Iraq could easily maintain, even if left to her own devices to-morrow. Both Kenya and the Sudan suffer from Abyssinian indifference to the existence of frontiers; but almost worse than armed invasion for revenue purposes is the problem presented by whole tribes taking refuge in Kenya from maltreatment by Abyssinian Governors and local authorities. There is a limited water supply in the Northern District of Kenya, and it is impossible to accommodate refugees to the number of three thousand adults and thirty thousand head of stock, which was the strength of the Degodia, who fled at the beginning of 1924 from Abyssinian territory. These hapless people accordingly had to be herded back to their own country, and British officials had to do their best, without any confidence in the efficacy of their precautions, to stipulate for decent treatment for the tribe from its own Government. Little wonder that both in Kenya and in Downing Street the suggestion is heard that the question of Abyssinia's shortcomings that are allowed to become a nuisance to her neighbours might be referred to the League of Nations.

The Belgrade Court of Appeal has quashed the sentence of twenty years' imprisonment which was passed recently on the Communist journalist, Maurice Piade.

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THE TURKISH WOMAN.

The Near and Middle East Association arranged what proved to be a crowded meeting on December 18, at 27, Great Cumberland Place (by kind permission of Mrs. James Conchie), to hear Mme. Adnam, better known perhaps as Halideh Edib Hanoum, lecture on "The Turkish Woman of To-day." Lord Lamington presided.

Mme. Adnam began by correcting the statement that had been made (in the Near and Middle East Association's notice of the meeting quoted in the columns of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA) to the effect that she had once been Minister of Education in the Angora Cabinet. This statement was, she said, invented by enemies of the Nationalist Movement in Turkey, with the object of harming Kemalism. The world of Islam, however, had taken the report very kindly, and even since that time she had been known to many Moslems as a onetime Minister of Education. The lecturer then proceeded to the subject of her discourse. The Turkish woman, she claimed, was in all essentials just like Western women. It was true that the romance and the poetry that underlay the Turkish life had attracted such writers as Pierre Loti and Claude Farrère to sympathy with her nation, but that very fact had its disadvantages. For through such writers the notion that all Turks were polygamous, that the Turkish woman reclined in luxury on silken divans and the rest of it, had unfortunately become widespread. In particular, Mme. Adnam attacked the writings of a Greek novelist, Mme. Dimitri Varka, who represented for Western, especially American, readers a wholly false state of affairs. The truth was that polygamy and the harem were institutions confined to the Palace, and that they were to anyone else than the Sultans practically unknown. To prove what were the essential conditions of Turkish society, the lecturer went back to pre-Islamic times, when the forbears of the Turks, the Yuruks, lived in a state where polygamy and divorce were almost unknown. Polygamy and the harem were, therefore, fundamentally non-Turk: they were partly Arab and partly Byzantine.

Coming to the Turkish woman of modern times, Mme. Adnam said that the years of 1839 and 1876 gave a great impetus to the emancipation of woman. This continued steadily until the outbreak of the Great War, when Turkish women, like those of all combatant countries, came very much to the fore, doing all kinds of jobs that had hitherto been reserved to men. Hopes were high when the Armistice of 1918 came, but disappointment followed disappointment. Finally, when the Greeks invaded Anatolia in 1920, it was the Turkish woman who more than any other caused the Nationalists to resist. Having repelled the invader, the Turks were seriously tackling the position of woman in society, and in Anatolia to-day it might be said that perfect freedom existed—girl and boy students, for instance, danced together, played together, and so on, just like any Western community. The young women even were up-to-date in their method of cutting their hair! One thing alone, in fact, demarcated the Turkish woman from her Western sisters—she did not possess a vote. But her education was a very real thing: there was not, for instance, a woman in Constantinople or Smyrna or Broussa who could not read and write, and the progressive movement was fast spreading to the provinces. Alike in dress and ambition and in her general outlook on life, the Turkish woman resembled no one so much as the English woman, whom she so much admired and had consistently striven to imitate.

Among those present were:—The Austrian Minister, the Hungarian Minister, the Albanian Minister and Madame Vrioni, the Polish Chargé d'Affaires, the Egyptian Chargé d'Affaires, and the Persian Chargé d'Affaires, Members of the German and Turkish Embassies, and of the Afghan and Bulgarian Legations, Lady Dunedin, Lord Headley, Lord Edward Gleichen, Sir John and the Hon. Lady Shelley-Rolls, Sir Israr Hasan Khan, the Dowager Lady Boyle, Edith Lady Bradford, Sir Harry Lamb, Sir William Clark, Moukbil Bey, Lady Sprigge, the Vicomtesse de Baillou, Archdeacon and Mrs. Potter, Mrs. Eckstein, Mr. Montague Bell, Mr. J. S. Haskell, Mr. G. L. M. Clauson, Mrs. Van Ryck de Groot, Mr. Allan Ramsey, Mrs. R. H. Foa, Mrs. L. Cobham, Captain and Mrs. E. N. Bennett, Professor and Mrs. Arnold Toynbee, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rowell, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Mrs. N. Sen, Mrs. Bruce Dick, Mrs. Hugh Spender, Mrs. Stewart Erskine, Miss K. D. Courtney, Mrs. Chadbourne, Mrs Clifford Hall, Mrs. Roy Devereux, and Captain F. H. C. Armstrong.

THE ABSENT GUEST DINNER MOVEMENT.

The Cairo Y.M.C.A. have received the following message from St. James's Palace, dated November 24,:—"His Royal Highness was much interested in the Absent Guest Dinner Movement, which seems to him a very fine practical expression of the spirit of Christmas. He hopes that the Movement may spread and that it may be the means of providing many who could not otherwise afford it with a real Christmas dinner."

It will be remembered that two years ago this movement was inaugurated in Cairo, and its increasing popularity has certainly merited its growth on a wider scale. The Double Dinner, held each year in Cairo and London, is a modern "Tale of Two Cities," and has about it a charming touch of Christian sentiment. Over 100 members and friends of the Y.M.C.A. in Cairo, having paid 5s. for their tickets, partake of a simple dinner of lentil soup, bread-and-cheese, and water, at an actual cost of 3d. per head. Representatives attend from the Army, the Royal Air Force, and religious, philanthropic, and social organisations in Cairo, while messages are received from various members of the Royal Family, and other distinguished persons interested.

Simultaneously, on December 26, "On the Feast of Stephen" (out of compliment to Good King Wenceslas!) some 300 to 400 unemployed guests, drawn from the poorer districts of London, are entertained, through the offices of the Church Army, to a sumptuous Christmas Supper, provided out of the balance of the Cairo dinner. Hosts and guests toast each other in absence. The same double menu cards are placed on the tables of each dinner. Flashlight photographs are taken at both dinners and wireless cables are exchanged across the distance of over 2,000 miles. It is hoped some time to arrange for the speeches to be broadcasted.

This somewhat novel form of festivity has a taste of the real Christmas spirit, and is a refreshing change from what is too often a mere cold charity. If it could be adopted on a wide scale by such institutions as parochial clubs, social organisations, masonic lodges, boy scouts, and girl guide troops, and so on, it might become a very valuable contribution towards the solution of the problems of unrest and distrust between class and class.

Lord Lloyd, the British High Commissioner in Egypt, paid his first provincial visit on December 16 to Fayum.

Dr. Langdon arrived at Jerusalem last Thursday on his way to Baghdad, where he will conduct the excavations of the Weld and Field Museum Expedition.

Mr. J. S. Wardlaw-Milne, M.P., gave a dinner at the House of Commons on December 16, to meet Mr. Edward Wood, Viceroy-designate of India. Among those present were:—Lord Inverforth, Sir Robert Horne, Sir Henry Burt, Mr. Langford James, Sir Percy Newson, Mr. E. T. Campbell, M.P., the Hon. Julian Hawke, Colonel Constable, Mr. Osbern Grazebrook, Sir Montagu Turner, Sir Henry Craik, M.P., Sir John Hewett, Sir Charles McLeod, Brigadier-General Charteris, M.P., Mr. Sandeman Allen, M.P., Mr. A. M. Samuel, M.P., Sir Campbell Rhodes, and Sir John Power, M.P.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

Christmas.

Voici Nöel, and it seems as though the clime would this year traditionally suit the time. It is long years since we had considerable snow and frost at Christmas-tide; other things, too, such as scarcity of money and uncertainty of prospect have in the post-War years to some extent decreased the magic and the jollity of the season. This year, however, it looks as though Santa Claus may be "realler than ever" for *les petits enfants*; but for the other mortals who are no longer *petits* there are a hundred and one compensations.

The season has been quite remarkable for the number of books that have been bought as presents. Nor have these purchases been the customary indiscriminate kind of thing, when the quality of a volume is judged more by its cover than by its contents. Novelists have done well; so have the people who write decent memoirs; and, of course, those who, like Lucas or Milne or de la Mare, purvey memorable children's books.

Another thing that has been heavily bought as a present is silk. Silk scarves, silk shawls, silk stockings, silk flowers, silk cushions—all these have been shining in the shop windows with a fascinating smile that betrays the satisfaction of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

But not only in the West End does a special attempt at brightness seem to have been made. In the provincial towns, even, the lights have been twinkling more alluringly than usual, little noses have been rubbed more deeply than ever on the window-panes, and altogether the joy of giving and of receiving has this year been provided a reasonable chance of being indulged. Whether the greater significance of the time is adequately realised is a matter that our kind-hearted English men and women are not greatly pondering over.

The Liberals' Travail.

It hardly seems decent at the time of peace and good will to introduce the jarring note, but so much attention has been paid recently to the painful efforts of the Liberals to extract unity from themselves and, incidentally, wealth from their rich supporters' pockets, that no chronicle professing, however slightly, to indicate political tendencies would be complete without mention of two things.

The first is the rumour that Sir Alfred Mond is willing to step into Mr. Lloyd George's place, and that upon hearing of this the ex-Premier insisted on retaining the leadership of the Liberal Party in the Commons. If this is true, it is an interesting development. For Sir Alfred, who seems to differ very much from nobody who is recognised in Parliament as important except on the questions of Free Trade and Unemployment, is a man who has the essentially party mind; he is, that is, first and foremost a politician. I have heard him described by a prominent Unionist as exactly the kind of Zionist whom a Conservative Administration wants, and by an equally prominent Labour supporter as the future leader of the Labour Party! For the moment, however, all is officially well with Mr. Lloyd George as leader.

The second thing is that the Liberal Party, having definitely renounced the hope of further tapping Mr. Lloyd George's money chest, last week deputed Lords Oxford and Grey to meet the moneyed men of the Party. How successful they were in extracting assistance is unknown, but what fun it would be if, as Mr. Vivian Phillips suggested, the names of the contributors to the Party Funds were published!

Labour's Ginger and Syrup.

The "Ginger-group" in the Labour Party, which I referred to recently, has not got very far—at least in outward appearance. At a meeting last week the older "politicians" of the Party, such as "Uncle Arthur" Henderson, refused point blank to carry on if the Executive were to be occasionally attacked by unauthorised back-benchers. It looked at first as though there might be a storm within the Party, and some fierce mutterings appear to have been indulged in. But under the soothing influence of the more mellow members of the Party the ginger dissolved into syrup, and to the outward world a united front was once more presented, in the way which students of politics, and particularly of recent Liberal politics, know so well.

It was resolved that a complete reconciliation be advertised to the public to have taken place, that the whole strength of the Party be concentrated on the floor of the House of Commons for the purpose of waging war against a "capitalistic" Government, and, in fact, that the attempt to lead the Party from behind would be a disastrous experiment. And there, for the moment, the matter rests. But for how long, it would be rash to guess.

Politicians and the Press.

Quite the most exciting, the most well boomed, and the most extensively reviewed publication of recent days has been Lord Beaverbrook's "Politicians and the Press." It should be explained, for those who might be misled, that by "politicians" Lord Beaverbrook means those men who during and after the War were, either in or out of Parliament, susceptible to Lord Beaverbrook's influence; and by the "Press" is meant, simply, Lord Beaverbrook's *Express*.

Now it is well known that nothing since the War has so saddened men of education in this country as the degradation of the popular Press, by which is implied chiefly the papers of Lord Beaverbrook and Rothermere. The "new type of journalism," the praises of which these two Peers are never fatigued with reciting, has, it seems, been specially invented for the most superficial and uneducated type of mind, the mind which prefers shrewdness above all things, the mind which has, nevertheless, to have the particular importance of a thing indicated to it either in italic or in heavy type; the mind, that is, of the essentially "get rich quick" type.

It is unfortunately true that at one time Lord Beaverbrook did have very considerable influence over certain politicians—"so much the worse," as he himself might say, for our politicians. But nobody imagined that the political degradation into which the Coalition Government plunged our national life after the War could endure; and at last, whether through mere good fortune or whether through inexorable fate, the guiding or impelling hand of Lord Beaverbrook was withdrawn from England's leaders. An honest man is now at the head of affairs, and although an intensified "stunt" might conceivably remove him, the cleansing process that he has started will take some time to be converted into a muddying machine.

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Lord Beaverbrook as Imperialist.

In case I should be accused of devoting too much space to the eminent bludgeoner who was once Max Aitken, it should be pointed out that many Conservatives seem to be genuinely afraid of his professions of democratic Imperialism. (Liberals are not afraid of him: they are either subservient or neglectful.) Now it is true that Lord Beaverbrook is an Imperialist, but he is a very ignorant one. He prates incessantly of Empire, but he seems never to have heard of India. Consequently he is entirely at a loss in dealing with British Middle Eastern policy.

And lest it should be supposed that, even in his ignorance, he really holds principles in regard to British policy in Arabia, I should like to quote two sentences concerning Palestine, to revise our conduct in which country he specially visited the Holy Land. On page 100 of his book he says:—"I objected particularly to the Palestine adventure because it subjected an Arab majority to an unjust domination by the Zionists." One saw, on reading this, the tears of sympathy with Eastern Christians and Moslems welling out of Shoe Lane. One's vision was, however, blinded on finding, on page 102:—"If France or Italy care to prop up the Jewish State in Palestine on foreign bayonets, I should not have any objection."

A wonderful man! Why do people keep on reading him? For a rudderless ship at sea was never more completely lost than are the *Daily Mail* and the *Daily Express* in the present ocean of more or less clean politics. Their cries are of hoarse and troubled men, spluttering and intermittent, as of travellers whose familiar means of progress avail them no longer.

The Ulster Embroglio.

Yesterday it was the Free State that was in trouble; to-day it is Ulster. Poor Ireland! Ulster in some ways is even more difficult to understand than Southern Ireland. For in that province, where in the past "loyalty" has been a somewhat over-paraded virtue, there was recently to all intents a mutiny. Part of the "A" Special Constabulary, which was a force enrolled by the Ulster Government (and paid for by the English tax-payer), mainly for the purpose of checking any nefarious activities on the part of the Free State, was in open revolt. The Belfast Government, seeing that the boundary dispute is settled, naturally wished to disband it. With this desire, however, the Constabulary did not see eye to eye. It promptly demanded a bounty of £200 a head, or £700,000 in all.

How Sir James Craig, whose reputation for statesmanship has in recent weeks considerably increased, got over this difficulty, is as yet not quite clear, but the matter, it is stated, has been happily settled.

London Housing.

The London County Council has recently published a grand scheme for the development of outer London. On the Becontree Estate, which is two miles across, 20,000 houses are to be erected, and it is promised that we shall have there "the finest garden city in England." In many other places, too, elaborate plans have been made, and in what are sometimes called the noisome districts of Shoreditch, Stepney, Lambeth, and so on, slums are to be replaced by decent rooms. In all, taking housing and rehousing together, one arrives at the figures of £18,000,000 to be spent on 143,000 people.

In time doubtless we shall see London all planned out—healthy, wholesome and with the rest of those attributes that delight the reformer's heart. There is a type of mind that cannot cease regretting that the London that we know was not better planned, but grew up anyhow. It is passionate in its demand for open spaces, correct sanitation, the straightening out of curves, and so on; that these defects are some of the essentials of lasting beauty it never stops to think. One would expect with more eagerness the achievement of the L.C.C. if one did not know its record on the question of Waterloo Bridge.

Waterloo Bridge.

If any men deserve posthumous ill-fame, the L.C.C. deserve it—and, too, will probably get it. For last week it turned its utilitarian thumbs definitely down on the proposal to save the one bridge that London and visitors to London are abidingly proud of—Waterloo Bridge. The line that seems to have been taken by eminent restaurateurs and other artistically minded men on the Council seems to have been that the Bridge is, as some one said of St. Paul's Cathedral when there was a question of destroying or saving it, a "thing of beauty and an obstruction for ever." It is, indeed, admitted by the vast majority of experts who believe that it is perfectly feasible to save Waterloo Bridge, that it is not at the moment so utilitarian as it might be. But would Westminster Abbey be destroyed if it were pronounced unsuitable for public service?

However, the die is now cast, and for those who wish to see London's most lovely bridge before it falls under the hand of Progress, one's advice is to go at once to it—and then to ponder on the æsthetic virtures of representative government. Democracy, what things are done in thy name!

A Great Cricketer.

I never saw A. N. Hornby, who has just died, but he was one of those great cricketers at whose shrine everyone who knows anything about the national game is ready to worship. In his time ("it's so my father tells of it") the game had infinitely more adventure, more wit and humours and spice; it was romance and uncertainty all the time. I am the last to decry the present-day cricket, but no one would deny that, in the first-class games at any rate, venturesomeness is a declining quality. Modern technique is so highly finished; wickets are far less mischievous than they were; and, to some extent, the development of professionalism has emphasised the prosaic elements in the game at the expense of its poetry.

But Hornby belonged to the school about which poets can and did write. Everyone knows Francis Thompson's lines on him and on Barlow. What Lancashire man of the present day is there over whom one could rhythmically rhapsodise? And what, for instance, did Hornby, watching from the pavilion of Old Trafford, really think of Hallows and of Makepeace? Ah! for the *neiges d'antan!*

English Pronunciation.

Everyone knows that if you wish to hear English correctly spoken you must (according to the Scots) go to Aberdeen, or (according to Mr. St. John Ervine) to Northern Ireland. Others have made this claim for the Universities' accent (whatever that may be); yet others (nearer the truth) for Southern Ireland; and alone but in solitary accuracy comes George Borrow (Cobbett also, I rather think) who put it in on behalf of the people of Norfolk, the only folk in England who know how to pronounce a final "l" or "le."

And now comes another, Sir Richard Paget, who says that in Somerset the purest English is spoken. Sir Richard is intriguingly original. He applies the acoustic criterion, and finds that ,alone of English dialects, the Somerset, with its "v" for "f," and its "z" for "s," can carry. This zeems vurry vine, but who, beyond a Communist or a bookmaker or a bargeman, wants to make his voice carry. To me, at any rate, it seems a doctrine fitter for bedouin than for bourgeois.

But it is rather interesting to guess how the Somersetshire man came to develop this dialect, for it can hardly have come through the necessity of shouting (unless, indeed, it was farmers bellowing at well-cidered labourers who invented it). One would have thought that carrying voices would sooner have been developed by mountainous folk, and, indeed, I have heard people in North Wales claim distinction for their pronunciation on this very score.

ALTER EGO.

The Times Basra correspondent reports that the accession of Shah Riza as Shah of Persia was celebrated in Basra on December 16. There was a special reception at the Persian Consulate, which was attended by Wuthuq ed Dowlah, a former Prime Minister. The Anglo-Persian Oil Company gave free meals in the Mohammerah, Abadan, and Ahwaz mosques to 1,500 poor people.

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Book Reviews and Notes.

THE GOLDEN JOURNEY.

"THROUGH KHIVA TO GOLDEN SAMARKAND." By Ella R Christie. (London: Seeley, Service and Co. 21s. net.)

By the present reviewer it should be confessed at once that the very names of Bokhara and of Samarkand are like the distant blue hills that for ever and appealingly call the traveller, names that more any other summon or suggest the romance, the strangeness, the magnetic unknowableness of the East. He would wade through the deepest and least poetic narrative even in imagination to reach those enchanting spots.

And, to be quite frank, it has been rather a wade through Miss Christie's book. One was often stuck in the bog of impertinent padding, or held up by the abundant pools of quotation, or made to stumble over the frequent inconsequent jottings. But all these things, if in the way, can by the reader be made by the way, and if he perseveres he will be well rewarded. Miss Christie apologises, it is true, for her "unprofessional style," and in spite of her obvious reluctance to set down her own impressions and of her readiness to set down others' impressions (or is this merely due to her having written after the War the story of a pre-War journey?), one ends in forgiveness and in gratitude to her for having told us the tale of a gallant and fascinating trek through Russian Turkestan.

Miss Christie started on her first journey from Krasnovodsk, on the Caspian. The train journey thence to Ashkabad was not greatly interesting, but it enabled the authoress to admire the thoroughness with which the Russians in the Tsarist régime renovated the region. Of Merv, once the "Queen of the World," she says that it is now but "a vast plain of shapeless mounds," reserving her encomiums for what the Russian Government did for the afforestation of the country around. It was, of course, largely owing to the efforts of a British engineer, Sir Colin Scott-Moncrieff, that the district around Old Merv (Bairam Ali) became so productive. On she went, along the Transcaspian Railway, to Charjui, whence she resolved to set out by boat, along the Amu Darya (or Oxus) for Khiva. On the steamer north she was given an opportunity of intimate study of the types of the region—Turcomans, Kirghiz, and Sarts. In less than a week Novi Urgentch was reached, whence Khiva is but forty versts.

Khiva was a town of 60,000 inhabitants, yet it had neither telegraph nor postal arrangements of any kind. One rare thing, however, Miss Christie did get there—a hot bath. Her chapters describing this town (where, incidentally, it is stated that the Basmachis have recently been causing trouble to the Soviet military authorities), and of her visit thence to the Mennonite colony at Ach Meshed, are among the best in the book. Khiva appears, however, to be now even further away from being a resort of Cook's tourists than it was before the War, and even then Miss Christie was able to falsify Captain Burnaby's prophecy that Khiva would soon be included in the Cook's itinerary.

From Khiva the authoress went by horse and cart across the desert to Petro Alexandrovsk whence she returned down the Oxus to Charjui. Next she was to come to one of her goals—Bokhara, which, strangely enough, she compares, for its antiquity and colour, with Petra. At the time of her visit to this walled city, the population was between 70,000 and 100,000: how many, one wonders, are there now? And is it still a mixed throng of Sarts and Tajiks and Turkomans and Kirghiz and Jews and Indians?

There is no space, however, to dwell with Miss Christie in delightful Bokhara: we must on to Samarkand, the capital to which Timour moved after the fall of Bokhara, the city whose very dust is a golden glory and whose camel bells are pilgrims' music, the town whose loveliness appealed alike to the sensitive prospect of Lord Curzon and to the imaginative vision of Flecker. It is described in some detail by Miss Christie, who has manifestly read all that she could on the history of this wondrous place, so redolent with the might of Timour, a figure whose like can scarcely rise again.

The next stage of the journey brought the authoress to the end of the Transcaspian Railway, Andijan. After traversing many miles of steppe, Miss Christie found herself in the great cotton-growing centre of Russian Turkestan, that vast area which centres on Khokand. Thence she went to Ush and to Tashkent, and so, by the Orenburg Railway, to Moscow, and home.

But she had not finished with Central Asia. Once more, this time by the rail-line which she had used in returning, she decided to go back—a resolution which enabled her to see a certain distance into the soul of Russia. Particularly, she stayed in Tashkent and the town of Turkestan. And she concludes her book with a reference to events that have taken place since her visit to Central Asia, describing, but at second hand, events under the Bolshevist régime.

It should be stated that this book, which, for all its ineptitudes and somewhat undigested quotation, is, from the very nature of the country with which the intrepid authoress deals, a valuable one, is abundantly supplied with photographs. In fine, it is one of those numerous contributions to the literature of travel which, without being in any way original, have a quite definite and permanent use.

THE KING OF YUGOSLAVIA.

The birthday of the King of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, was celebrated on December 17, at the Russian Church, Buckingham Palace Road. The choral service, which was attended by the Minister, M. Jouritch, and the personnel of the Legation, as well as by a few of the Yugoslav colony in London, was short and impressive.

THE DESERT MAIL SERVICE.

We fear that subscribers to THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA in Baghdad have during the last few weeks been receiving their copies of the paper very irregularly. This circumstance is due to the abnormal conditions with which the motor mail service has had to contend, and in no way reflects on the punctuality of the delivery by our agents, the Government Book Store.

LECTURES FOR MISSIONARIES.

The Board of Study for the Preparation of Missionaries is continuing its usual courses of lectures on Thursday afternoons at the School of Oriental Studies, Finsbury Circus, London, E.C. The Spring Term begins on January 14. The subjects to be taken, as finally arranged, are "Language Problems on the Mission Field," "Current Problems in China and India," "An Introduction to the Study of Confucianism and Buddhism," and "The Practice of Teaching."

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY

December 24, 1925 (New Style).
December 11, 1925 (Old Style).
Jumada II, 8, 1344 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Tebet 7, 5686, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Turkish Ambassador has returned to London from Paris.

Sir Vincent Raven left London last week for India and the Far East.

Sir James Currie left London last Thursday to join Lady Currie at Port Sudan.

Sir Archibald Buchan-Hepburn has left for Egypt and will be away for several months.

Viscount and Viscountess Devonport left Marseilles last Friday in the Ranchi, for Bombay.

Sir Thomas Strangman, formerly Advocate-General for Bombay, left London last Thursday for India.

The Countess of Kinnoull, who has been spending some time in Cairo, left last week for Upper Egypt.

Sir Valentine Chirol has left England to spend two months in Corfu.

Lord and Lady Esmé Gordon Lennox left London last Friday in the Maloja, to spend the winter in Egypt.

Sir Alexander and Lady Kay Muir, who have been staying at the Ritz Hotel, have left London for the country.

Major the Hon. Alastair and Lady Sibyl Fraser left London last Thursday to embark in the s.s. Ranchi at Marseilles for Bombay.

Lord Glenavy was among those who left London for Marseilles last Thursday to join the s.s. Ranchi for Port Said.

Viscount and Viscountess Lee of Fareham left Marseilles last Friday for a tour in India and the Far East. They do not expect to return until the end of April.

Sesostris Sidarouss Bey, Counsellor at the Egyptian Legation, in London, last Thursday, gave a luncheon party at Claridge's in honour of Prince Jemil Toussoun of Egypt.

Lord and Lady Donington and the Hon. Irene Hastings-Campbell last Thursday left London by the P. and O. special train to embark in the s.s. Ranchi at Marseilles for Port Said.

Princess Ileana, youngest daughter of the King and Queen of Roumania, who has been spending some months in England to complete her studies, left London last Saturday to rejoin her parents in Bucharest.

Madame Ferid Bey and H. E. D. George Jouritch (Minister in London for the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes) were among those who had the honour of being received by the Queen on December 16.

Professor Ormerod has been appointed to represent Leeds University at an archæological congress arranged by the Director of Antiquities for the Government of Palestine, to be held in Palestine and Syria next April.

Mr. H. E. Garle has resigned from his position as representative of the British Empire on the Commission for the Assessment of Damage suffered in Turkey, of which he has been President since September last. Sir Elliot G. Colvin, K.C.S.I., formerly agent to the Governor-General of India for Rajputana and from 1921 to 1924 British Representative on the Bulgarian Inter-Allied Commission for Reparations, has been appointed to succeed him.

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MILITARY OPERATIONS IN TRANS-CASPIA, 1918-1919.

On December 10, at the Royal United Services Institution, Lt.-Col. D. E. Knollys, D.S.O., lectured to the Central Asian Society on "Military Operations in Trans-Caspia, 1918-1919." General Sir George MacMunn, who presided, pointed out how important it was for Britain, after the Bolshevist Revolution had left the way to the East open to the Central Powers, to check the flood of Pan-Turkism.

During the War, said the lecturer, Afghanistan, which, in view of the temerity of the forces in India, it was essential to keep quiet, was for all practical purposes only approachable for agents and propaganda work from the north or the west, that is to say through Trans-Caspia or Persia. The former route was closed by the Russians, but the latter was an easy and open road. In order to close this as far as possible a cordon called the East Persian Cordon was established along the eastern boundary of Persia and, in accordance with the pre-War division of that country into spheres of influence, Russia held the northern part of this line and Britain the southern. Several Indian revolutionary agents from Kabul were captured trying to get through this Cordon.

In 1917 came the Russian Revolution, shortly followed by the first signs of Bolshevism, and by the beginning of 1918 the Russian troops in Persia had decided it was time they went to look after their own homes, and incidentally to share in any loot that might be available; and walked out of Persia. The British forces accordingly extended their line north to Meshed, and by March one cavalry regiment (28th L.G.) and one infantry battalion (19th Punjabis) were spread out from Khwash to Meshed, a distance of 800 miles.

Colonel Knollys then described the geography and nature of the country over which the operations took place. From Meshed, he said, a reasonably good road runs to Askabad, a distance of about 160 miles. In addition there are alternative routes, suitable with more or less difficulty mor mules or camels, runing directly north through the mountains from Meshed to Dushak and from Kuchan to Mohomedabad. The portion of Turkestan with which his forces were concerned consists of a flat sandy desert with here and there areas of small sand-hills. In the few places where water is available it is extremely fertile, producing grain, cotton and grapes of excellent quality. The two main oases are those of Tejend and Merv, watered respectively by the river Tejend and Murgab, which, flowing down from the Persian hills, lose themselves in the sand after most of their water has been taken for irrigation. The climate is one of extremes, varying from about zero in winter to somewhere round 100 degrees in the shade in summer and no rainfall at all so far as he knew. The railway is a broad gauge single line running from the Caspian at Krasnovodsk through Askabad, Merv, across the Oxus and so up to Samarkand and Tashkent. Water is only available at a few stations along it, and the remainder are supplied by the trains, for which oil was the main fuel used.

The country had made a remarkable development in the forty years or so the Russians had been in possession of it, and from the point of view of creature comforts, such as electric light and accommodation for troops and the railway employees, compared very favourably with India.

By the beginning of August (1918) a strong Bolshevist centre had been established at Tashkent, and, being dissatisfied with the mildness of the rule of their brothers in Askabad, they sent a Commissar to instil the new gospel into their backward brethren. This he proceeded to do in accordance with the best tenets of Bolshevism by shooting down the representatives of the railway workmen who had come to discuss matters with him. Thereupon the Askabadis gave a practical demonstration of their readiness to learn and shot both him and his wife and set up their own committee, calling themselves Menshevists. This committee was, however, just as Bolshevist at heart as those against whom they were fighting. These Menshevists got together a scratch force and the Bolshevists were driven back beyond Bairam Ali. Reinforcements were sent down from Tashkent, and it was obvious that the Menshevists could not keep them back. At this point they approached the British Mission which had been established in Meshed under General Malleson, asking for moral support.

The world position of Britain at this time was delicate. The Turks were advancing on Baku on the western shore of the Caspian, where another Mission had been established under General Dunsterville but was obviously in great jeopardy. With Baku captured, Trans-Caspia Bolshevist right up to the Capsian—there was the realisation of German dreams, an open road to Afghanistan and the East, and a very serious situation for India.

It was decided that all available troops should be sent up to the border at Mohomedabad to give practical support, and the available troops were assessed at the battalion of Infantry, less one company, and one section Field Ambulance. Accordingly he received orders to march as quickly as possible and endeavour to get astride the railway and do his best. His forces would be nominally under the Russian commander, but could agree to differ if he found it advisable. They should have no line of communication, their sick and wounded must accompany them, the Russians would feed them, and no maps were available. A very pleasant roving commission from which more was hoped than expected.

The route selected for them to pass was via Kuchan and the Allohoa Akbar Pass to Mohomedabad on the border.

Colonel Knollys then described in some detail the gallant fighting that took place at Kaaka, emphasising the unreliability of the "Russian Allies" who for the most were Armenians. His troops performed nobly until they finally captured Merv and Bairam Ali.

Bairam Ali was a model estate made by the Czar to instruct the Tucomans in growing cotton, etc., and was equipped with an up-to-date ginnery. It afforded excellent accommodation for the troops which was badly needed, as by now the weather was extremely cold. Orders were then received that no further offensive action was to be taken by the British troops beyond Merv.

At the end of December General Beatty arrived at the Front with his staff, the pre-runner of a larger force which it was proposed to send up but which was stillborn. and the force was transferred to the control of the War Office coming under General Milne commanding the Army of the Black Sea.

Had general policy permitted there is little doubt that the British force could have driven the enemy across the Oxus without appreciable loss, such was the terror the sowar and sepoy had instilled into them and so suitable was the ground for the offensive. It was, however, not to be and the gallant force withdrew unmolested to Meshed at the end of March, and in a few months all its work was undone and the Bolshevists were in Krasnovodsk, but too late for the German to make any use of their success. And so its task was accomplished.

In subsequent discussion General Dunsterville said that, if his own operations round Baku reminded him of Alice in Wonderland, the experiences of Colonel Knollys were like the Hunting of the Snark. It was remarkable how these two expeditions in Trans-Caucasia and in Trans-Caspia had been fought on mechanical transport, his own force in motor-cars, the Trans-Caspian force in a train. Between the Menshevists (by whom he also was considerably troubled) and the Bolshevists there was nothing to choose: he, in fact, would rather have had the Bolshevists on his side—they had the bigger guns!

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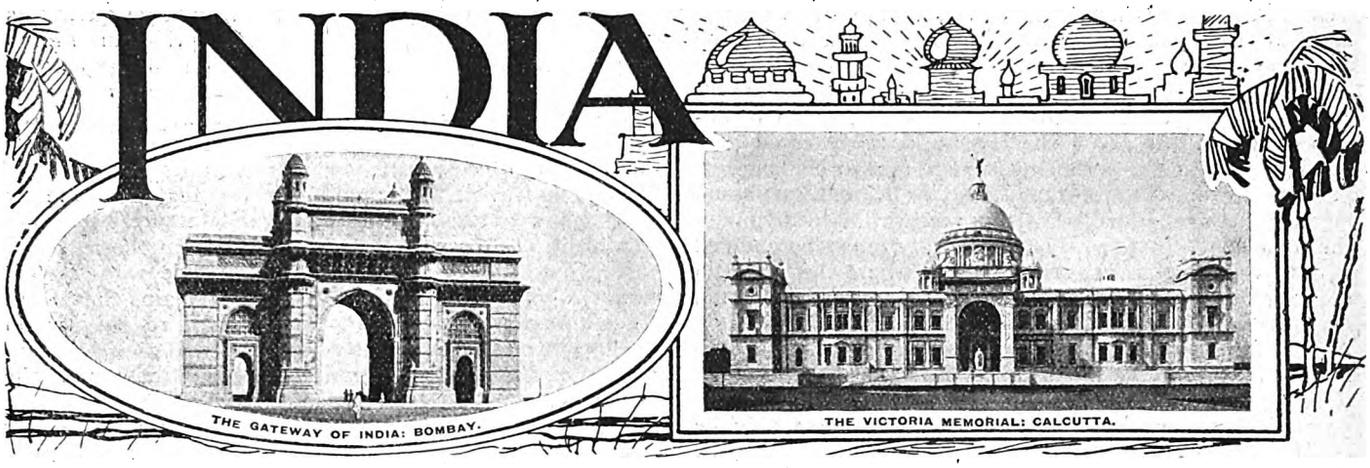

THE GATEWAY OF INDIA: BOMBAY.

THE VICTORIA MEMORIAL: CALCUTTA.

LORD READING AT CALCUTTA.

Lord Reading has addressed the Associated Chambers of Commerce and attended the annual dinner of the European Association, at Calcutta; both of these functions being in the nature of farewell meetings with the European non-official community of India. It has been the Viceroy's custom to spend the best part of a month in Calcutta, of late years: a custom which, while it gives rise to a certain amount of official inconvenience, is undoubtedly a most excellent one—especially for the Viceroy and his immediate entourage. The official inconvenience arises from the fact that, for eleven months of the year, the Governor of the most important of the Indian Provinces is the centre round which the political, social and economic life of Bengal revolves; for the twelfth, he has to yield the pas to the Viceroy, and play second fiddle, in his own kingdom, to a more important personage still. It is true that a similar state of affairs occurs at Simla, where the Governor of the Punjab is a much less important figure than he is at Lahore; but, whatever may be the case in the future, the importance of the Punjab is now so different from that of Bengal that even the most fervent Punjabi would probably agree that it was smaller: while Simla is a place entirely official, between which and Calcutta there can be no comparison. Alone among Indian cities, Calcutta manages to convey the impression of a British commercial centre planted in a foreign land: its only real rival, Bombay, conveys a very different impression—that of an Indian city whose inhabitants include a certain proportion of Britons. And this is where the excellence of the Viceregal visit comes in. Ordinarily, the Briton in India lives in an atmosphere that is entirely official, and there are but few places where he can escape from it. In the great days of indigo, the planting community of Behar—now, alas, fallen from their noble estate—inhabited one such place: and it was not only a refreshing, but a salutary, experience for the official to find himself among a set of men who did not care a snap of the fingers for a General, and who could be relied upon to tell a Commissioner exactly what they thought of him, should he, or the occasion, appear to demand it. Another such place is Calcutta; where the most important official soon comes to realise that he is not, as he is in Simla or Delhi, the only pebble on the beach: where he is brought in contact with the men whose forebears made India what it is, and who carry on the work no less effectively themselves. Indian officialdom, which generally lives in an atmosphere peculiar to itself, is apt to overlook the enormous importance of British non-officials—of the shrewd hard-headed men, open-handed and free of speech, whose stake in the country is so great and whose impress on its prosperity has been so lasting. The official, be his period long or short, is a bird of passage: the non-official may be considered as a permanent resident, if not in his own person, at any rate in the persons of himself and his descendants combined.

In his speech at the European Association's dinner, Lord Reading took occasion to assure his hearers that the place of the European in the political, industrial and commercial activities of India would be preserved: to speak in praise of Calcutta which had been founded by British enterprise, developed by British energy, and perfected by British and Indians working together, until it was now a great monument of civilisation and culture: and to congratulate the Europeans on having striven their hardest to provide the two essential conditions called for by the Reforms—the will to co-operate and the will to succeed. He declared that one of the most gratifying and remarkable aspects of the Reforms was the spirit of their reception by non-official Europeans: and paid a tribute to the share, in the political advancement of India during the last few years, borne by Calcutta, where there was a happy fusion of the various interests of the two races in a common purpose that provided the best of auguries for the future.

In his address to the Chambers of Commerce, Lord Reading indulged in a survey of the recent economic policy of his Government. He repeated the explanation of the reasons which had led the Government to suspend the cotton excise duty and to choose, for doing so, the moment that they did choose. In view of the conditional promise officially given, to proceed to the abolition of the duty during the next session of the Legislative Assembly "unless the financial position as disclosed in the Budget estimates for next year substantially fails to confirm the present anticipations," it is interesting to note that, in this address, he said that "it was idle to consider suspension unless it was to be followed immediately by proposals for abolition." As regards the suggestion that the removal of the excise duty might entail some compensation to Lancashire in the form of a reduction in the import duty, it is also of interest to note that the Viceroy said he desired to emphasise the fact that "no conditions, expressed or implied, are attached to the suspension." In a general survey of the economic position, Lord Reading spoke of the steady improvement that had taken place "since March 31, 1921, brought to a close a most abnormal and disastrous year in Indian trade." The process was necessarily slow, but it had to be remembered that "India has no real concern with luxury trades, and the commodities dealt in are connected with everyday needs." Credit was allowed to the monsoon, but was also "due in large measure to the grit and energy with which the commercial community in India had faced the problems before them, and to the steps that the Government had now been able to take for the improvement of facilities for trade and industry." By the latter he appears to have meant the separation of Railway finance from the ordinary budget, the passing of the Cotton Cess Act and the Coal Grading Bill, the projected legislation regarding Insurance Companies, and—perhaps with less justification—the operations of the Tariff Board. He also referred to the improvement in the political situation as a powerful force in engendering a feeling of stability and continuity, and restoring confidence in internal security which "had once more emboldened the timid to new ventures and revived the normal course of trade." As regards agriculture, Lord Reading said that, thought it would be premature for him to make any announcement at the moment, he could state, without betraying any confidence, that he and his Government had been in communication with the Secretary of State for some time past on the question, and that they had invited the views of Local Governments in regard to

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definite proposals for the improvement of agriculture. The Chambers might rest assured that the subject commanded the attention demanded by its importance to the country in general, and to commerce in particular.

This latter speech is specially interesting as an appreciation, by the one best qualified to give it, of the situation in India. It gives the credit, in fairly equal proportions, to the speaker's Government and to his hearers: perhaps it is only natural that the major percentage should be allocated to the former: with a reservation in favour of the monsoon. In fact, this too might almost be claimed as a Government asset; for, in India, where the "man in the mud hut" accepts Government as all-powerful, and as, even in ways beyond his ken, responsible, in the last resort, for any advantage or disability that accrues to him, a failure of the monsoon is, in some dim way, felt to be due to some fault of commission or omission on the part of Government: who may therefore reasonably be entitled to assume the credit—as in fact, if not in words, they not infrequently do—when the monsoon is a success.

CURRENT TOPICS.

Trade Commissioner's Report.

Examination of the report for 1924-25 of Mr. Ainscough, the Senior British Trade Commissioner in India, already quoted in these columns, shows that it contains some interesting pieces of information besides those previously noted. For instance, it says that, though the share of the United Kingdom in India's total imports is now only 54 per cent., or ten per cent. less than it was before the War, yet, since the total imports include certain raw materials and comestibles in which the United Kingdom has no direct interest, as well as certain lines of manufactured goods in which she does not compete, her actual percentage of the imports of manufactured goods, in which she does compete, is still over 75.

Germany's increasing share, which now approaches closely to that which she held before the War, is entirely due to the cheapness of her products, and her business is secured on the score of price alone: some of her products being of a very low grade, such as no British manufacturer would touch. The abolition of the ban against ex-enemy nationals entering India is likely to be of special advantage to Germany, since its existence caused many of her manufacturers to leave their interests in the hands of Indian agents, some of whom were persons of very doubtful financial standing: with the result that, in the autumn of 1924, the number of repudiated German drafts in the Indian markets was considerable. The report points out that, though Japan and Italy have made a large pro rata advance in their shares of India's imports, the balance of trade is, in each case, very greatly in favour of India: for, whereas Japan's share is now nearly 7 per cent., as against 2½ per cent. before the War, and the value of her exports of yarn and cotton goods increased, during the year under review, by nearly three crores of rupees, yet she took no less than 343,000 tons of Indian raw cotton, valued at nearly 46 crores; while Italy's exports to India were 19½ crores less than her imports. American exporters are paying much greater attention to the Indian trade, are appointing mercantile agents, and are sending specialists to survey the market; they are also able to grant such generous agency terms as to attract British distributors. The United States Government is actively supporting this campaign, having appointed three Trade Commissioners in India in addition to the five existing Consuls: and every effort is made, by reports and interviews, to interest the American manufacturer in the Indian market. American competition is generally in articles of higher grade, particularly in machinery and electrical appliances, where the large domestic market in the United States has enabled American makers to standardise and so to reduce prices.

The Trade Commissioner remarks that Lancashire's opportunity, to translate the latent purchasing power of India into actual buying, came towards the end of 1924, when the price of American cotton fell below thirteen pence a pound. Cabled inquiries for very large quantities of goods were dispatched from the principal Indian markets, in the hope that this reduction in the cost of the raw material would bring about a corresponding fall in the price of cloth: and so open the way to meet the two great present-day requirements of the Indian market —reduction in cost, and confidence in its permanency. So far, however, from making a bid for the trade by quoting lower rates, spinners and manufacturers took the opportunity to increase their margin, so that the resulting business was small. Whether this attitude was justified or not, says Mr. Ainscough, "the fact remains that, from the standpoint of regaining the Lancashire position in this market, an opportunity was lost and the door left open for increased competition from Japan and the Continent."

It is proper to add, that so great an authority as Sir Charles Macara has written to the papers to contradict Mr. Ainscough's assertion that Lancashire merchants lost a great opportunity, when the price of American cotton fell, by "increasing their margins" instead of reducing their prices. He says that, so far from this being the case, there was no margin to increase: that Lancashire had, for a considerable time, been selling to India at a loss: and that the fall in the price of cotton did no more than allow of selling at, instead of below, the cost of production.

The Cotton Excise.

The Executive Committe of the Free Trade Union have passed a resolution in which, "while not challenging the right of the Government of India to fiscal freedom," they describe the abolition of the Indian cotton excise as "a natural fruit of the Protectionist movement in England," and express regret that it should mark "the definite establishment of Protection in the Indian cotton industry, tending to burden the Indian masses and to increase their cost of living."

Any stick is good enough to beat a dog with; but the most friendly sympathiser with Free Trade views may be inclined to wonder why the removal of an excise duty, which reduces the initial cost of manufacture of home-made cotton goods in India by 3½ per cent., should be denounced as "tending to burden the Indian masses and to increase their cost of living." The removal of the excise makes no difference to the price at which imported cotton goods can be landed in India: all it does is to make it, at least theoretically, probable that the cost of Indian-made cloth will be lowered, to the reduction of the burden on the Indian masses and to the decrease of their cost of living. It is, of course, quite on the cards that this theoretical probability will not materialise, and that the retail price of home-made cloth will not fall; but, even in that case, the Indian consumer will be no worse off than he was before. The Lancashire trade has explained that the removal of the excise duty will not affect it to any serious extent, since its products are, for the most part, not in direct competition with those of the Indian mills: to the extent to which they are in competition with Japanese products, the position is unchanged. The only protectionist effect which the removal of the duty may have in favour of Indian cloth and yarn is against Japan; whose competition has been denounced as unfair, owing to the advantages obtained by her from shipping subsidies, the employment of sweated labour, and refusal to accept the International Labour agreement which has been accepted by India. If the principle of Free Trade is so important that it must include tenderness towards competition of this kind, coupled with a refusal to right what has, for many years, been an admitted injustice to India, there is no more to be said; but, to the uninstructed onlooker, it seems permissible to doubt this.

Air Line to India.

It is announced that, as the result of negotiations with Imperial Airways, definite heads of agreement have been signed for a regular air service between Egypt and India. Provision has been made for a subsidy, to be earned by a stipulated degree of regularity in completed flights on each half of the route, to a maximum of £93,600: the

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agreement is for five years. Owing to the paramount necessity of doing everything possible to avoid forced descents in the inhospitable country over which part of the route passes, it has been decided that the machines shall be three-engined: and this decision has made it necessary for special machines to be constructed, so that it is unlikely that the service will be in actual operation much before the end of 1926. The service will be fortnightly, via Baghdad and Basra: mails, goods and passengers will be carried.

In making this announcement, the Air Minister said that he hoped that the subsidy would prove sufficient to enable the Company to increase the frequency of its service to a weekly basis, as traffic expanded. The flying men themselves are even more sanguine: and look forward to so great a demand as to justify a service twice or even three times weekly. Once the route is fairly established, even on its initial fortnightly basis, there can be no question that it will be extended in and from India. Karachi, though a convenient Indian terminus from the point of view of the Air Company, is by no means a convenient air centre for India: it is none too easy a place to get at even from Lahore or Delhi, let alone Calcutta: while its only present communication with Bombay is two days' sea voyage, or nearly the same amount of railway travelling, involving several breaks of gauge. The actual geographical centre of India lies in the Central Provinces; but the economic centre is Delhi, whence first-class railway lines radiate in every direction. The inauguration of the central Indian air station at Delhi would go far to remove the complaint that the Government of India's new capital has been built in a deserted spot among the tombs of bygone Emperors; for, however slow it may be in coming, there cannot be any doubt that aviation is the transport of the future: and the importance of the central air station in a country of such great distances as India will be such as to lift the place of its location into the very front rank irrespective of all other considerations.

If India will bestir herself betimes, so as to have her arrangements for dealing with internal air traffic ready by the time that the first fortnightly aeroplane lands at Karachi, all should be well. If not, the expansion of traffic, to which the Air Minister and the flying men look forward, will be slow in coming: for the prospect of being set down in Karachi, thence to find the way by land to the other important cities of India, is not likely to be one that will attract anyone except an inhabitant of Karachi itself: and their number cannot be expected to be great enough to make a success of the service unaided.

The Commonwealth of India Bill.

On December 17, Mr. Lansbury introduced in the House of Commons the Commonwealth of India Bill—the authorship of which, at any rate in India, is generally attributed to Mrs. Besant. The Bill was backed by a large number of Labour Members: and it is said that it has been referred, by the Executive of the Labour Party, to a Committee, on whose report the Labour Party will decide whether or not to adopt it officially for discussion next session.

The Commonwealth of India Bill was discussed, at some length, in THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA in July last: and if, as is presumably the case, the Bill still retains the form in which it was then published, it is unnecessary to say more about it than to reiterate the opinion that it is a wholly impracticable measure. As it has no chance whatever of being accepted by the present Parliament—or, one may hope, by any future Parliament—its discussion, in any case, could only be academic; but it is perhaps worth while to refer to the basis on which the bill is framed: that of the self-contained village community which, in the Bill, forms the foundation of the higher political units: on a method somewhat resembling the Soviet system of Russia.

The ancient Indian "Panchayat" system, under which each village managed its own affairs, came into being when rural India was in a very different condition from that which it experiences to-day. Railways were entirely non-existent, and roads were few: so that each village was, in fact, cut off from its neighbours by the practical absence of means of communication. Nowadays matters are very different: the extension of railways, and the improvement in roads which has made possible quicker forms of transport than the bullock cart of past ages, have gone a great way to break down the isolation of the village: and an attempt to revive the old Panchayat system really connotes an attempt to set back the hands of the clock similar to that of Mr. Gandhi when he preached that railways, metalled roads, telegraph and post offices, even modern hospitals—though he himself freely patronised them all—were inventions of the evil one which ought to have no place in the India of which he dreamed: an India which should return to the Golden Age of isolated self-sufficiency, where every man should grow his own food and weave his own clothes, where none should desire to travel and where none should desire any conveniences or products beyond those which he himself could supply.

CALCUTTA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Calcutta, December 3.

Suspension of the Cotton Excise Duty.

The intimation of the suspension of the Cotton Excise Duty has produced something more than pleasure in Bombay, not only from the point of view of the politician, but also because the comments of the Home papers, as to the blow which it gives to Lancashire, have confirmed the local opinion that the suspension means the total abolition before long, and a consequent considerable advantage to the local cotton industry. Thus the piece-goods trade, which is already in the last depths of gloom, receives another blow which is being openly hailed in certain quarters as a fatal one.

Business and Politics.

The suspension of the duty has been commented on by all papers. Whilst, on this side, a disposition is shown in the European Press to sit on the fence in regard to the merits or otherwise of the suspension, they welcome it as a sign that the anticipations of the Budget, in regard to increasing prosperity in other directions than piece-goods, are justified. On the Bombay side the European Press welcomes the proposal for itself, and looks forward to its relieving the commercial depression which has so long held Bombay in its grip. The extremist papers on both sides have no reserves. *Forward*, with its usual illuminating ingenuousness, lectures "Indian business men" for their indifference to politics and politicians, in which it sees a real tribute to the unreality of the Reforms. It claims the removal of the duty as a triumph for the Swarajists, and points a moral. The *Servant* is equally ingenuous as to the means which have been taken to secure the abolition. It says, "Executive stubbornness continued protest-proof as is its wont. The millowners were driven to reduce the workers' wages, and this put the fat on the fire. The resulting protracted strike caused, for the first time, serious attention to be drawn to the gravity of the situation." The depresssion of the cotton mill industry in Bombay was real, but well-informed opinion was inclined to doubt the necessity of the proposed wage cuts which produced the Bombay mill strike. The Bombay millowners have now learned something of the power of a strike as a political weapon, but on lines which are rather associated with American politics than English. This is not the only side on which political development in this country is proceeding more on far-Western lines.

Steel Bounties Indeed.

The list of increased duties and bounties, which forms an annexure to this letter, is of vital importance to the British steel trade as well as to the exporter of British and foreign steel goods and tin-plates. There may be a doubt as to whether it will be hit more hardly than the Indian consumer, but there is no doubt as to who is benefited. Tata's have discovered a new speagle in steel making, and their appetite increases the more it is fed by a bounteous Government. Other industries are doing

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more than sitting up and taking notice: and well-informed opinion already has it that, if the Tariff Board recommend protection or bounties for the coal industry, the Assembly will accept the proposals, in spite of the fact that the only effect that can be foreseen is that coal will increase in price in Bombay and Karachi. The railway interest, however, effectually entrenched behind official barbed wire entanglements, still refuses to consider the vital handicap of the coal industry, the cost of freight. Sir Clement Hindley, the Chief Commissioner of Railways, ascended to his present throne through the realms of Railway and Port Trust finance; he should be well equipped for considering whether rebates would not be a good business proposition.

Pagett Johnston, M.P.

The reality of the impressions, that Mr. Thomas Johnston, M.P., will take away with him from Calcutta, will be appreciated by everyone who has fallen into the hands of the Howrah porters. Their inefficiency and ignorance are equal, and the greater part of their working day is spent in sleeping, spitting, chewing and fighting; but they garlanded Mr. Johnston when he left. No travelling M.P., Labour or otherwise, has ever been offered more courtesy and greater facilities for making inquiries for himself from the source; but he has been perfectly frank in refusing the utilise any of them, preferring to confine his source of information to the leading Swarajists. It would not be fair to follow his example and quote his private conversations as to his "instructions"; but his speeches in the Parks—where the only people who could understand him are of the class that he professes to despise in his own country—show that the crop of Asian myths which will result from this November trip will not be confined to solar ones. The Labour Party includes many men of courtesy and education. Will not one of these come to the East and see for himself?

A Centre Party.

The promise of a meeting, that was held last week, has already been shaken by personal jealousies; and once again this factor, so important in Indian public affairs, threatens to wreck a promising movement. The extremists hold the whole scheme up to ridicule; but there is little doubt that all the thinking politicial classes see that, if there is any hope for democracy in India's Government, it must work upon constructive lines. The only path open is by way of working the Reforms: and this is clearly realised, even by extremists, over the greater part of the country. Bengal, however, lags behind: and, although the Swaraj Party is practically impotent, there appears to be every likelihood that it will again sweep the board at the next elections, in the absence of any other organised party. It is not only the opponents of the Reforms scheme who are asking whether there is something in the blood which makes democratic rule impossible in Bengal.

Bombs.

Once again the familiar items of a bomb trial are appearing in the Press. A tribunal set up under the provisions of the Special Act is now sitting, to try a number of young men who have been arrested in possession not only of inflammatory literature of a well-known type, but of an extremely efficient collection of materials and apparatus for the preparation of high explosive bombs. The pamphlets and books, which are being read at the trial, contain the usual references to the connexion between highly charged minds and explosives. In the minds of all thinking people, the whole sorry business excites principally a feeling of pity for the misguided youths. However, society must protect itself: and trials of this kind are unavoidable when bomb factories are discovered.

The Trivial Round.

There is no denying the impression produced by the fact that the day of the funeral of the late Queen saw rain falling throughout Bengal, an unprecedented occurrence at the end of November. This impression was added to when it was learned that snow fell in England on the same day. This cold weather sees the return of the days when there were two Courts in Calcutta, but now both of them are in mourning; the foot of the A.D.C. is still, even when the gramophone plays a fox trot in a private verandah. Everyone who admires courage and charm is delighted to know that Lady Reading is making a good recovery. It is understood that the Viceroy will be in Calcutta until near the end of January; but most official functions, both at Belvedere and Government House, have been cancelled.

"Everybody," however, is coming to Calcutta for the Races and the Christmas season as usual; the Baronets, the Knights, and the merely well off, have been filling the mail boats, and it is getting more difficult than ever to find a seat at the clubs. Meanwhile, the weather is perfect. At last cold storage has been started on a small scale, to the benefit of menus. The "bloods" are getting up steam for the paper chases. It is good to be alive.

Markets.

A very steady tone has characterised both the jute and gunny markets during the past week, and prices have been fully maintained. Heavy goods especially have been in demand, and a large business has been put through at advancing prices. The piece-goods market remains quiet. In sympathy with the somewhat irregular tendency of the tea market in London at the beginning of the week, prices here have been slightly easier; but the opinion is that this condition is only temporary, and that a further upward movement is likely in the near future. Stocks for November are expected to show a decline of about fourteen million maunds on those of the same month last year.

The increased activity in the Stock Exchange, reported last week, has continued, with a tendency towards spreading into other markets; as a result, a large general business has been completed. Tea and rubber shares, however, still attract the most attention, although, at the close, the former have eased slightly on account of profit taking. In the rubber share market, prices have again advanced, but transactions have been few in number owing to the scarcity of sellers, who are confident in their opinion of higher prices in the future. Jute shares have ruled steady, but the turnover has been on a smaller scale, with most of the inquiry directed towards the more speculative issues. A certain amount of quiet buying of cotton shares has taken place, without any material alteration in prices; advices from Bombay indicate little chance of the mills reopening for some time. Inquiry for coal shares shows signs of broadening, mainly owing to the opinion of a certain section that the shares are worth averaging at the current rates. Investment securities generally continue to be well supported at enhancing prices, but Government stocks have been in less demand. The Money Market remains steady with Exchange unchanged.

Annexure.

The recommendations made by the Tariff Board are:—

(1) Payment of a bounty at the rate of Rs.18 per ton on 70 per cent. of the weight of steel ingots produced in India between October 1 1925 and March 31 1927. The bounty payments to be subject to a limit of Rs.90 lakhs.

(2) Grant to the Tinplate Company of India of a rebate of the Customs duty paid by them on tin imported for the manufacture of tinplate. The consumption of tin per ton of tinplate to be determined, and the amount of the rebate to be regulated by this ratio and by the actual output of tinplate.

(3) Increase in the protective duty on imported tinplate from Rs.60 to Rs.89 per ton.

(4) Increase of the protective duty on fabricated steel, other than the kinds specified under heads (5) and (6), from 25 to 32½ per cent. *ad valorem.*

(5) Protective duty on such component parts of steamers, launches and other vessels for harbour and inland navigation as are made of fabricated steel, to remain at 25 per cent. *ad valorem.*

(6) Increases of the protective duties on:—(a) tipping wagons, (b) coal tubs and (c) switches and crossings adapted for use with rails under 30 lb. per yard, from 25 to 40 per cent. *ad valorem.*

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(7) Amendment of the Steel Industry (Protection) Act, to empower the Government of India to sanction the payment of bounties on railway wagons and carriage underframes, subject to a maximum limit of Rs.24 lakhs in 1925-26 and Rs.20 lakhs in 1926-27. The bounties sanctioned in either year to be payable in that year or in any succeeding year.

(8) Cessation of the payment, under section 4 of the Steel Industry (Protection) Act, of bounties on railway wagons, with effect from April 1 1926.

(9) A public announcement to be made of all bounties sanctioned on wagons and under-frames.

(10) The conditions, under which the Indian and European prices of wagons and under-frames will be compared, to be announced at the time of calling for tenders.

The kinds of steel, covered by the recommendations, include the varieties of rolled steel manufactured at Jamshedpur by the Tata Iron and Steel Company (with the exception of tinplate bars and rails and fishplates sold under long term contracts), tinplate, fabricated steel of all kinds and railway wagons.

BOMBAY LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bombay, December 4.

The Excise Duty.

The excise duty was suspended on Tuesday morning, and, the cut in wages having been restored, the mills will resume work as soon as the labour is back from the districts. The *Bombay Chronicle* on Wednesday established a new record by having two leading articles, both complimentary to the Governor: one on the Excise and the other on the subject of his hospital campaign. There is no doubt whatever that Bombay owes much to the quiet and tactful persistency of His Excellency in putting the claims of the Mill industry before Simla. He has not published his doings abroad, and he has done it without putting anyone's back up, but his work has had its reward in due course. And so ends a form of duty, which has probably caused more dissatisfaction and unrest than any since the tea chests were thrown into Boston Harbour. Readers of these letters will know that the writer does not consider that the abolition of the Excise will have any serious effect on the trade in fine goods with Lancashire. On the contrary, it is in the interests of Lancashire, and of all England, that Indian should be prosperous and contented, and the more money that is made and that comes into circulation in India, the better for the prospects of employment in England.

Apart from the *Manchester Guardian*, the news seems to have been received in the right spirit in England: and it is almost incredible that the summary of the views of that paper can have been rightly cabled to India. We are told that the paper remarks: "It seems strange to outsiders that they (the people of India) see a substantial advantage in subjecting their working people to the extreme hardships of factory life in a hot climate, but they have no misgivings in this regard." This appears to me to be the most extraordinary comment that has ever been put forward by a serious paper. The theory that work of all kinds is the primary curse of man, and that it should be abolished as soon as possible, has seemed a perfectly tenable proposition to most of us at different times, ever since we were first introduced to that unpleasant necessity at our private schools. But the moment one departs from that broad and simple principle, one is apt to find oneself in difficulties; and the attitude of the *Manchester Guardian* appears to be, that work of precisely the same nature is to be encouraged as the greatest possible good in Lancashire, and suppressed as a form of inhuman cruelty in India. Conditions of life are by no means so vastly in favour of Lancashire as the *Manchester Guardian* would have us believe; and, as regards climate, which seems to be the point at issue, very few people would exchange the open air establishment of a Bombay coolie for life in a Lancashire slum in winter—or, for the matter of that, in most of the summers that I have been able to spend in England in the last twenty-five years.

If the *Manchester Guardian* means that factory life is bad in itself, and that it is good for every country to have the largest possible percentage of its population on the land, that is an arguable proposition everywhere: but it is not a theory that comes well from Manchester, and its sudden adoption as a policy to be followed in India does not ring true: and the general satisfaction in Bombay, and our appreciation of the attitude of the great majority of the English Press, will be marred by the thought that a paper of the class of the *Manchester Guardian* should have descended to this sort of argument in its mistaken view of the interests of Lancashire.

Cricket.

This week has been given up to the great annual cricket festival of Bombay—the Quadrangular Tournament, when the educated classes of all communities are much more likely to be found on the cricket ground than in their offices. So far the Presidency—the English side—has beaten the Mohammedans, last year's winners, fairly comfortably, and they have to play the winners of the next tie, Parsis *v.* Hindus, on Monday. Talent is so equally distributed that each of the four sides has won in the last four years, and it is the turn of the English to win again. Incidents are always possible in games, even in the English County Championship or Test matches: but I do not think I have ever seen a more sporting game, or a more impartially appreciative crowd, than we have had on the Gymkhana ground during the last three days: and while, as a matter of course, each community is desperately keen on its own success, there is no trace whatever of any racial animosity on any side.

The Presidency is now rather a false name for the English side, as it has been agreed that all committees can draw on the whole of India for their men: and the English side is very strong in batting this year, with such well-known names as A. L. Hosie of Hampshire, I. P. F. Campbell of Oxford and Surrey, and M. G. Salter of Gloucester.

Bombay owes a different debt to all her Governors: and the enthusiasm for cricket, which is more obvious among small boys than in any town I know at Home, is a direct legacy from Lord Harris, who has done even more for the game in India than in any other of the many countries he has visited. And though I believe that Soccer is now the national game of Bengal, cricket is certainly firmly established as the game of all communities on this side of India.

INDIA IN 1924-25.

As an accompaniment to the issue of the annual statement on India, which is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Government of India Act, under the authority and with the general approval of the Secretary of State: which, however, naturally do not extend to every particular expression of opinion by the author: the India Office have issued a summary of the more important subjects dealt with in the book, extracts from which are given below.

The author is Mr. Rushbrook Williams, Director of Public Information in India. He has, for some years past, undertaken the compilation of the report; which, in the form that he has given to it—before his time, it was an official and matter-of-fact compilation, of the nature of a blue book—has proved a valuable record of events, though the author's views on some of them have not always been of a kind to command general agreement, and has certainly been of assistance in arousing interest in Indian affairs among an important section of the reading public of England.

The early chapters of the book deal with the problems of the defence of India, by sea and land, and point out the difficulties which must be faced before India can be in a position to undertake it herself. Comments on India's relations with Afghanistan and the Frontier tribes follow: and on the attitude of India to the arrangements for main-

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taining internal law and order, in particular as regards the popular disinclination to act in support of the police.

On the economic position, the author says that India, in common with other countries, suffered derangement in her economy from the aftermath of the War. This was reflected by five years of unbalanced budgets. Now financial equilibrium has been restored; by the end of last financial year a steady revival in trade had taken place and the prospects of commercial and industrial expansion were extremely favourable.

In 1924 there was ample work and good wages for the agricultural labourer, and in many parts of the country field and ordinary labour commanded higher prices than in 1923. There was, too, comparatively little unemployment among farm labourers during the year.

"Unfortunately, this statement does not hold true of the middle classes. With their small fixed incomes, their large families and their increasing expenditure, they have of late years passed through a very disadvantageous epoch. Fortunately, the decline in the cost of living since 1923 has deprived them of much of the painful anxiety characterising their attitude throughout the previous period. The year 1924 has not, however, been favourable for them. The cost of food, clothing, and lighting has tended either to remain steady or to decline; but the middle classes have had to pay heavy rates for such labour as they happen to employ. This hits them hard; for they are usually debarred by social status from undertaking work of certain kinds. Worse still, the market in which they themselves compete for employment is chronically overstocked. In general, it may be said that the middle classes are in a far less favourable position to adapt themselves to a change in the economic situation than other workers. Their traditions do not allow them to look beyond a very restricted number of professions, in all of which at present the vacancies are far exceeded by the applicants. Moreover, the same tradition, which compels them to maintain, at whatever cost to themselves, an appearance of respectability, prevents them from combining like the labourers for the improvement of their prospects. There can be little doubt that middle-class unemployment is among the most serious problems which confront the administration in India to-day; and the rigidity of the social and economic tradition preserved by these classes seems likely to make its solution a matter of infinite difficulty."

After weighing evidence the author comes to the conclusion that it seems quite possible to maintain with fair degree of certainty that the masses of the Indian population, at least in some parts of the country, are gradually improving in their economic conditions. But a very large proportion of Indians are still beset with poverty of a kind which finds no parallel in the more exigent climates of the West. The problem is staggering in its dimensions. It has its roots in certain long-standing customs and deficiencies, which inevitably make for distress as the population increases, since the available resources are confined within traditional limits by a hide-bound precedent.

In a review of industrial labour throughout the year it is stated that the most important event was the coming into force of the Workmen's Compensation Act on July 1.

"This measure includes practically all the emloyees in factories and mines and on railways. It also extends to a number of other occupations, covering upwards of three million workers. There are several factors which render the operation of a measure of this kind difficult. In the first place, industrial labour is largely migratory, being agriculturist at heart. The workmen serve industry for only a portion of their lives and expect ultimately to return to their villages, which may be hundreds of miles away. Secondly, the ordinary workman is not in a position to enter into expensive litigation, nor has he any organisation to assist him in carrying through a protracted case. In spite of this, the tendency to litigation is far more pronounced in India than in Western countries. Thirdly, there is a paucity of qualified medical men. All these difficulties have been realised in the framing of the Act, which in some of its details differs widely from typical European measures designed for the same purpose. But the introduction appears to have been effected smoothly; and the measure is generally recognised as one for which there was a real need. The Workmen's Compensation Act, together with other measures, demonstrates the importance which the Government of India now attach to labour legislation."

Of a large part of the volume given to the subject of social reform, education rightly occupies the most prominent position, for the problem in India is a vast one, and complicated by factors peculiar to the country. Among them are poverty, the inadequacy of communications (though these have vastly improved in modern times), the persistence of certain traditional ideals tending to confine education to hereditary literary castes, the conflict of communal interests and the chasm between rural and urban life. These factors have operated to prevent the growth of a desire for education among the people at large. Another serious difficulty is finance, and, given adequate finance, the difficulties of laying out money to the best advantage are enhanced by certain peculiarities of Indian life. For example, no Western country has found it possible to carry through a mass programme of popular education without the employment of a large proportion of women teachers. But in India the assistance of women is not usually available. Again, villages do not offer any attraction to the educated man. Yet an appreciable amount of progress has been made: between the years 1922-23 and 1923-24, the number of pupils under instruction in India rose from 8.79 to 9.32 millions, the most notable advance being in Madras. Until recently, educational efforts were confined to persons of a school-going age; but it has now been widely realised that a very large proportion of the education now needed in India is that of adults: particularly of a kind that will supply the new electorates with some guidance in the use of the suffrage which constitutional reforms have placed in their hands. The main problem is that of reaching the country districts: but a beginning has been made by the organisation of lectures on matters directly affecting the welfare of the people; and promising results are being achieved by Night Schools in the Punjab, Madras, and Bombay.

The last chapter of the book is on parties and politics, and recites in some detail the political events of the year. The general conclusions reached are that the period was one of political apathy.

"A series of prosperous years and a steady return towards economic stability have tended to divert in other directions the interest which the masses, only a few years ago, began to exhibit in political questions. The vast majority of the Indian people have experienced a sense of disappointment at the failure of their political leaders to attain the promised millennium. In consequence, they have withdrawn more and more into the circle of their own immediate affairs, and have turned a deaf ear to the appeals frequently directed to their address. They have shown themselves unwilling to subscribe to political funds: to join in political demonstrations; to sacrifice their time and their enegy on behalf of causes which they but vaguely comprehend. Corresponding to this apathy on the part of the masses of the population, we must notice a general sense of discouragement pervading those sections of the educated classes which are interested in politics. The majority of the Indian intelligentsia are still suffering from emotional exhaustion, induced by the non-co-operation campaign. They are depressed by its failure; they are disconcerted by the stagnation which has lately overtaken the political life of the country."

AN INDIAN FEAST OF LIGHTS.

DIPAVALI.—The prettiest festival of the Hindu year: perhaps the nearest Indian equivalent to Christmas.

By Rosemar.

Lamps and lanterns play a great part in various festivals throughout the East. The prettiest festival of the Hindu year is the Divali, or Dipavali, which falls about the end of November. It lasts five days, and houses are swept and garnished, while the inmates don new clothes and ornaments. Often a geometrical design is drawn outside the dwelling and filled in with coloured chalks. All the household gods are blessed by the Brahmin priest, and many other household rites performed. It is a festive

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time, and there is a great deal of visiting and entertaining between members of the same caste and family.

The feast brings great delight to the children, for not only are they decked out in pretty new clothes and ornaments, but they wear necklaces of sweets. Every shop and wayside stall too is gay with coloured toys and sweetmeats which take the form of fishes, elephants, the Taj, and so on. Even English children love these Dipavali sweets and, since they are made of the purest white sugar, and well-boiled, they may be eaten with impunity. There is also much letting off of squibs and crackers in the streets, in which the Hindu schoolboy participates with as much delight as his English brother who celebrates the fifth of November at home.

Dipavali marks the end of the financial year, and much honour is then paid to Lakshmi, the goddess of good fortune. All the old account books are closed and new ones opened. To ensure good luck, these must always begin with a small amount on the credit side, and clerks are sent round to the various business houses to pay in small sums with which to start the year. The account books and ledgers are also solemnly blessed by the priest, and this custom is observed by others of the merchant class like Parsees and Mahommedans, in spite of the fact that Divali is a Hindu festival. In the country the forces of nature are likewise propitiated. The cultivators prostrate themselves before the dung-heap, offering flowers, fruit, boiled rice, and even sacrifice, begging it to fertilise their crops.

But the chief feature of the feast is the illumination—for Dipavali signifies a row of lamps. Thousands of tiny coconut oil lamps outline Hindu houses and buildings, which give a beautiful effect, especially when the stately architecture of some Rajah's palace is seen picked out in lines of light against the sapphire sky of night. Poles are set up and arches thrown across the streets, from which hang coloured paper lanterns, reminiscent of carnival-time abroad. On rivers and tanks little lights are set afloat on rafts adorned with flowers. In the villages lights are set outside the humblest huts, and quaint clay figures, representing human beings, placed beside the door. Some say that the souls of the dead revisit the haunts of their lifetime at this season, and that the lights are set out to guide them home.

To give some idea of the beauty of the Dipavali illuminations, after seeing the festival from year to year in Bombay, we happened to arrive home at a time of national rejoicing. Yet, though the streets were magnificently ablaze with electric light, to us the effect was not nearly so haunting and dream-like as the myriad soft twinkling lamps of this Indian Feast of Lights.

CORRESPONDENCE

ENGLISH SURNAMES.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA.

Sir, With reference to your article, "English Surnames" in your "Indian Mail" published in THE NEAR EAST AND INDIA of the 10th instant.

The natives of India, and especially the Sepoys, have great difficulty in pronouncing English names. The most interesting case which I know of is this: we had an officer named Freeland, known in the lines as Fairyland Sahib. Another is where an officer named Inglis was called English Sahib.

Officers in Indian Regiments are often referred to in the lines by nicknames. Whether these nicknames are given to surmount difficulties of pronunciation, or following the general rule of giving names among themselves, I do not know. The giving of these nicknames is often controlled by an officers's physical or mental qualities; or by any actions of his. We had an officer in my regiment, there is no need to give his name, who was very tall and thin, and unfortunately not very popular, who was known as the Oont (camel). Another officer in the regiment who was short, with black shaggy hair and eyebrows, and who walked with a rolling gait, was known as Balu (bear). An officer who was supposed by the men to be lacking in brains, was known as Pagal (mad). The Inglis referred to above, who was one of the bravest men, and was on two separate occasions recommended for the V.C., was dearly known as Rajah Sahib.

The nicknames are most carefully guarded. Though a Sepoy will tell his officer his private affairs he will never disclose to any officer his nickname. This is probably due to respect; but is also due to his unwillingness that too much should be known. Nicknames are exclusively used in private conversations in the lines, but never by an Indian Officer or N.C.O. when performing his duties.

This may be of interest to many of your readers.—I am, etc.,

GHAZI.

Manchester, December 12.

THE INDIAN MAIL.

Politicians and Peasants.

The mail papers announce that Sir Gunga Ram, a distinguished Punjabi, has given 25,000 rupees as a prize fund, from which awards will be made, from time to time, for any new invention or the devising of any new practical method towards the improvement of agricultural production in the Punjab. This is an example which, it may be hoped, will be followed by other patriotic persons, of the class from which the Indian "Country Party," the formation of which is so much to be desired, will, if it ever materialises, be recruited. Agricultural progress in India depends at present almost entirely on Government assistance: and it is of good augury that rural magnates should be beginning to show, in practical shape, a belief that assistance from themselves is also called for; since, when they come to realise that, it should be but a short step to the forming of an organisation whose object will be not only the material improvement of the condition of the peasant, but also his political education in the direction which will best serve his own interests.

At present, the only political adviser who has made any attempt to appeal to the peasants is the extremist politician, whose activities in that respect are wholly destructive. What he is pleased to call "village work" is the inculcation of theoretical schemes of self government in which he himself is to play the leading part; that of the peasants being merely to provide him with the necessary votes to enable him to do so. The real attitude of the Swarajist politician towards the peasantry is to be found in a recent pronouncement of Pandit Motilal Nehru, the official party leader; who said that the Viceroy was attempting to draw a red hearring across the trail leading to Swaraj by producing "some agricultural scheme" in the hope of diverting the attention of the people of India from "their real object." That the real object of the peasants of India should be the improvement of their own condition, and not merely the acquisition of place and power by the professional politician, is a suggestion that would doubtless strike the latter as absurd: his own "real object" is to create political discontent among the peasantry, instead of the "generous discontent" that drives men to strive for the improvement of their lot.

Motilal Nehru's contemptuous reference to "some agricultural scheme" is an excellent index of the professional politician's real attitude towards the Indian peasant: and his attitude towards the Indian manual worker is summed up by Mr. Johnston, the Labour-Socialist Member of Parliament for Dundee, who, on completion of his recent tour in India, stated, as his deliberate opinion, that "the Swaraj Party is not interested in the economic conditions of the workers." By far the most important matter in India to-day is the improvement of the economic conditions of the toiling masses: and the only political party, that is at present interested in that, is the Government itself. It is obvious that the time is more than ripe for the formation of a new political party which will devote itself to this pressing need, and bring to bear on the problem the experience gained by close personal association of a kind that is not open to the official. What is wanted is the man. Sir Gunga Ram has given a lead in the Punjab: it remains for others to follow, towards an association of influential members of the landholding and commercial

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classes, which will form the nucleus of a political party that will serve the real needs of the peoples of India, and not only those of the small but vocal class that now claims to represent them.

Telegraphists' Grievances.

In India, telegraph offices and post offices are usually separate: and one of the main recommendations of a Committee that recently reported to the Government of India was that steps should be taken to increase the number of combined offices, where this could be done without detriment to the working of the telegraphs. This recommendation was accepted in principle, and action was begun to give effect to it in the case of some of the less important telegraph offices, the separate existence of which seemed no longer necessary. The Indian Telegraph Association objected to these orders, and memorialised Government, in rather truculent terms, against them: demanding that the Committee's report should be considered by a fresh Committee, specially appointed for the purpose, to include representatives from the Association: and that, in the meantime, all action on the report should be suspended as "the only means of terminating the present deadlock."

What the Association called "the present deadlock" was a great congestion of telegrams at all the large offices, which the authorities believed to be due to the adoption, by the operators, of a policy of "ca' canny": a suggestion that was strongly denied by the Association in words which amounted to admitting its accuracy—"with the wave of discontent prevailing in the Department, it is but a natural sequence that, when an accumulation takes place, a discontented staff cannot be expected to rise to the occasion to work off arrears."

The Government issued a communiqué explaining the situation, and this was reinforced by a statement made by the Industries Member, to a deputation from the Association which waited on him in Calcutta. It was pointed out that conversion was proceeding slowly, and only after full consideration in each case; that the interests of the men now in the service would not be worsened in any way, as Government had already undertaken to secure to them continuity of position and prospects in any case where conversion might otherwise affect them adversely; but that if, as appeared to be the fact, they were apprehensive about the position of new recruits who might enter the service in future, that was a matter that could not be considered: if there were any alteration in the conditions under which their successors were recruited, that was, after all, a matter for the latter, who need not enter the service unless they were prepared to accept what Government had to offer.

The result of this explanation was the immediate removal of the "wave of discontent": and, as a further indication of the accuracy of Government's belief in the existence of a "ca' canny" campaign, the disappearance of the congestion of messages: and affairs are now proceeding smoothly. But the tenderness for those who are to come after—who would, in most cases, probably be relations of the men already in the service—is a rather engaging trait which is so "distinctively Indian" that no one familiar with India will be surprised at its having been seriously voiced, or will fail to congratulate the authorities in having refused to give way to it. One remembers a similar idea that manifested itself when it was proposed to introduce aluminium cooking pots in an Indian regiment. A Committee of Indian officers was assembled, and the advantages of the new departure were fully explained. They all agreed that the idea was an excellent one, but said they would like time to consider the matter before accepting it. The next day they reported that they had unanimously decided to retain the existing copper cooking pots. Pressed for their reason, they said that the copper pots required to be tinned every month, while the aluminium pots did not—"and, if everyone takes to aluminium, what will become of the tin-man? He will lose his job."

INDIAN EXCHANGE.

London, December 21.

The near approach of the Christmas holiday is apparently having the usual effect upon business in India, as all markets there report very little doing. It is not unusual to see more pressure for money at this time of the year, but so far the only movements of importance in the money market consist of the transfer of a fair supply of funds from Calcutta which is now being sent to Bombay to finance cotton. In both markets rupee exchange has been quoted all the week at 1s. 6 5-32d. T.T., with buyers looking for 1s. 6 3-16d. The higher rate, however, has been difficult to obtain unless for cash and near delivery. Government has again been called upon to provide funds to a moderate extent, and their purchases amount to about £400,000 at 1s. 6d 3-16d. T.T. for immediate delivery.

Forward T.T. rates are quieter and may be called 1s. 6 5-32d. between now and the end of February, 1s. 6⅛d. March to April, with 1s. 6 3-32d. May and June, but we hear of no fixtures whatever even at 1-32nd higher.

Commercial bills have not been plentiful at 1s. 6 15-32d. three months sight, for delivery within a month, with no possible chance of shippers obtaining anything better.

The London market has been perfectly steady at 1s. 6 7-32d. T.T., although off and on it has been possible to obtain 1-64th lower, but the only business reported at this quotation has been a few inter-bank transactions.

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Commercial and Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

170, *Strand, London, W.C.2.*
Tuesday Morning.

Retrospect and Prospect.

As one comes to the end of another year it is natural to review the course of events in the past twelve months and to look forward, wishing that one was gifted with second sight, wondering what is to be the story of the coming year. It would be futile to deny that 1925 has been disappointing in the fulfilment of its early promises. But then we have had so many of these disappointments since 1918 that we are becoming quite accustomed to them. But if the year has not come up to expectations it has at any rate had its good features, and, if one takes a broad view, it cannot but be admitted that 1925 has been another and a decided landmark on the weary progress towards world reconstruction. We have at long last arrived at a European settlement which promises to have notable consequences on trade development, and besides that other events of the year may ultimately loom very small. In the purely economic sphere the oustanding event has been the rubber revival, among the important results of which may be mentioned the effect it is having in restoring the balance of trade with America in our favour and its incidence on our income-tax returns, the full fruits of which will not be apparent until the close of the next financial year. Truly the Chancellor may have every reason to be thankful for the salvation of this great Imperial industry. Unfortunately it has to be chronicled that the trade depression continued, though its incidence has grown less pronounced with the passage of the months. It had been expected that there would be a very pronounced revival, but sight was lost of the fact that last year's harvests were bad and so the world's purchasing power was inadequate to render possible the expansion of trade. So much for this year.

The Outlook.

This time it can be said with absolute confidence that the outlook is much brighter than it was a year ago. Europe has on the whole had good harvests, with the result that there will be a notable increase in purchasing power which should show itself in a marked increase in the demand for commodities, and it may be hoped that in this development of trade British goods will have their full part. No one looks now for a "boom," that is in the near future at any rate, nor would anything of the kind be desirable, for it would only be followed by renewed depression, but it is reasonable to anticipate the steady revival of trade which will bring relief to our sorely-pressed industries. Except with regard to shipping the indications in most of the important directions have of late been distinctly encouraging. The iron and steel trade has shown signs of improvement, while Lancashire has been able to report in recent months an increased demand for cotton goods. But while on the whole an optimistic view is justified, the outlook is not free from elements of difficulty. As far as the position abroad is concerned the chief element of uncertainty is China, where the situation seems to go from bad to worse, and so long as that great market for British goods is largely closed the prospects of a real trade revival must be seriously prejudiced. At home the solution of the coal question has yet to be found, and this is indeed the uncertain element in the equation as far as this country is concerned.

A City Appointment.

We refer in another column to Mr. H. E. Garle's resignation from his position as representative of Great Britain in Paris on the Commission for the Assessment of Damage suffered in Turkey. He will thus bring to a close four years of service on behalf of British claimants who suffered damage at the hands of the Turks during the War. Mr. Garle has, we understand, taken this step for the purpose of associating himself with the Rock Investment Company, Ltd., and its allied Trust Companies. His twenty years' experience in Egypt and the Near East should prove of considerable value in the City of London, where an intimate knowledge of local conditions is so much required at the present time for the fostering of British trade and the maintenance of our commercial prestige in the Near East.

Sir Adam Block's Report.

The report of the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt, which covers the period down to last March, has been delayed, Sir Adam Block tells us, because it was hoped that it would be possible to announce the negotiation of some temporary arrangement. Unfortunately little progress has been made, and the position is described by Sir Adam Block as "most unsatisfactory." The Council is still without its revenues, and of all the States among whom the capital of the Turkish Debt was repartitioned annuities have only been forthcoming from Palestine, and even in that case not to the full amount. Fresh steps are to be taken to induce Turkey and the detached States to carry out their obligations, and it is to be hoped that when the next report makes its appearance a different story will have to be told.

Turkey as a Borrower.

It would be difficult to find terms strong enough for the cynical indifference with which Turkey has treated her obligations. All along it has been self-evident, despite the repeated denials that have been forthcoming, that Turkey would sooner or later require fresh financial accommodation, but there could be no chance of a favourable hearing in the City failing a definite arrangement in regard to existing debts. Included in the report in question is a table showing the debt charges and military expenditure of Turkey compared with the revenue and expenditure, and it deserves the closest examination. For 1925-26 the revenue is estimated at £T153,047,000, and the expenditure, allowing for the external debt charges calculated with the exchange at the rate of £1=PT900, amounts to £T217,872,000, and of this total military expenditure accounts for £T52,489,000. So that leaving out the external debt charges totalling £T54,560,000, there is an estimated small adverse balance. But, as the table shows, if the exchange improved by 50 per cent. the debt charges would fall to £T27,280,000, and the charge

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would grow correspondingly less as the exchange appreciated, and while it would be an easy matter for Turkey to economise on her miltary expenditure, it is obvious that a debt settlement would have an immediate effect on the exchange and, indeed, is an essential preliminary to its recovery.

Cotton Restriction in Egypt.

It appears that after all the acreage under cotton in Egypt is to be restricted in 1926. As I have already said, I consider such a measure most unwise for it must endanger the position the country at present holds in the cotton market. No doubt the decreased output of Egyptian cotton will have some temporary effect on prices, but it will only be very temporary because of the rapid extension of cotton growing in the Sudan, Uganda and elsewhere. The step could only be justified if Egypt has some remunerative crop to replace cotton. As it is she is likely to find that for a transient advantage she has simply given an impetus to cotton growing elsewhere. I would emphasise once again that it was impossible for cotton to be maintained for long at the absurdly high level at which it has stood in recent years. With relatively cheap cotton there will be a great expansion in the demand for cotton goods and the corresponding demand for cotton will give growers a larger market for the raw material.

Egypt and India Air Service.

The interesting announcement was made in the House of Commons last week that an agreement had been signed between the Air Ministry and Imperial Airways, Ltd., for a regular air service between Egypt and India, following a consideration of the results of a detailed survey of the route. The Air Minister, Sir Samuel Hoare, in making this statement said that the most important new point emphasised by the survey was the great advantage that would result from the use of three-engined machines which however, means increased cost and the number of machines used and the frequency of the services will accordingly be below what was indicated last year. The company is being granted a subsidy on the basis of a fortnightly service each way between Egypt and India by way of Baghdad and Basrah, and it is anticipated that the service will be in operation towards the end of next year. The route is of so great importance as a vital link in the communications between this country and the East that it will be surprising if the utilisation of the service by commercial interests does not speedily bring about a need for more frequent services. The Indian terminal will be at Karachi and it is anticipated by Sir Sefton Brancker that India will be almost forced to extend the service to Calcutta, after which will come the service from Rangoon to Singapore bringing within reach through communication with Australia.

COMMENTATOR.

The Bulgarian Government will shortly lay before Parliament a number of Bills designed to assist foreign trade (says a Reuter message). A Bill abolishing the export duty on tobacco is to be tabled immediately.

A Reuter message from Cairo states that a law has been promulgated prohibiting the planting of more than one-third of the arable land with cotton in 1926, under penalty of fine or imprisonment, or both.

The Zagreb Spring Motor Show will be held from March 21 to 28, 1926. In addition to motor-cars and motor-cycles there will be sections for wines, agricultural machinery, wireless apparatus and an international poster exhibition.

The Ionian Co., Ltd., has been registered as a private company with a capital of £15,000 in £1 shares. The objects are to carry on the business of shipbrokers, shipowners, insurance brokers, managers of shipping property, freight contractors, and ice merchants, refrigerating storekeepers, pitwood importers, etc. The first directors are A. G. Vlassopulos, J. M. Karavias, and G. P. Calinicos.

CYPRUS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Nicosia, December 8.

Agricultural Depression.

It is satisfactory to note that during the last meetings of the Legislative Council the Greek members avoided political allusions almost entirely, and that there is a desire on the part of both Greeks and Turks to devote serious attention to the needs of the agricultural classes, and to measures of relief. Their indebtedness, and the depreciation of land values, are serious, and need of cheaper and longer credit is obvious. If nothing further can be done at present for increased water supplies, the introduction of air-worked elevators should be largely encouraged. It is to be hoped that in the next session the Council will settle down to a thorough consideration of the various matters and grievances in respect of which legislation is required for the benefit of the rural and working classes.

Queen Alexandra.

The announcement of the passing away of the Queen was received with manifestations of genuine grief by all communities. Both on the day when the news was received and on November 27 Government offices were closed. Flags were lowered to half-mast on churches, at Consulates, banks, clubs, and many other buildings. Services were held at St. Paul's Church, at Nicosia, and others. Telegrams were sent to the Greek Archbishop, expressing the sorrow and condolence by the Greek Community, by ex-King Hussein, and by various bodies. Telegrams in reply were received, expressing the deep appreciation of His Majesty. There were unmistakable signs of real sorrow in all the towns.

Church Properties.

Among the principal subjects which occupy the attention of the Greek Community is that—as already said—of a radical reform in the management of all ecclesiastical properties, which is desired throughout the island. Government assistance would be of paramount importance, if invoked; and it would not be the first time that it has stepped in to help the Church. It did so a few years ago, when a deadlock occurred in connexion with the election of two Bishops for one see: and when the division of the whole Greek Community into two parties caused much heartburning and ill-feeling. If Government aid were given, it would no doubt only be if the Holy Synod were unanimously to give its full approval to approaching the Government.

The "National Council."

Another event which should take place is the immediate dissolution of the "National Council," the existence of which is quite incompatible with any real co-operation on the part of Greek members with the Government. It came into being when the Greeks declined to sit in the Legislative Council. It has held periodical meetings and passed resolutions; but its members can hardly, on reflection, feel very proud of its achievements, or, indeed, that it has done the slightest good. That at any rate has come to be the prevalent opinion of most persons of sense, who recognise how futile have been the tactics of the party of agitation.

Fashions in Cyprus.

Greek ladies have not been slow in following all the latest fashions in dress and adornment: and those who strongly disapproved of many innovations are resigned to the inevitable. One paper speaks of a likelihood that an up-to-date hairdresser from London will shortly set up an establishment in Nicosia. If so, it suggests that the art should be promptly mastered by Cypriots, and the profits reaped by themselves, and not only by foreigners—a very wise, and perhaps superfluous, view.

Ex-King Hussein.

Friendly visits have been exchanged between the ex-King and the Greek Archbishop, and the latter recently entertained both the Archbishop, and the Bishop of Papho.

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The Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes

AREA

96,133 sq. miles

POPULATION

(1921)

12,020,000

IMPORTS, 1924

Dinars

8,221,743,552

EXPORTS, 1924

Dinars

9,538,774,432

Rate of Exchange £1 = 270 dinars approx.

Monthly Supplement of "The Near East and India" : No. 11.

YUGOSLAVIA'S FINANCIAL POLICY.

The debate on the proposed Budgetary twelfths for December, January and February was opened by Dr. Stoyadinovitch, Minister of Finance, in a speech of which the following is a summary:—

The Financial Bill now proposed makes the Budgetary twelfths for December, January, February and March of practically the same amounts as the twelfths for the earlier months of the year. The expenses of these twelfths amount to 4 milliard 85 million dinars. Those for the period from August to November amounted to 4 milliard 65 million, and those for April-to-June to 4 milliard 101 million. This gives a total expenditure of 12 milliard, 251 million dinars.

A comparison with the Budget for 1924-1925, amounting to 10 milliard 405 million dinars, shows this year's Budget to be larger by 1 milliard 846 million dinars, or one-sixth.

This increase is justified by greater State needs. Better railways, roads, hospitals and schools and better paid civil servants must mean greater expenditure. The greatest individual increase in expenses is for State pensioners. While last year's Budget allowed for them 283 million dinars, the allowance this year is 560 million, or 277 million more. This is such a large item and maintains so many healthy and capable persons that the Government has in the twelfths now proposed, raised the 10 necessary years of service to 15.

The second increased item is the expenditure on Civil Servants, under the new law, which makes an addition in this year's Budget of 115 million dinars.

The third is for the disabled, for whom the Ministerial Council decided to increase the allowance by 100 millions, thus making this year's expenditure 390 millions as against last year's 290.

Of material expenses only those have been increased which can be described as capital expenditure. Thus, the Budget of the Ministry of Communications has been increased from 1,782 million in 1924-25 to 2,218 million dinars: that of the Ministry of Construction from 396 to 494 million, of which increase 66 million are for new roads: and that of the Ministry of Agriculture from 214 million to 267, chiefly for agricultural credits. Another increase is from 60 million to 150 million dinars for the repayment of old debts.

But although expenses are greater, receipts have also increased. Omitting the considerable increase in the receipts from the Ministeries of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs, and Forests and Mines, chief attention should be given to greater revenue from direct and indirect taxation. Thus, during the first nine months of 1924 and 1925 tolls have yielded respectively 505 and 586 million dinars, i.e., an increase of 81 million dinars. Taxes during the same periods have yielded 890 and 907 million dinars respectively, i.e., an increase this year of 17 million dinars. Direct taxation and super-taxation yielded for 9 months of this year 1,160 million dinars, as compared with 866 million last year, or 294 million more. Again for nine months, Customs gave 1,285 million dinars as against 985 last year, i.e., 300 million more. Finally, monopolies during nine months brought in 1,765 million as compared with 1,734 million, i.e., 31 million more. Thus, these

Dr. Stoyadinovitch, Yugoslav Minister of Finance.

five groups of State revenue had a total increase in nine months of 700 million dinars.

We cannot, however, remain satisfied with this, because this represents the maximum which the nation can pay in taxation. We have decided to lower and finally to rescind taxes proportionately with the fall in agricultural prices. Thus, we have abolished the last export duties on corn and cattle. Our import tariff also represents a maximum and will be lowered on the conclusion of commercial treaties with other countries. Hitherto we have concluded treaties with Italy and Austria, and we hope soon to open negotiations with Czecho-Slovakia, France, Great Britain and Germany. We intend to lower

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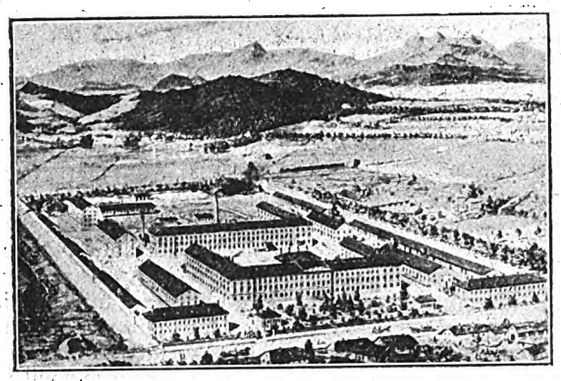
State Monopoly Administration of the Kingdom of Serbs Croats & Slovenes



State Tobacco Factory in Liubliana.

Tobacco Culture

The 1924 harvest will yield about 27.000.000 kgs. of leaf. Of this amount about 10.000.000 kgs. will be set aside for export. The tobacco is from Serbia, Macedonia, Herzegovina and Voivodina.

Fermentation and preparation of the crop will be completed in October, when negotiations for sale will begin.

All information can be obtained from:—

The State Monopoly Administration, — BELGRADE —

import tariffs in the same proportion as other States give facilities to our exports.

Direct taxation in Voivodina, Croatia and Slavonia is a great difficulty, because with these provinces has been inherited the old complicated direct taxation system of Hungary. The Government has, therefore, prepared a new system of taxation for the whole country, according to which every citizen will pay equally. Another difficulty in Voivodina is the accumulation of taxation arrears, for which allowance will be made both in time and in the reduction of the interest rate from 12 to 8 per cent. A number also of the burdensome dues in Voivodina have been abolished. Finally, all exceptionally difficult cases will be separately investigated by a special committee.

Our future policy will be that of saving on expenditure. Only thus can we expect a reduction of taxation.

Finally, as to our monetary policy. The Ministerial Council have given legal authorisation for the conclusion of an agreement with the National Bank by which the latter shall buy and sell foreign currency in such a way as to prevent any fluctuation of the dinar. Our policy is to aim at a relatively stabilised exchange, as a sound basis for trade and commercial calculations.

AGRICULTURAL OVER-PRODUCTION.

In the countries which now form the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, there were before the War these more or less permanent agrarian crises:—

(1) The crisis of agrarian unemployment or of the agrarian proletariat.

(2) The crisis of the low prices of agrarian products, i.e., relative over-production.

From these, the more important, there resulted a third:—

(3) The crisis of the indebtedness of peasant holdings.

The moral conditions for agrarian reform were, therefore, prepared before the War by these relatively constant crises.

I have noticed that Englishmen who come to the S.H.S. Kingdom pay much attention to the question whether and to what extent agrarian reform has affected the conditions of agrarian production.

A summary glance at statistics will show in answer to this question that in 1924 there was a crisis of over-production of sugar beet in the S.H.S. Kingdom, and in 1925 one of over-production of hemp and corn. But such a summary answer cannot give a real idea of the consequences of agrarian reform, because many influences have been playing a part which were not the direct consequences of agrarian reform at all. These influences must, therefore, be analysed, if a correct idea is to be obtained of the changes wrought by agrarian reform in Yugoslavia. Such an analysis will be clearest, if the agrarian crisis before the War is first investigated, and only afterwards its post-War modifications.

There were two aspects which complicated the crisis of agrarian unemployment before the War. First of all, this unemployment was relative. In districts of large estates there was a relative lack of agricultural labourers, while at the same time in the thickly populated districts of small holdings there was a surplus of labour. A second complication lay in the fact that the lack of agricultural credits prevented the proper intensification of agriculture, which would have given opportunity of work to the unemployed land workers.

Most of the large estates were devoted to corn growing. But the low prices of their products, as a result of overseas competition, gave very small profits, so that the small wages paid did not attract labourers to work on them. In this period of poor profitability many of the large holders parcelled up their estates. Some even went in for actual speculation, parcelling up their estates in the densely populated districts and buying new estates in the thinly peopled parts, in the hope of carrying out profitable parcellation there also later on. This process naturally resulted in usury on land. The poor peasants could not earn enough with their small wage either for the purchase

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of land from the large holder, or for capital expenditure for more intensive work on their small holdings. They, therefore, preferably went to America or to other industrial centres (e.g. Bremen-Eberfeld) where wages were better, and where in a few years the necessary funds could be saved. This happened in the districts which were formerly part of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy.

In Serbia circumstances were rather different, because there were no large estates. Nevertheless, even in Serbia unemployment was becoming more and more prevalent among the peasants, because of the lack of the necessary capital for intensification of cultivation. The Serbian peasant did not emigrate to America, but with great pains gradually intensified his cultivation with his small earnings. But since this intensification went on much more slowly than the multiplication of families, the Serbian peasant was only able to advance by keeping his standard of life lower than his cultural progress, and even to depress it lower and lower, if he wished to save himself from ruin.

Some large owners whose circumstances were not suitable for parcellation of their land, sought a way out of the unprofitable production of corn by partial transition to the production of commercial and industrial plants. Thus in the former Austro-Hungarian provinces there came into existence five sugar factories on large estates. These were almost entirely supplied with beet from the large estates. Besides sugar beet, the large estates also grew hemp on a large scale, and, to a smaller extent, chicory. There were no very critical disputes over prices between the large growers of beet and the manufacturers, because many of the former were also shareholders of the factories, and because at that time there was no over-production of raw material (sugar beet, hemp, etc.). Naturally this growth of industritl plants was regarded as a great advance, because the income of the large owners improved and this had a beneficial effect on the trade balance of the State. It was even estimated more highly than the advance of stock-raising among small holders, which also meant a better income from land and an improvement of the trade balance. The reason for this was that with it went the building-up of industry and manufactures which was the favourite item of the economic programme of the politicians of the day.

The coming of agrarian reform meant the ruin of the adherents of this economic policy. In order to prevent its introduction they painted in darkest colours the ruin of home industries of sugar, hemp, chicory, etc., and even worse, the ruin of corn production also, for in spite of the partial introduction of the growing of industrial plants, corn production was primarily in the hands of the large owners. Among those who had such a pessimistic outlook on affairs were several eminent University professors, who were honoured as experts on the system and management of land culture and plant production.

There was only a very small minority of agricultural experts (among them the writer of this article) who asserted that the small owners in a very short time after agrarian reform would produce as much sugar beet and other industrial plants as had been formerly produced by the large owners. These reinforced their arguments by examples of production on small holdings in Moravia and Serbia. In Serbia, which unlike the other parts of the S.H.S. Kingdom, was always a land of small holdings, there were before the War two sugar factories, at Belgrade and Chupriya, which were supplied with their beet from small holdings. This favourable example encouraged the agrarian reformers not to be frightened by the black pictures drawn by the eminent experts.

And as events turned out, in 1924, i.e., three to four years after the accomplishment of agrarian reform, there was such a large production of sugar beet from the small holdings that there was a crisis of over-production, the very opposite crisis to that predicted by the experts and large owners.

Over-production resulted from the economic circumstances already explained in the following manner. As soon as war conditions in agriculture ceased there immediately recurred the pre-War crisis of the non-profitability of corn growing, which was felt now by the small owners just as it had been formerly felt by the large owners, because they too were primarily corn growers. This pre-War crisis was accentuated constantly by the following influences. The improvement of the dinar currency made the costs of wheat production steadily greater than its selling price, because the costs of production were met with a dinar of less value, i.e., at a greater price, while the produced article was sold for a dinar of better value, i.e., for a smaller nominal selling price. Moreover, the small holder had lost most of his cattle during the War, and consequently could not make up the deficiency in his income from stock-raising.

In these critical circumstances the small holder gladly accepted the offers of the agents of the sugar factories, who, having lost the large owners as a result of the reform, were seeking new supplies from the small holders. Since the agents gave some advance payment for future produce, the small holders, unversed in the question, agreed, pleased only to have found a more profitable product than corn, giving quicker results than stock-raising, which would want years of patient toil. Among the conditions was one which regulated prices by the Bourse prices of the S.H.S. Kingdom. When then in 1924 there occurred great over-production of sugar beet, the sugar factories formed themselves into a cartel, and offered the beet producers very low prices which were supposed to represent the internal Bourse price. This was the cause of the first great crisis of beet over-production in 1924, and in spite of the mediation of the Ministry of Agriculture to reconcile the conflicting points of view of the producers and manufacturers, the demands of the former could not be satisfied. As a result, the producers formed a producers' association in order by co-operation better to protect their own interests. The only success of this association so far has been that in 1925 many of the small holders gave up beet production in favour of hemp. This new change of production brought about in 1925 a new crisis of over-production of hemp, which finished in the same way as that of beet. By means of a cartel, the hemp manufacturers brought down the price of hemp, and again brought about discontent among the growers.

Symptoms are appearing this year that many of the small holders will take up hop production and see what luck they have with this. And in spite of the fact that the capital needed for hop growing is larger than for hemp, it is to be feared that too many small holders will take up hop growing suddenly, with the result of a new crisis of over-production of hops.

These crises of over-production have shown without doubt that the small holder is capable of producing as much as the large holder before the War, and even more, of course, on condition that he is given prospects of better profitability.

Together with over-production of hemp in 1925, there occurred similar crises in wheat and maize. This was, however, a normal phenomenon before the War, and statistics of before and after the War show that even in so-called bad years, the S.H.S. Kingdom produces a sufficiency for export. In respect of these crises, agrarian reform has not worsened the situation. On the contrary, it has improved it, because the small holders will tend increasingly to more profitable stock-raising, and thus by the change decrease the crisis of unprofitable corn growing. In this country's conditions, the large estate is not so suited for the quantitative improvement of stock-raising as the small holding, because it lacks the necessary number of careful labourers to look after the animals.

Very soon the figures will be published of the production of agricultural colonisation in the S.H.S. Kingdom. These statistics will show how much more cattle and other products have been produced by the small holder than on the same area by the large holder.

The remarkable progress of the small holder in the S.H.S. Kingdom has been due to his industry, which became manifest immediately he came into possession of soil, however barren.

It is true that agrarian reform was introduced very suddenly into the S.H.S. Kingdom, and therefore unsystematically, with the consequence that the new small holder did not gain any other assistance than the mere possession of the bare soil.

DR. LJUDEVIT PROHASKA.

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ECONOMIC NOTES AND NEWS.

Comparative Survey of Imports and Exports.

Imports of the S.H.S. Kingdom during the third quarter of 1925 amounted to 373,497 tons of a value of 197,821,626 gold dinars, an increase of 61,717 tons and 51,869,291 gold dinars on the imports for the corresponding period in 1924. Cotton and woollen textiles figure in this quarter's imports as 15.3 per cent. and 10.8 per cent respectively of the total imports.

Divided according to countries of origin the imports are :—

	Mill. dinars	Percentage
Czechoslovakia ...	424.5	19.7
Austria	398.5	18.5
Italy	375.9	17.4
Germany	224.9	10.4
Great Britain ...	151.6	7.0
Hungary	104.5	4.8
France	88.8	4.1
Roumania	72.7	3.4
Greece	69.2	3.2
U.S.A	69.0	3.2
Other Countries ...	178.6	8.3
	2,158.2	100.0

Imports during the first three quarters of this year were :—

	Tons.	Dinars (paper).	Dinars (gold).
First quarter, 1925	305,765	2,128,395,294	177,959,472
Second „ „	495,720	2,474,546,267	210,599,682
Third „ „	373,497	2,158,238,945	197,821,626
Total	1,174,982	6,761,175,508	586,380,780

Exports during October amounted to 437,084 tons of a value of 77,431,635 gold dinars, an increase of 21,358 tons and 2,500,282 gold dinars on the figures for the corresponding month in 1924.

The following shows a comparison of exports for 10 months of this and last year's :—

	Tons	Gold Dinars
1924 ...	3,110.875 ...	530,975,182
1925 ...	3,666,907 ...	658,866,737
Increase 1925	556,032 (17.87 %)	127,891,555 (24.09 %)

Commercial Agreement with Albania.

A special commission composed of representatives of the Ministries of Commerce and Foreign Affairs has undertaken the study of a new commercial treaty to be concluded with Albania. As soon as the investigation of the Customs section is complete negotiations are likely to begin.

Monopoly Receipts.

Monopolies yielded the following revenue from April 1 to August 31, 1925 :—

	Million Dinars, 1925	Million Dinars, 1924
Tobacco	703.5 ...	704.5
Salt	143.4 ...	120.4
Petroleum	44.3 ...	32.9
Matches	57.3 ...	60.6
Cigarette Paper ...	57.8 ...	54.5
Various Receipts ...	3.6 ...	4.7
Total	1,009.9 ...	977.7

The Budgetary estimates were 964.8 million dinars, so that the surplus over estimates was 45.1 million dinars.

Export of Maize.

During October of this year 2,570 trucks of maize were exported as compared with 992 trucks in the same month last year. Between November 1, 1924, and November 1, 1925, Yugoslavia exported 104,392 trucks of maize worth 2,191,8 million dinars. Between January 1, and November 1, 1925, maize export amounted to 89,727 trucks, worth 1,880.5 million dinars.

Niksitch-Trebinye Railway.

The survey of this line is now completed. The help of the army has been necessary for the completion of the railway, and it is expected that it will be ready and opened for traffic at the beginning of March.

Traffic in Yugoslav Ports.

The report of the Shipping Directory gives the traffic in goods in Yugoslav ports for the first six months of 1925 in quintals, as follows :—

	Export	Import	Total
Split ...	1,930,880	605,563	2,536,444
Sushak ...	784,700	202,176	986,876
Shibenik ...	617,962	195,784	813,764
Gruzh ..	495,762	250,573	746,335

Tunnel under the Ivan Range.

The railway connexion of Bosnia with the Adriatic Sea encounters a great obstacle in the Ivan Range. The steep gradient and the funicular which surmounts it make communication on the section of the Bosnian railways slow and complicated, especially since railway communication has begun to be more normal with a steady tendency to increase. Moreover, the construction of the Belgrade-Obrenovatz line will add still more to the traffic on this route.

The boring of a tunnel under the Ivan Range would not only ease communciations with the sea, but would also mean a saving of 75 per cent in expenses.

Preliminary work on the tunnel is completed and credits have been granted. All that is needed now is the Government's consent for the beginning of boring operations.

Aluminium Mine in Montenegro.

Some time ago large deposits of aluminium were found in the Mrkoyevitch district near Bar. This was taken into exploitation by the coastal mining and industrial company "Prirud" at Split. This company has begun the survey of 12 kms. of railway line and the erection of huts for the staff and workers. In accordance with its obligations to a foreign firm, the company will execute an order next spring for several hundred thousands tons of ore.

The 1925 Trade Balance?

In the first nine months of this year imports amounted to 586,380,780 gold dinars, and exports to 581,435,102, an adverse balance of only 4,945,678 gold dinars. Expressed in percentages, the value of exports as compared with imports was 99.18 per cent. : 100 per cent. This means that in the first nine months the balance was practically achieved, since exports were only less than imports by under 1 per cent. As exports have always been greater than imports in the fourth quarter of the year, it may safely be concluded that the balance for the year will be favourable.

Czecho-Slovakia and Yugoslav Imports.

Last year Czecho-Slovakia succeeded in taking the first place among countries importing into Yugoslavia. This supremacy was really achieved during the first two quarters of 1924. This year she has again gained predominance, but only in the third quarter. During the three quarters she was responsible for 18.4 per cent. of the total imports, while Yugoslav exports to Czecho-Slovakia were only 9.02 per cent. In the general import records for nine months of 1925, Italy takes first place with 19.8 per cent., Czecho-Slovakia being second. Great Britain comes fifth with 8.7 per cent. and France only eighth with with 3.3 per cent.

Sea Fisheries in 1924.

For the twelve months of 1924 fisheries along the whole of the Yugoslav Adriatic coast gave a total catch of 4,153,735 kgs., valued at 38,446,836 dinars.

Of this quantity 2,721,771 kgs. were sold along the coast, and 1,008,212 kgs. sent inland or exported abroad. Sardine fisheries in 1925 yielded 1,058,309 kgs., worth 7,408,163 dinars—an average of 7 dinars per kg.

CREDIT CONDITIONS IN YUGOSLAVIA.

With the improvement of wheat prices on the world markets, commercial life in Yugoslavia has suddenly become enlivened. During the last three months, when in the usual way the export campaign in this country reaches its maximum, there has been practically a standstill in the sale of export goods, either present or advance. The stagnation on the corn market has completely baffled

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the great exporters, and the others without guidance have also abstained from business. The liquid capital has been lying as cash on call at the banks. For many, however, this time of waiting on the corn market has been a veritable blessing, for the exchange rate of the dinar has considerably improved, and they have reaped good profits by simply keeping their money passive. Some, even the more impatient, invested their idle capital in home securities, and thereby brought about temporary chaos in the rates of the latter, from which many profited. The banks in the meantime were glutted with cash, which they were unable to place at short term. Yugoslavia has undertaken too much building and the foundations of too many enterprises in the last three or four years. As this was done mainly with home capital, the result has been an acute lack of home capital and of credits on the home markets, which has meant the stoppage of many buildings and factories already begun. The demand for credit for these unfinished enterprises became so keen, and was often concealed by roundabout manœuvring that the banks have had to exercise much prudence to avoid tying up their ready capital for investment purposes of this kind. So for some months there has been the difficulty of an over-abundance of ready money, and the National Bank, the Postal Savings Bank and the large private banks have really suffered from too great deposits.

At the same time, however, the process of digestion recommenced in economic life, many unfortunate enterprises ended in liquidation; many amalgamations took place in order that united effort might accomplish what was too much for individual strength; yet even with this united effort the necessity remained in some cases for still wider financial basis. This is certainly a healthy process of straightening and strengthening. Our great banks must be praised for having been so resolutely strict in their investigation of credit demands, thereby not giving excuse for further inflation, but on the contrary, insisting on settlement.

Ten days ago the corn market began to pick up, and immediately all those unused reserves of cash came into play. At the Postal Savings Bank and the National Bank, as well as at the large private banks, deposits were withdrawn, and earlier granted but unused credits were drained. Cash in hand returned to its normal amount. The banks, relieved of a heavy burden, breathed with relief. Further, although it seemed at the first glance as though the flood of cash into commercial life would entail a crisis for lack of money, the exact opposite happened, and more money has been in circulation as a result of lively transactions.

The Minister of Finance, Dr. Stoyadinovitch, is leaving for the U.S.A. where he has been invited to undertake the settlement of the problem of War debts. In connexion with this is rumoured the question of large loans for capital expenditure for State needs, and in the first place for railway construction. The investment of foreign capital in State undertakings would give an impetus to home industry, and this would make the process of settlement more rapid and easy. It would also help to settle the question of private credit, by the larger circulation of capital in the country. Finally the meeting of State capital expenditure by means of loans would be a great relief to the Budget, which is now heavily burdened with the expenses of these investment needs. That taxation has reached its limit, and that it must be lightened to some extent has been acknowledged by the Minister of Finance himself in the Parliamentary debate on the new financial law. The Minister's admission of this fact is of great significance.

PROF. DR. MILORAD NEDELJKOVITCH.
General Director, Postal Savings Bank.

YUGOSLAVIA'S FOREIGN TRADE.

The Customs statistics of Yugoslavia give imports during the third quarter of last year and of this year as follows:—

	Tons	Gold dinars (Sw. Francs)
3rd quarter 1924	311,780	145,959,335
„ „ 1925	373,497	197,891,626
Increase in 1925	61,715	51,869,291

The chief imported articles during the third quarter of this year are:—

Article	Tons	Paper Dinars (millions)	Per cent.
Cotton textiles ...	3,852	330 6	15.3
Woollen textiles	1,372	232.4	10.8
Machinery and apparatus	6 408	100 3	4.7
Cotton yarn	1,872	94.7	4.4
Various manufactured iron goods	7,047	78 9	3.7
Raw Coffee ...	2 437	65.9	3 0
Coal of all kinds ...	129 538	65.3	3 0
Untanned skins dom. animals	2.068	48 6	2 2
Flour all kinds	12 413	43.2	2.0
Transport goods	1,746	39.9	1.8
Woollen ready-made goods	123	37.2	1 7
Raw Cotton	1,284	33.7	1.6
Shelled rice	5,232	29.4	1.4
Iron unwrought and semi-wrought	11,419	29 1	1 3
Common salt ...	15,526	27.3	1.3
Rails: railway materials for bridges, roofs, workshops ...	5 382	26.7	1.2
Electro-technical goods ...	747	26.6	1.2
Sheet iron ...	6.147	24 9	1.1
Sacks	1,410	23.3	1 1
All vegetable oils ...	1,900	23.2	1.1
Wool	867	21 2	1.0
Woollen yarn	177	18.7	0.9
Petroleum ...	5.288	18.6	0.9
Footwear (not sandals, etc.) ...	64	17.7	0 8
Woollen goods not made up ...	99	14.5	0.7
Others	149.079	686.3	31.8
	373,497	2,158.2	100 %

These goods were imported in practically the same proportions as in earlier periods.

Foreign countries participated in Yugoslav imports as follows:—

Country	3rd quarter	1st 9 months
Italy	17.4 %	... 19.8 %
Czechoslovakia	19 7	... 18.4
Austria	18 5	... 17 6
Germany	10 4	... 9 6
Great Britain	7.0	... 8.7
Hungary	4.8	... 5.1
U.S.A.	3.2	... 3.9
France	4 1	.. 3.4
Roumania	3.4	... 3.3
Greece	3 2	... 3 1
Other countries	8.3	... 7.1
Total	100	100 %

Shown quarterly, Yugoslavia's imports moved in 1925 thus:—

	Tons	Gold dinars
1st quarter 1925	305,763	... 177,959,472
2nd quarter „ ...	495,720	... 210,599,682
3rd quarter „	373,497	... 197,821,626
Altogether, 9 months	1,174,980	586 380,780

Imports during the first and second quarters of this year were abnormally large. This was due to the fact that importers wished to make as much use as possible of the more favourable customs duties in force before the coming into operation of the new tariff on June 20.

II. EXPORTS DURING OCTOBER AND TEN MONTHS OF 1925.

The figures for Yugoslav exports were:—

	Tons	Gold dinars (Sw. Francs)
In October 1924 ...	415 726	74,931,353
In October 1 25	437.084	77,431,635
Increase in October 1925	21,358 (5.14 %)	2,500,282 (3.34%)
	Tons	Gold dinars (Sw. Francs)
For 1st 10 months 1924 ...	3,110.875	530,975,182
For 1st 1 months 1925 ...	3,666.907	568,866,737
Increase in 1915	556,032 (17.87 %)	127,891,555 (24.09%

The chief articles of export during October of this year were:—

Article	Tons	Amount	Mill. dinars
Prunes ...	..	18,466	99 7
Corn: a/wheat ...	..	30:503	83.8
b/other ...	..	7,577	14 0
Wood: a/for building	..	98 323	88.0
b/for fuel ...	..	12 436	8 9
Maize ...	..	25 760	47 5
Eggs	..	1,589	14 5
Hops ...	..	571	42.9
Live horned cattle	Head	11 768	41 2
Wheat flour ...	Tons	7.2:9	31 7
Fruit: fresh ...	..	5 663	28 3
Meat: a/fresh	Tons	1,494	25 4
b/meat products...	..	52	1.5
Hemp ...	..	2,209	25 3
Beans	..	6,222	15 5
Small cattle ...	Head	78.676	14 2
Cement	Tons	34,078	13 6
Raw Copper	..	509	12 4
Kachkavalj cheese	..	429	12.0
Live pigs ..	Head	7,490	11 9
Live horses ...	..	3,040	10.6
Opium ...	Tons	20	10.9
Calcium carbide ...	..	3 488	10 5
All other ...	..	141 713	148 0
Total	Tons	437.084	842 3

The chief goods in the above list went to the following countries, the figures representing millions of dinars.

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Prunes.—Germany 43,9, Italy 15.3, Czecho-Slovakia 14.2.

Corn.—(a) *Wheat:* Down Danube and via Braila 38.4, Austria 16.4, Czecho-Slovakia 14.3. (b) *Other Corn:* Italy 4.9, Austria 3.9, Greece 2.7.

Wood.—(a) *For Building:* Italy 66.7, Austria 3.7, Greece 3.6. (b) *For Fuel:* Italy 6.0, Hungary 2.2.

Maize.—Austria 19.3, Czecho-Slovakia 8.9, down Danube via Braila 7.7.

Eggs.—Switzerland 17.6, Germany 12.2, Austria 11.4.

Hops.—Czecho-Slovakia 24.6, Germany 15.5.

Live Horned Cattle.—Austria 20.0, Italy 14.1, Czecho-Slovakia 4.3.

Wheat Flour.—Austria 20.3, down Danube and via Braila 10.4.

Fresh Fruit.—Austria 20.8, Germany 3.9, Czecho-Slovakia 2.4.

Meat.—(a) *Fresh:* Austria 15.6, Germany 3.8, Italy 3.4. (b) *Meat Products:* Austria 1.1.

Yugoslavia's chief export article, therefore, during October was prunes. For practically the whole of the previous twelve months, the chief export had been maize. The amount of last year's maize crop exported between November 1 last year and November 1 this year was 104,392 trucks, worth 2,191.8 million paper dinars. Between January 1 and November 1, this year, the amount of maize exported was 89.727 trucks, worth 1,880.3 million paper dinars.

M. Pashitch, Prime Minister of Yugoslavia, who was born on December 19, 1845, celebrated his eightieth birthday last Saturday. He entered the Skupshtina at the age of thirty-three, and was forty-five when he became Prime Minister for the first time.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF THE S.H.S KINGDOM.

Belgrade, November 30th, 1925.

ASSETS		
Cash—		
Gold	75,226,075 —	
Silver	17,484,182 —	
Foreign Bank Notes	1,225,241 —	
At Call in Foreign Countries	393,070,114 —	
		487,005,612 —
Portfolio Bills	1,092,050,191 —	
Advances on Securities	165,699,364 —	
		1,257,749,555 —
Account for the Conversion of Crown Bank Notes		1,186 367,907 —
Account of the Prov. Exchange		368.699,844 —
Advances to the State—		
Treasury Bonds discounted for Budgetary purposes	966,355,034 —	
Extraordinary advances guaranteed by Treasury Bonds	2,000,000,000 —	
		2,966,355,034 —
State Domains—		
For cover of Bank Notes issued for conversion of Crown Notes		2,138,377.163 —
Sundries		922,809,791 —
		9,327,3e4.906 —
LIABILITIES.		
Capital — Dinars 50,000,000 in gold of which paid up		28,070.800 —
Legal Reserve		6,476.734 —
Bank Notes in Circulation		6,017.118,460 —
Account of the Prov. Exchange		368,699,844 —
Government's Accounts—		
Sundry Accounts		80,238,768 —
Sundry Obligations—		
Current Accounts	419,602,791 —	
Special Accounts	194,058,188 —	
		613 660,979 —
Account of the State Domains		2,138,377,163 —
Agio for the purchase of gold for capital and funds		74,722,158 —
Sundry Accounts		
		9,327,364,906 —

Under the heading "Cash" a gold dinar is reckoned as a dinar, an English pound as 25 dinars, a dollar as 5 dinars, an Italian lira as one dinar, a Swiss or French franc as a dinar, a coined silver dinar as one dinar, etc.

Discount rate: 6 per cent. Loans on securities: 8 per cent.

SUDAN RAILWAYS IN 1924.

The annual report of the Sudan Government Railways and Steamers Department for 1924, which has just been issued, throws a most interesting light on the improvement of the economic position of the Sudan. The gross revenues rose from £E1,743,750 for 1923 to £E1,914,322, and while £E50,000 of this total was due to abnormal movements of troops it may be pointed out that the total has only been surpassed in the exceptional years 1921 and 1922. Railway receipts increased by £E126,005. The earnings per train mile have declined from 21s. 3.6d. to 19s. 8.1d., but the earnings per kilometre open have risen from £E.542 to £E.594, showing the growing density and volume of traffic. The total expenditure of the department was £E1,227,783 as compared with £E1,277,782.

The receipts from passenger traffic amounted to £E339,076, the number of journeys being 499,535. The corresponding figures for 1923 were £E301,329 and 420,151. It is pointed out that this expansion was mainly due to an increase of over 23 per cent. in the number of fourth class journeys, thus justifying the reduction in surtax. During the year the surtax on parcels and perishable traffic was reduced by 50 per cent. There was a marked increase in goods traffic. The average earnings per ton-mile, excluding the Sennar Dam traffic, were 1.365d. as against 1.485d. in 1923. It is interesting to note that during the few months of 1924 that the railway to Kassala was open there were 5,108 passengers, while 5,391 tons of goods were transported, the receipts amounting to £E23,471. A slight falling off is reported in the revenue from steamer services south of Khartoum, the gross receipts being £E167,992 as against £E178,136. This was more than balanced by reduced expenditure and the net profits rose by £E3,300.

Comment is made in the report on the record year experienced at Port Sudan both as regards the number of ships dealt with and the tonnage handled at the quays. Six hundred and sixty-nine vessels entered the port as compared with 609 in 1923, an increase of 14.6 per cent., while 481,226 tons of cargo were landed and shipped. The cargo figures represent 235 tons per foot-run of quay length. Including the tonnage of goods forwarded and received by rail, transported locally, etc., the total tonnage handled on the quays amounted to 871,342 as against 857,841 tons in 1923. The exports shipped amounted to 101,283 tons as against 86,598 tons, the increase being mainly due to cotton, cotton seed, dura, and ground-nuts. The imports landed amounted to 187,093 tons as against 196,305 tons. Allowing for the reduction in railway material consequent on the completion of the Kassala railway, there was actually a considerable increase in imports. Owing to the additional number of ships and consequent congestion of the quays it is pointed that it was not always possible to dispatch consignments in exact order of arrival, and a certain amount of delay was unavoidable. Reference is made to the urgent need for extended warehouse space. There was an increase of 25,74 per cent. in the amount of import cargo placed into sheds, and great difficulty was experienced in finding space for imports.

PALESTINE CROP PROSPECTS.

The Director of Agriculture and Forests of Palestine, in his report for November, states:—Early sown maize in the Huleh area has been threshed and excellent yields are reported. Weather conditions have been generally favourable to winter ploughing and seeding. "Afir" sowings of wheat and barley have been made on an extensive scale and seed has germinated at a number of places. Picking of tobacco has been completed. The lack of demand for imported seed indicates that the area to be sown next season will be considerably reduced. The olive harvest continues with prospects of a poor crop.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended November 30 amounted to £E13,917, making the total from April 1 £E227,179.

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ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, December 9.

A Tramway Loan?

According to the daily Press the Bucharest Tramway Company is in negotiation with a British group for a loan of £300,000, to be paid partly in cash and partly in materials. If these negotiations are successful they will perhaps pave the way for the other and more important loans required.

In his speech introducing the Budget the Minister of Finance, M. V. Bratianu, for the first time abandoned his opposition to the contracting of a foreign loan, and stated that now that the position of Roumania was clear in regard to the payment of her war debts to England and America, and as sufficient sums were provided in the Budget to cover the annual payments due on these debts, the Government was in a position to negotiate for a foreign loan. This, he said, was primarily needed for the organisation of the railways.

So much has been written on the necessity for this reorganisation in the interests of trade especially that it seems superfluous to enlarge upon this subject. The passenger trains now run fairly well up to time, but they are very slow, appallingly overcrowded (with the exception of the sleeping cars), and incredibly dirty; and the goods train service is still inadequate, though considerable progress has been made in this direction.

The Budget of the railways for 1926 amounts to 10 million lei. The railway administration has been established on an independent commercial basis and the revenues are to be made to cover expenditure. We may therefore expect some increases in railway traffic in the course of the coming year.

SUDAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

(From Our Khartoum Correspondent.)

Up to 1908 when the Sudan Chamber of Commerce became a definite effective body, many efforts had been made by local business men to form a Chamber in Khartoum, but the greatest difficulty was experienced in securing the co-operation of all nationalities. Every step in this direction was viewed with distrust by certain classes of the community, and it seemed impossible to get the native merchant especially to recognise the desirability of any combination of business interests. This can be said no longer, as an enthusiastic branch of the Chamber exists in Omdurman in close collaboration with the parent body in Khartoum, with a President, officers and committee of its own.

The Chamber is an organisation member of the International Chamber of Commerce, and has evinced great interest in the question of international arbitration. It has drawn up rules, on similar lines to the international rules, for the settlement of local trade disputes without recourse to the law, and many such have been amicably adjusted. Its arbitration courts have been granted by the Sudan Government the privilege of taking evidence on oath.

The objects of the Chamber are to improve trade conditions, make representations to the Government when taxation or particular freight rates bear too heavily on any particular section of the community, collect and distribute information of value to trade or industry, make the wants of the population known to foreign manufacturers, encourage research, and secure not business advantage to individuals but the highest development of trade for the common good by discouraging all forms of dishonest trading and giving organised assistance to firms seeking legitimate means of expansion. No part is taken in politics, but questions of education, research, general welfare, and transportation can always command investigation.

The Yugoslav Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs has authorised the erection of a wireless transmitting station at Zagreb. The station will probably be opened by March 1.

OTTOMAN PUBLIC DEBT.

The report of the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt for the forty-second financial year to February 28, 1925, has now been issued. Sir Adam Block, K.C.M.G., representative of the British and Dutch bondholders, in his special report says:—

The situation is frankly most unsatisfacory. As the bondholders are aware, the Council has been deprived of all its revenues, and neither Turkey nor the Detached States, with the exception of Palestine, have paid the annuities which they are called upon to pay by the Treaty from the date of its ratification, August 6, 1924. Nor have any of the States as yet furnished the guarantees required by the Treaty, although the French Government on behalf of Syria and the Lebanon has notified to the Debt Council that it is proposed to give as guarantee the receipts of the customs.

Negotiations are proceeding with Italy regarding the guarantees for the contributive part of the Ægean Islands (Dodecanese), and with Greece and Palestine regarding the guarantees for their shares. The other States have made no proposals, whilst Turkey has made no payment, and has, as stated above, deprived the bondholders of the revenues already ceded by the Decree of Moharrem, without making any proposal to replace them by others.

Negotiations have from time to time taken place between the British and French bondholders on the one hand, and Turkey on the other, with a view to the resumption of the service of the loans. I have delayed the issue of these reports in the hope that it would be possible to announce the conclusion of some satisfactory temporary arrangement with Turkey. I regret to have to state that little progress has been made.

Turkey and the Detached States have been informed of the amount of the annuities they are called upon to pay under the Treaty, but, as stated above, no payments have been made, except certain partial payments by Palestine (one annuity and an annuity on account of arrears), although the Treaty declared that no delay is admissible.

Now that the repartition of the capital of the Debt has been fixed by the Commission constituted under Article 49 of the Treaty of Lausanne, fresh steps will be taken to induce Turkey and the Detached States to carry out their obligations, (1) by providing acceptable guarantees, and (2) by the regular payment of their contributive parts.

It is to be noted that it has been agreed in principle that Turkey and the Detached States shall deliver a "General Bond" for each loan defining its obligations. The form in which this "bond" shall be drawn up is under consideration.

H.M. Stationery Office has issued a White Paper (Cmd. 2,563, price 2d.) the Memorandum to the League of Nations on the inquiry conducted by MM. Ortega-Nunez, Markas, and Charrère into the deportation of Christians in the neighbourhood of the Brussels line (Iraq frontier).

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COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

INDO-BURMA OILFIELDS.

The report of the Indo-Burma Oilfields for the year to March 31, 1925, shows revenue in Burma from the sale of crude oil and from rents, royalties, etc., amounting to £29,073. The working expenditure was £22,035, leaving an actual working profit of £7,037. The accounts have been debited with the balance of the loss on the Yenangyaung properties and certain bad debts in Burma amounting together to £26,481, with interest on Debenture stock and directors' and trustees' fees all accrued and unpaid £30,068, and with London expenditure £2,368, making a total of £58,918. Deducting the working profit of £7,036 leaves a debit for the year of £51,881. Drilling has been carried on continuously. Production for the year ended October 31, 1925, totalled 42,826 barrels, or 6,583 tons, and the whole of the output of crude is being sold to the Burmah Oil Company. On the Yenanma area pumping has continued regularly. Development work was restricted to the drilling of intermediate wells on producing area with a view of keeping up production, and since March 1924, 27 of such wells have been drilled, giving the initial daily production of from two to eight barrels. Drilling of intermediate wells has meantime been stopped and the production from this field has recently shown a small decline. On Padaukin producing wells have also been kept in commission during the year. Two new wells, Nos. 14 and 15 were sited and drilling commenced early this year. Drilling progress has been slow, and to date the footage completed has been 1,262 ft. in the case of well No. 14, and 1,609 ft. in the case of well No. 15. Work is proceeding, and from geological reports it is anticipated that satisfactory production may be obtained early in the New Year. Work on Okpon area has been concentrated on well No. 1, which at the date has reached a depth of 2,850 ft. It is proposed to continue drilling to a depth of 3,000 ft. No work has been done on the Mindegyi and Mawku-Mawlaik areas.

BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR.

Rapid progress is being made with the organisation of the British Industries Fair which opens concurrently in London and Birmingham in February next.

Allocation of the numerous halls at the White City to the various trades is now taking place and the Department of Overseas Trade, which is organising the London section, has decided to allocate at least two of the main halls to exhibits of china, earthenware and glass and of toys and games. In other halls, amongst other exhibits, will be shown musical instruments, fancy goods, stationery, leather and leather goods, sports goods, chemicals, silver and plate, furniture, foodstuffs, cutlery, brushes, paper, printing, clothing, jewellery and wireless. In addition to these a separate section will be allotted to the Dominions and Colonies.

The Birmingham Chamber of Commerce which, with the support of the Department, is organising the Birmingham section of the Fair has already booked 10,000 feet in excess of the 1925 Exhibition when, owing to the continuance of Wembley, both the London and Birmingham sections were held in Birmingham. Two of the large Exhibition Buildings at Castle Bromwich will be devoted to metals, engineering, agricultural and mining machinery, brewing and distilling plant and fittings for the catering trade. Other buildings will be allocated to brassfoundry, hardware and ironmongery, building materials, power, lighting, heating and cooking plant, motors, motor cycles, guns, saddlery and harness, fishing tackle and the various services.

The demand for space in the various sections both in London and Birmingham is such that it is expected that before the end of the year all the available space will be allocated. This is very gratifying as from reports already to hand exceptional interest has been aroused abroad and indications point to a record attendance of buyers.

TRADE OF PALESTINE INCREASING.

For the three months ended September 30, Palestine imported goods, excluding specie and bullion, to the value of £E2,118110 as against £E1,432,892 for the corresponding period of 1924. There were increased imports of machinery, building materials, wood and timber, clothing, cereals, flour, cement and oils. The value of exports, excluding specie and bullion, was £E285,909, as against £E253,804 in the corresponding period of 1924. As compared with the June quarter there was an increase of £E462,369 in imports and £E10,279 in exports.

SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co. report as follows for the week ended December 5:—

The arrivals of sultanas are estimated at 19,945 tons, and the sales to date are put at 18,570 tons.

Closing prices Smyrna, per cwt. c.i.f. London/Liverpool: Type 12, 51s.; type 13, 53s.; type 14, 55s.; type 15, 57s.; type 16, 60s.; type 17, 66s.

Under the influence of the stormy weather prevailing, interruption in communications, reduced demand, and a sharper advance in foreign exchanges, the sultana market has weakened to some extent and prices reflect a decline of about 3s. on all grades mainly due to the higher rates of exchange.

Figs are completely exhausted and business is over for the year.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Circassia for Bombay (Liverpool, January 8). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mahout for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 9.)

Bibby Line.—S.s. Leicestershire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, December 30).

British India Line.—S.s. Golconda for Bombay and Karachi (London, January 2); s.s. Manora for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 2).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Phrygia for Patras, Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Glasgow, January 21.)

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Canterbury for Calcutta (Birkenhead, January 12.)

Johnston Line.—S.s. Wigmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 26); s.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, January 2).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Ranpura for Bombay (London, January 8): s.s. Nagoya for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (Liverpool, January 9).

Prince Line.—S.s. Merchant Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, and Beyrout (Manchester, January 7).

The Customs duty leviable on timber and wood, including firewood, imported into Cyprus has been reduced from 25 to 20 per cent. *ad valorem*.

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*ELYSIA, Dec 29.	*MASSILIA, Mar. 30.
*CIRCASSIA, Jany. 12, 1926.	*ELYSIA, April 13.
*CASTALIA, Feb. 2.	*CIRCASSIA, April 30
*ASSYRIA, Feb. 19.	*CASTALIA, May 14.
*SCINDA, Mar. 4	*OLYMPIA, May 28.
*BRITANNIA, Mar. 16	*SCINDIA June 11

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Motors and Motoring.

By G. B. B.

My recent remarks as to the great market which exists in India, as well as in the Middle and Near East, for British cars have attracted a considerable amount of attention, and I have every reason to believe that efforts are to be made by British manufacturers to popularise their products in the Indian market. I can assure any firms interested that any efforts they may make in the direction will be amply rewarded. As I have shown in preceding articles, there are many miles of good roads in India, and the British car is held there in high esteem, and as soon as our latest developments are made known to the Indian motorng public our sales of cars in that country will increase at a rate that will be little short of amazing to those who, for some reason or other, have regarded India as a country in which it was impossible to sell cars.

It is not only in connexion with the sale of private cars that there is a certainty of good business in the near future. There is a large and waiting market for the light commercial lorry, the delivery van and the light passenger carrying vehicle. Quite a big business could be built up in the neighbourhood of Calcutta by running a series of services to meet the requirements of peasants and farmers in the vicinity. Take, for example, the Sir Stuart Hogg Market, better known locally, perhaps as the New Market. This is the largest market in Calcutta, and produce is brought into it from every part of the district. Most of the country produce has to be in the market at a very early hour of the morning, and existing arrangements are quite inadequate to ensure a sufficient quantity being in place to meet the demand. Light motor services between the sources of supply and the market would be well patronised, and there are many firms who could and would arrange for such services if they could get hold of cheap, reliable British light lorries and vans to carry out the work. At present, as every one is aware, most of the produce comes in by boat or ferry steamer, which means a long and tedious journey for most of the goods. The cost of labour, in paying coolies to carry the produce, is high, and the time taken is a serious item. The saving would be considerable, were motor delivery services substituted for the the present methods, and many firms organising motor services would find no difficulty in obtaining loads. This is a line of business which could be profitably explored and what is true of the Calcutta district is equally true of almost every other part of India.

A Remarkable Journey.

A remarkable journey has been made recently in Australia by Mr. C. M. Reid in his 23-60 h.p. Vauxhall. In a letter to the manufacturers of the car Mr. Reid, writing from Mooliba, Cairns, North Queensland, gives the following brief account of his experiences:—"I have just returned after an 8,000 miles tour in my '23-60.' Included in this trip is the run from the Gulf of Carpentaria in the North of Australia to Adelaide in the south. I had no car trouble of any kind, averaged almost 17 miles to the gallon with the car loaded, weighing almost three tons. Still have two of the tyres which you put on in England; they have done in all 9,600 miles, which includes over 4,000 miles of unmade roads, and crossing every mountain range of any note from north to south. During the whole trip I had one blow-out and two punctures. I do not think it would be possible to get more satisfaction from any machine."

Passenger Service.

I was referring recently to the possibilities of running profitable passenger services in India and a friend of mine has sent me the specification of a 30-seater saloon omnibus, fitted with an engine which is nominally a 30 h.p., but which will develop thrice that power. I note, as a preliminary, that the petrol consumption over a give and take route of about 1,000 miles worked out at nearly 11½ miles to the gallon, which is extremely good for a vehicle weighing, unloaded, over five tons.

The engine is a four-cylinder type of monobloc construction, but with a detachable cylinder head in two parts. Side-by-side valves are fitted; there is free access to the tappets, lubrication is by means of oil mist, and I note that the magneto is held by a vernier coupling and a strap, and that the make-and-break is easily seen for tuning purposes. The engine starter is of C.V.A. make, and consequently can be relied upon to do its work well and thoroughly. The exhaust and inlet manifolds are readily accessible, and there is a hot spot which is controllable as to temperature by a handle. The radiator, of the gilled tube type, is filled with two separate water tanks, and to ease vibration heavy rubber blocks are filled between the engine frame and the chassis. The engine design is for a straight line drive and all arrangements of parts are in accordance. There is a vacuum tank on the dash and the main petrol reservoir is carried along the chassis outside the box. The clutch spigot bearing is on rollers, and is sent out already lubricated in a way that ensures many thousands of miles travel before further lubrication is needed. The clutch pedal shaft is held to a cross member that supports the engine and a metal universal joint is interposed before the gearbox—which has side-by-side shafts—and two other similar joints are on the after sections of the propellor rod. The whole design seems to me to be on the soundest of lines, and I should say that this vehicle would be specially suitable for Indian use.

Detachable Heads.

There is a tendency amongst designers to follow successful leads, and as the detachable cylinder head has certain advantages where large engines are concerned there has been a tendency to adopt them for small engines, in connexion with which the advantages are not so marked. Rather, one might consider them to be in the class of unnecessary refinements. I suppose that the only real advantage there is about a detachable cylinder head is that it allows an easy and rapid decarbonising when such a procedure is necessary. I know of no other real benefit that can be desired for their use. And so far as this matter of decarbonisation is concerned, I would point out that with the present comparatively high-grade of motor spirit, with the comparatively pure oil used, with the highly im-

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HONG KONG—The Bank Line, Ltd.
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proved design of pistons, cylinders require decarbonising at very infrequent intervals and, chiefly due to the first two factors mentioned, the carbon deposit that has to be removed is much softer and easy to remove than it was in the days of crude spirit and coarse and unrefined oils.

Shock Absorbers.

Everyone who has had experience in motoring along roads in the Near East will agree that not only is good springing essential, but that shock absorbers should be fitted to all light cars, designed for service in that part of the globe. Even in England I consider that they ought to be fitted as a matter of course, and if they are necessary here, how much more essential are they in countries where, to say the least, the road surfaces are far from ideal. It may be mentioned that shock absorbers are as necessary on light delivery vans and light commercial lorries designed for Eastern roads as they are on private vehicles, as such vehicles are frequently overloaded, or unscientifically loaded, and a big strain is often put on the springing. It might be mentioned here that there would appear to be a future for a really good shock absorber. Many of those at present on the market might be improved in many ways, and could also, I should say, be reduced in price were they designed on more robust lines and made of somewhat heavier material.

Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN COTTON MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended December 10, state:—

The futures market has been very dull since our last report and values are again lower. The net changes on the week are the following:—Sakellaridis: 1.65 dollars down for January, 1.55 dollars down for March, 1.45 dollars down for May, 1.45 dollars down for July, 1.20 dollars down for November. Ashmouni: 0.85 dollars down for December, 0.80 dollars down for February, 0.70 dollars down for April, 0.65 dollars down for October.

The volume of business has been moderate but to a great extent purely professional. The week has not been marked by heavy fluctuations; a tone of depression exists and the trend of prices has been almost uninterruptedly downward.

Sentiment remains bearish as a result of the continued lack of interest shown by the consuming markets. The short interest in this market must be very large but speculators seem confident that the very large supplies held up-country are sufficient to prevent any real upward movement. This argument has much in its favour but one must remember that Sakel at 33 dollars is rather a different proposition from Sakel at 45 dollars, as it was less than three months back, and it would not be surprising to see a sudden revival of trade interest, in which case there would probably be a rush to cover, resulting in a sharp reaction. Prices have dropped to levels which seem reasonable in spite of the big supplies, and unless we get a serious break in American it would be imprudent to look for much further decline.

The Government have not been buyers during the week. The much-talked-of Decree for the restriction of the acreage has not yet appeared and there is no definite news as to when it will be published; until it is published it is advisable to think of it as a project only.

The movement in the Interior continues to be very slow and the season will be a long one for the ginning factories. The factory compounds are full of cotton but while the present lack of demand continues, the Interior merchants prefer to leave the cotton unginned and thus save rent and insurance charges.

The week's receipts amount to 323,192 krs. against exports 243,472 krs.; the stock stands at 1,961,130 krs.

Spot: We have had a fairly active week at Minet el Bassal and sales amount to about 25,900 bales, of which we estimate 15,200 bales Sakel, 8,800 bales Upper, 1,200 bales Zagora, 250 bales Brown, 250 bales Pilion, and 200 bales White.

Sakellaridis: Has been in fairly good demand and all styles have been dealt in. Spot differences are rather easier for Good and better, steady and unchanged for Good Fair and Fully Good Fair, and somewhat dearer for the lower grades.

Ashmouni and Zagora: Have been in fair demand. All styles have changed hands but medium grades have been in most demand. With the exception of Fully Fair, which is slightly stiffer, spot differences are without change.

Brown: A fair business has been done. Spot differences are considerably cheaper for the top grades, unchanged for medium qualities, and inclined to harden for the lower styles.

Pilion: Has been in fair demand. Spot differences are slightly dearer for Good Fair, unchanged for Fully Good Fair, and cheaper for the better qualities.

White: A fair business has been done in Fathy and Casulli. Spot differences are generally rather dearer.

MANCHESTER COTTON MARKET.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Ottoman Bank for the week ended December 10, states:—

The past week has been even quieter than its predecessors and, in fact, has probably been the worst experienced for a considerable time. There has been continued weakness in raw cotton and consequently a general disposition on the part of buyers to postpone operations. The proximity of the Christmas and New Year holidays renders it extremely unlikely that there will be any revival during the next fortnight. Apparently the only thing that would stimulate business would be an unexpected stiffening in raw cotton values to frighten buyers into making purchases lest they should miss the opportunity of buying at the rates now ruling, which are, undoubtedly, very low.

Yarn.—Sellers have had a discouraging time and the amount of business booked must be small. There has been no activity in any quality of yarn. Quotations are reduced to the full extent of the fall in raw cotton.

Cloth.—The Indian demand for dhooties has fallen off and for no outlet has there been any business worthy of special mention. Operations have been for small quantities and of a hand-to-mouth nature.

Raw cotton.—Neither American nor Egyptian cotton yet shows signs of stability and the price of both continues to fall with only slight interruptions. As regards American the principal feature of interest is the large exports from the United States, the total for this season to date being 4,342,000 bales as compared with 3,964,000 bales at the same time last year. There has been nothing fresh in the reports regarding the prospects for the new crop. The latter remark applies also to Egypt, but the position in Alexandria seems still to be somewhat abnormal and there has again been a heavy fall in values. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows:—American Middling 9.81, Egyptian Fully Good Fair 17.00.

The output of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields for the week ended December 11 was:—Gemsah, 20 tons (previous week 8 tons); Hurghada, 3,295 tons (previous week 3,261 tons).

The Italian Transatlantic Line is reported to be negotiating with the Ukranian authorities with regard to the institution of a direct service between the United States and Odessa.

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TURKEY'S TRADE IN JANUARY.

Turkey's imports during January last amounted in value to £T18,579,233, while the exports totalled £T17,671,704. The chief imports were cotton and cotton goods, £T4,293,099; grain and flour, £T4,228,355; Colonial goods £T2,345,700; and metals and metal goods, £T1,369,599; while the principal exports were tobacco, £T6,869,246, fruit and vegetables, £T2,997,901, cotton and cotton goods, £T1,919,208, and colours, dyes, etc., £T1,014,382.

Imports from America amounted to 24,301 tons, valued at £T4,014,288, principally grain to the value of £T3,527,056, while those from Italy amounted to £T3,305,767. Other leading countries in the import list were the United Kingdom, with £T2,100,512, Germany, with £T1,886,759, and France, with £T1,766,392. As regards exports, Italy was first with £T5,952,602, while the other principal countries importing from Turkey included France, £T3,086,845; Germany, £T2,800,312; United Kingdom, £T1,302,914, and the United States, £T1,184,240.

THE MOTORBUS IN EGYPT.

Motorbus transportation began in Egypt about five years ago, and its progress has been rapid but unsystematic throughout the thickly populated Delta region (says an American report). There are between 800 and 900 buses now in operation, half of which serve the urban population of Cairo and Alexandria. About 95 per cent. of the buses employ standard one-ton truck chassis. Buses, because of more frequent service and lower fares than railroads, are very popular among all classes. Two-class, 16-passenger bodies are favoured in Alexandria, while elsewhere 1-class, 16 to 20 passenger bodies are generally used. Most bus bodies are built locally. The highway improvement problem being formulated should boom bus development. All conditions existing obviate a present demand for heavier or special bus chassis.

RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION IN MONTENEGRO.

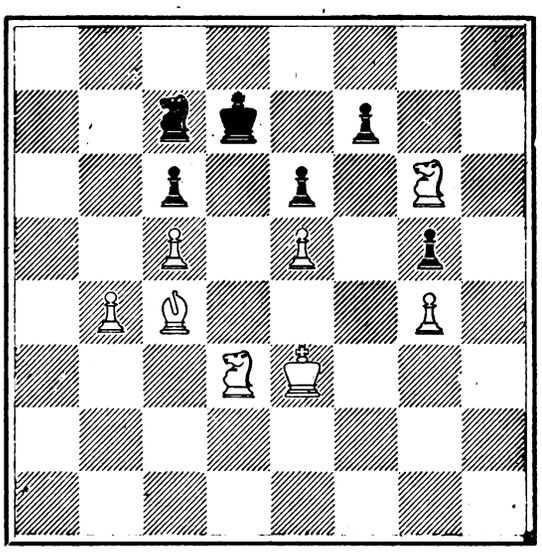
The need for a railway in Montenegro is emphasised by M. Zdrashko Vaskovitch in an article in a recent issue of the *Economic and Financial Review* of Belgrade. He points out that Montenegro, the neighbouring provinces of Herzegovina, the old Sanjak, Metohia and part of South Serbia—an area of 45,000 square miles—is altogether without railways, and continues:

"This rail-less region lies between the Adriatic Sea and the richest districts of the Sava and Danube basin. People and goods from the Banat, parts of Batchka and Srem, eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina, South Serbia, and North Serbia including Belgrade, have to cross it in order to reach the sea. The economic importance of this route is increased by the fact that the Bay of Cattaro, which is such an excellent natural harbour, lies on the Montenegrin Coast. This part of the coast possesses all the advantages necessary to make it a great port. It lies just where the Adriatic coast bends to form the curve of St. Jean de Medua and cuts further into the Balkan peninsula. The shortest natural connexion with the Adriatic for the central Balkan countries crosses this curve of St. Jean de Medua in which lies the best natural harbour of the whole coast."

M. Vaskovitch stresses the effect on the economic life of North and South Serbia, the Voivodina and Eastern Bosnia of the lack of an outlet to the sea, and says that the construction of a railway across Montenegro and the neighbouring districts will provide an outlet for these districts and will also serve the rich plains of the Sava, Danube, Morava, and Vardar. "A railway plan . . . . has been long in preparation because the task involves two different railway systems, one narrow and one normal gauge . . . . Since a narrow gauge system exists in Bosnia, the province adjacent to Montenegro, it is proposed to extend this into Montenegro from the West. Thus without any necessity of transloading, Montenegro would be linked to Bosnia-Herzegovina, i.e., with the Adriatic Coast, Gruzh and Metkovitch on the one side and with Belgrade via Serbia on the East. There is in Montenegro one small railway branch line of narrow gauge which joins the old pre-War Montenegro port of Bar with the lake of Skadar (Scutari). Joining this to the narrow gauge systems of Bosnia and Serbia would give a relatively direct connexion of all parts with the port of Bar." A number of narrow gauge lines would have to be constructed, he adds, to carry out this solution to the problem.

CHESS.

By "CARO-KANN."



PROBLEM No. 27.

White to play. What result?

Solution to Problem No. 26.—1, P—B5, PxP; 2, P—B4, K—Q3; 3, K—B4, K—K3; 4, P—Kt4, K—Q3; 5, K—B5, K—B5; K—K2 and draws. If 1 . . . . P—Kt4; 2, K—B4, K—Q; 3, K—B5, K—K2; P—Kt4 and wins.

It is announced that Lord Colwyn, P.C., will join the board of the Dunlop Rubber Company as from January 1.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria.....	Piastre to £	97⅛	97⅛
Athens	Drachmæ to £ ...	25 22½	375—380
Belgrade.....	Dinars to £	25.22½	273½
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	20.37
Berne	Francs to £.....	25.22½	25.11½
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 11/64—13/64
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	107
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	1,040 - 1.045
Budapest	Kronen to £	24 02	345-348,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	18 11/64—13/64
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	900—915
New York	Dollars to £	4.86 2-3	4.85
Paris	Francs to £.....	25.22½	130⅜—½
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	120⅛—¼
Rome	Lire to £	25 22½	120½
Sofia.....	Leva to £	25.22½	665—689
Teheran	Krans to £	50	44
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	34.38½
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	50*

*Sell e

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Paid up Capital - - £1,000,000
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RANPURA	16,600	Jan 8	Jan. 15	Bombay and Karachi
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†City of Hongkong	9,678	Feb. 2	Bombay & Karachi
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